



*SITUATED IN DESERT HOT SPRINGS, CALIFORNIA, AT THE WESTERN EDGE  
OF JOSHUA TREE NATIONAL PARK,*

# **MIRACLE MANOR** *RETREAT*

is a seven-room 50s era spa motel that sits atop Miracle Hill. The Miracle lies in the aquifer some 400 feet below the surface – the source of geothermal mineral waters. For decades, these springs have attracted countless people in search of natural health and healing.

Innovatively restored by its owners, artist April Greiman and architect Michael Rotondi, the Manor has been designed as an oasis of the spirit. Celebrating the subtle forms and textures of the desert, sky and waters, its

**HIGHLY DETAILED SIMPLICITY  
INVITES REFLECTION,  
RENEWAL AND REJUVENATION.**



2008 Silver Award  
The Best Tasting Water in the World  
Berkeley Springs International Water Tasting Awards

## The Water Miracle

Miracle Manor Retreat sits atop Miracle Hill in Desert Hot Springs, California, where health-giving, naturally hot and cold mineral springs were discovered nearly 100 years ago, giving rise many years later to a string of hot springs spas. At the top of this hill, closest to the source, MMR provides its guests with unlimited access to two sparkling pools filled with this natural wonder.

Emerging from the ground at 158 degrees Fahrenheit and cooled to 98 degrees in the swimming pool and 104 degrees in the soaking enclosure, the heat of the water plays an important role in balancing the body's systems and allowing the skin to absorb its nourishing minerals.

Among core spa traditions, soaking in mineral water restores and revitalizes the body. Known as Balneotherapy, the practice has long been used to improve circulation, strengthen the immune system, and relieve pain and stress – which means that soaking in The Manor's silky, warm water not only feels great but is also beneficial to your health.

Hot water dilates blood vessels and so reduces blood pressure while increasing blood flow to the skin and muscles, easing stiffness. The improved circulation boosts the immune system and helps remove waste products from the body and sends more oxygen and nutrients into the tissues to repair damage. The heat also encourages sweating to cleanse the body from the inside out.

Minerals such as sodium, sulfate and chloride, said to be absorbed through the skin through extended soaking, are helpful for transporting nutrients in the body, helping rid the body of toxins and maintaining proper blood volume, pressure and pH. Did someone say 'miracle'?



### Natural Hot Water

#### Analysis (in parts per million):

Silica 21.50

Iron oxide, trace

Calcium 045.10

Aluminum oxide trace

Magnesium 5.10

Sodium 268.60

Sulfate 493.60

Chloride 120.50

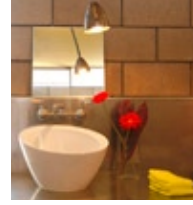
Bicarbonate 129.00

Fluoride 5.30

Hydrogen-ion activity (p<sub>ch</sub>) 8.30

Conductivity (ec 106 at 25° C) 388.00

## Desert Design



*Calm and centering,  
the Cube Suite offers a unique guest  
experience at Miracle Manor Retreat.*

Set apart from the original six, this pair of secluded rooms constructed of earthen material, steel and wood, the Cube Suite is emblematic of the resort's mantra of using design to enhance the

*experience of the desert  
and healing waters*



and facilitate a shift in the body to help quiet the mind.



## *The Self-Directed Retreat*



**Who knows more about how to help you unwind than you?** As an intimate spa resort with a true connection to nature and its innate healing powers, Miracle Manor Retreat provides visitors with a personal opportunity to connect body, mind and spirit at their own pace.

### **Soak**

Long, languorous soaks in naturally warm mineral water pools – one large enough for swimming, the other sized for savoring stillness – facilitate the process of renewal.

### **Cleanse**

The combination of minerals present in The Manor's miracle are said to both detoxify and nourish the body while the gentle heat helps float physical, emotional and mental tensions away.

### **Contemplate**

Let the mind drift over the ever-changing desert landscape.

Observe its beauty in the open air or view it through the frame of each guestroom's panoramic window – and see the desert as a living work of art with the power to astonish. Light, clouds, color and constellations become close companions.

### **Move**

Swim or swirl in the pools. Practice yoga in the glow of the sun setting beyond Mount San Jacinto. Tread lightly on quiet desert trails in nearby Joshua Tree National Park. Stretch. Play.

### **Trust**

Massage adds a therapeutic touch to the process of relaxation, release or rejuvenation. A choice of styles – water, hot stone, deep tissue and others – allows the individual to work in concert with the therapist to find a perfect match.

### **Replenish**

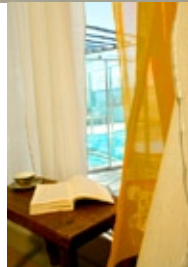
In rooms furnished with nothing more than what needs to be and designed to provide a seamless transition from indoors to out, there is space to look inward and restore the parts of you that have been lost in a haze of stress and distraction. Spirits are restored in the quiet of the desert and the song of the coyote.

