modern living

A PLAYBOY PAD: PALM SPRINGS OASIS

A California bachelor creates his own eminent domain with wall-to-wall wide-open spaces.

Above: At start of day, James Hollowell pauses outside his mountain-girt Palm Springs pad to scan the morning headlines before hopping into Jaguar for the five-minute spin to his downtown office. At right: Trio of guests chat at poolside in back of his desert digs.
When James Hollowell, a prominent young attorney in the desert city of Palm Springs, California, decided to move from his limited quarters in a posh urban high-rise and build a home in the residential outskirts, he had two requirements: One, that his future pad give him the same privacy he had learned to cherish in his city digs; and two, that while offering sanctuary, his house should offer the indoor-outdoor, pool-and-patio type of life that a place away from the city can more easily provide. A careful search by the busy bachelor turned up the ideal location in Deep Well estates, just a five-minute drive from his Palm Springs office.

His finished house, created by architect friend Stan Sackley of Sackley and Light in Palm Springs, fit the owner's stipulations to a T square. Done as an ultramodern ranch house, Hollowell's Deep Well domicile is just a jack-rabbit jump from the nearest next-door neighbor, yet
Above: A visiting girlfriend frolics with Ugly, Hollowell’s Boston terrier, in the living room. The dining table is by Knoll and Associates, while the chairs and cocktail table of smoked, bulletproof glass are all by Chairs Unlimited. Left: A cylindrical pressed-aluminum fireplace, with a revolving back screen that can turn the hearth to face either the living room or master bedroom seen in the rear, forms the focus of this spacious pod. Shoji-screen doors can be unfolded to close off the sleeping area entirely. Top right: Built into the headboard of Hollowell’s master bed is custom-fitted storage space. A complete collection of Playboy, Hollowell’s favorite, is housed above in bound volumes. Over his king-sized bed, Hollowell has posted a sign with the warning, NO ONE UNDER 21 ADMITTED. The back of the freestanding wall section divides the bedroom from the master-bath area and doubles as a multipurpose storage closet and dressing table. Center right: A languorous lady guest relaxes in a terrazzo sunken tub in one corner of bathroom area. A small semiwalled Japanese-style garden outside provides a welcome touch of green to the desert digs. Bottom right: An admiring guest with much to admire eyes her reflection in a theatrical mirror unit built into the back of the functional wall section.
Above left: A busy barrister, Hollowell briefs himself for a day in court in his office-den off the living room. Desk is by Robert John and chair set by Knoll and Associates. The classic Eames lounging chair from Herman Miller sits under an oil painting expressly commissioned to coordinate with his pad's rich color scheme. Above center: An overhead shoulder-level, directional fixture by Design Lite that can be used as a reading light hangs in the living room. Above right: An amateur mixologist's dream, a completely stocked wet bar in the living room, stands ready to dispense potables. Right: After an afternoon swim, a party begins to gather for the sumptuous buffet. For right: One of a pair of frolicking guests tries out the Jacuzzi whirlpool, a relaxing device built into the shallow end of the pool, while a dedicated sunbather lazes on.
Left. Late in the evening, guests drift outdoors to enjoy the multicolored spectacle created by lights located under the eaves and built into the sides of the pool. Recessed ceiling fixtures throughout the living-room and bedroom areas are operated on rheostats and can be easily controlled to provide the density of light best suited for any occasion. Above: Hollowell has focused a rooftop spotlight on a romantic fountain in the back-yard patio, which serves as a quiet sentinel outside, while he and his date dance most of the romantic night away.

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