

F-5 RESIDENCE

INDIAN WELLS, CALIFORNIA

ARCHITECT:

Sean Lockyer AR+D, LLC
457 N Palm Canyon Drive, Suite B
Palm Springs, CA 92262

Sean Lockyer, Principal

STRUCTURAL ENGINEER:

R A Structural Engineering

GENERAL CONTRACTOR:

Sean Lockyer AR+D, LLC

MASONRY CONTRACTOR:

Valasquez Masonry, Inc.

BLOCK PRODUCER:

ORCO Block Co., Inc.

OWNER:

Confidential

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Symeon Finch, ORCO Block Co., Inc.

Jury Comments: *Clearly the use of the 4"x16" block created a visual energy that drew in the Jury. The way in which it worked with the horizontal wood elements was so successful – particularly for a material juxtaposition that is getting over-used. While we saw wood-to-masonry several times, this design is tight and textural in the best sense.*

Architect's Commentary: Located just east of Palm Springs in the Mojave Desert, the site is wrapped in extensive views of the San Jacinto mountain range to the south and west. The F-5 Residence is designed as a refuge for the Vancouver, British Columbia, family of five, to escape the harsh winters of their primary home. Set on a relatively flat site in the southern California desert, the one-story home maximizes the available land and creates a constant connection between the home's interior and the landscape. The material palette includes concrete masonry units, steel, cast-in-place board-formed concrete, and Ipe wood (Brazilian Walnut), which were chosen for their ability to withstand the harsh desert environment as well as durability. The choice of concrete masonry units as the entire street and front façade was also driven by the project's desire to utilize a material that had qualities of clean, crisp, linear lines, and mimicked the scale and texture of the natural desert terrain.

The project began with the stated desire for a custom home that was to be inspired by the Kauffman House, but with a more contemporary language and character. The owners also insisted on a highly detailed architectural home that defied the typically overpriced building costs of California.

The design of the house was influenced by the lines and simplicity of the valley's modern periods of the past, while at the same time an attempt at a more contemporary vision of a "place to live". Spaces were planned to appear endless by creating the full incorporation and view from one end of the property to the other while inside the structure of the home. Operable glass was used at opposite ends of rooms to allow and sometimes force the occupant to appreciate and inhabit the outdoor spaces to the utmost capacity. Materials were left in the pure, raw, and natural form where possible to both expose their method of construction, as well as to utilize them for their genuine character and ability to withstand the sometimes harsh desert environment. Concrete, concrete masonry units, and wood were chosen as the main palette for both their strength and durability, and ease of construction. Though these materials have often been obsolete in the design and construction of the more contemporary desert architecture, here they were re-thought and re-introduced as a means to simplify the aesthetic as well as reduce the cost in finishing material. With simple but well calculated details, once installed, these surfaces become a permanent and timeless piece of art in themselves.



RESIDENTIAL DESIGN

HONOR
AWARD