### **Breathe**

The fragrance of the desert is enhanced with The Manor's own desert sage aromatherapy soaps, shampoos and body lotions. Sage, traditionally used for purification, also helps to ease depression and mental fatigue. Native American tradition holds that wherever sage is, evil spirits cannot enter. Breathe deeply, sleep soundly.

### **Laugh**

Make new friends or find joy with old ones. The intimate scale of The Manor invites easy acquaintance, conversation and laughter as much as it allows for sweet and much needed silence.



## The Sustainable Retreat

*“We have made every effort to put*  
**‘nothing more than needs to be’**

*in our rooms,”* noted April Greiman, co-owner and co-creative of  
Miracle Manor Retreat.

***“We chose to focus on quiet in every regard.”***

### **MMR’s Sustainable Practices include:**

All renovations and additions were made using construction materials that are either sustainable or recycled.

We proudly support the City of Desert Hot Springs’ new recycling program.

All of our bedding and products are 100% organic.

MMR soaps, lotions and shampoos/conditioners are produced locally and made with natural ingredients and food-grade essential oils.

Our spa menu includes a variety of treatments using freshly mixed blends of locally harvested and natural ingredients.

Our rooms, spa and communal kitchen are all maintained with non-toxic cleaning products.

Exterior nighttime lighting is controlled by solar rheostats. All bulbs are fluorescent and/or low wattage to conserve energy and prevent dark-sky light pollution.

Entry, sitting and courtyard areas are landscaped with local decomposed granites and planted with indigenous specimens that double as a “teaching landscape” for guests.

All plantings are watered with the overflow of mineral waters from the pools.



Our inclusion on the 2008 National Geographic Traveler Stay List is due in part to our sensitivity to the desert environment and sustainable practices.

## The Spa Treatment



Any visit to Miracle Manor Retreat leads to relaxation – the desert, sky, and warm mineral water pools inevitably conspire to induce even the most stressed of guests to let go. It is the natural first step in changing gears and opening up to the possibilities of renewal.

Furthering this welcome frame of mind, body and spirit, the spa at MMR offers a well-considered array of treatments, each one consciously designed and performed to enhance this state of being. Offered in a single treatment room, outside or in the pool, services range from a muscle-relaxing therapeutic massage with desert stones to the dreamlike weightlessness of water massage.

Treatments have a spiritual cast thanks to lead therapist Rhonda Duval who uses intuitive, customized solutions to ease tension, sore spots and other barriers to relaxation and wellbeing. The spa menu is an organic extension of the resort's green efforts and its proprietors' passion for nature. Botanicals such as desert sage and rosemary are wild harvested or procured from local growers and make their way into naturally aromatic scrubs and massage oils.

The Basic Miracle, MMR's signature massage, begins with deep inhalations of essential oils, followed by a brief but highly effective round of rhythmic foot reflexology. The rest of the hour therapy is dedicated to releasing tension from head to toe, a miracle achieved with firm strokes and a variety of massage techniques.

Another MMR creation is 1,000 Things, a name that metaphorically refers to the choices available for this personalized 2 hour session. Among the options are a fragrant full-body salt scrub and moisturizing honey wrap; scalp, deep tissue and aromatherapy massage; facials that hydrate and tone; guided visualization and Native American prayer. The therapist works with each guest to determine a goal and create a singular experience not soon forgotten.

The natural surroundings of MMR and its peaceful accommodations are a perfect finish to any of the spa offerings. Guests have the entire resort experience as a seamless after-treatment relaxation lounge, but with none of the time constraints imposed in traditional settings. Instead, self-paced lounging poolside or indoors with a full desert view allows the mind and body to reunite naturally and without hurry. That means there's plenty of time to savor the benefits of any treatment and still be able to soak up the comfort and warmth of the mineral pools for hours longer – even under a blanket of stars.



## Spa Menu

2010



we use organic and seasonal ingredients for all of our treatments

### Massage

**Basic Miracle** 1 hr \$120

Although there's not much that's basic about it, our signature massage can work miracles on your body and mind. Lift off with deep breathing and foot reflexology before warm stones and strong hands massage and open up the body's natural energy lines. Be ready for renewal.

**Deep Tissue** 1 hr \$140

Unwind tense muscles with this specialized variation on the Basic Miracle.

**Water Miracle** 1 hr \$120

Float weightlessly in our warm mineral pool as a therapist gently whirled and cradles you to a state of complete relaxation using a combination of acupressure and Thai massage techniques. All you need to do is let yourself go.

**Desert Stone** 1 hr \$140

Warmed to the perfect temperature for you, smooth stones collected from the Mojave glide over your skin with the aid of fragrant essential oils and therapeutic touch. Stress and tension melt away.

### Facials

**Facial Massage** 30 mins \$75 1 hr \$140

Skin gets glowing with our classic European facial. We cleanse, exfoliate and hydrate – some even say we lift – complexions with clean garden botanicals and muscle-toning techniques. A finishing mask sets while your therapist massages your head, feet or hands.

**Acupressure Facelift** 30 mins \$65

Bask in the compliments of friends and family once you've had this treatment. Following the body's own natural energy patterns, your therapist will get your chi flowing and your facial muscles back in shape. A series of three is recommended.

### Specialties

**1,000 Things** 2 hr+ \$275

Lavish your senses with a customized combination of relaxing and restorative therapies created for you alone. Options include a head-to-toe skin-smoothing scrub using all-natural aromatics; warm stone or water massage; deep hair conditioning; foot reflexology; and other muscle and mind-freeing treatments.

**Modern Miracle** 1½ hr \$190

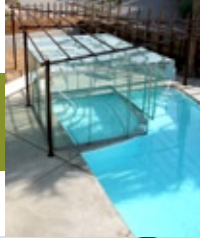
Salt, sugar, honey and fresh fruit may sound like part of a sweet and savory breakfast but they're really just a few of the ingredients we're likely to use to polish your body smooth – the first step of this rejuvenating treatment. A 45-minute Miracle Massage comes next, followed by our own harmonizing and hydrating herbal honey wrap.

**Foot and Hand Reflexology** 30 mins \$65

Relax and restore your entire body with this specialized therapy. Reflexology stimulates and balances your entire system through the application of effective pressure on specific points relating to your body's various organs and functions. Your fingers and toes will thank you for it, too.

What's New

2010 season



*Crystal Clear Spa Enclosure*

Completed in 2008, the Michael Rotondi-designed addition wraps a crystalline membrane around the hot pool, sheltering it from desert winds while capturing its therapeutic heat.

*Retreat for a Month*

The spirit of the Manor is ease and booking a room here for a month in high season adds that much more of it to the experience. It's like having a room of one's own in the desert for four weeks at a time, full time, part time or whenever the mood or the need strikes for escape to peace. Special rates apply.

*Customizable Retreats*

Whether you're traveling alone, or with a large group, we offer custom add-ons to make your stay fit your retreat goals. Options include yoga, desert hikes, tours of desert architecture, seasonal elixirs and detox packages. Contact our manager to create a custom retreat package.

## Fast Facts

MIRACLE MANOR RETREAT IS AN INTIMATE HOT SPRINGS MOTEL ON THE EDGE OF JOSHUA TREE NATIONAL PARK. AS SERENE AS IT IS MODERN, THE MANOR IS AN OASIS OF THE SPIRIT THAT INSPIRES REJUVENATION, RELAXATION AND WELLBEING WITH TWO THERAPEUTIC GEOTHERMAL POOLS, CUSTOMIZED SPA TREATMENTS, PEACEFUL AESTHETIC AND SEAMLESS EMBRACE OF ITS DESERT SURROUNDINGS.

### Location

Miracle Manor is 105 miles from Los Angeles and 90 miles from Orange County. Within easy proximity of Joshua Tree National Park as well as Palm Springs activities, it is central to a number of local cultural events such as Coachella, the Palm Springs Modernism Show & Sale, the Palm Springs International Film Festival and others.

### Accommodations

The Manor is comprised of seven guest rooms, two with full kitchens. All rooms are furnished with refrigerators. The Cube Suite, a Roto-designed addition to the original property, is a small complex of two freestanding rooms and a shared spa bathroom. Cube Suite rooms are a design feast, with concrete block walls, handcrafted metal fixtures and windows that create strategic spills of desert light. All rooms feature color and materials design by April Greiman as well as custom beds and storage units co-created by Greiman and Rotondi.

### Rates and Packages

Basic room rates range from \$125 – 200. High season room rates (November – April) are priced from \$150 – 250, with packages from \$450 – 550 which include signature massage services, a super deluxe continental breakfast and happy hour drinks every day.

### Meals

A healthy continental breakfast is served daily in the communal kitchen. The buffet includes a variety of organic and whole grain breads and cereals, nut butters, local preserves and free trade organic coffee and teas.

### Spa

The mineral water pools at Miracle Manor are the soul of the spa. Naturally endowed with therapeutic levels of sulfate, sodium bicarbonate, chloride and other minerals, these healing waters are kept at 98 degrees in the swimming pool and 104 degrees or more in the soaking pool. A crystal clear enclosure around the hot pool provides tranquil protection from desert winds and unobstructed views of the Milky Way.

Spa treatments at The Manor are customized to your needs by licensed therapists. Signature offerings include a head-to-toe skin-smoothing scrub using all-natural aromatics; warm stone or water massage; deep hair conditioning; foot reflexology; and other muscle and mind-freeing treatments.

### Architecture & Design

April Greiman and Michael Rotondi took ownership of Miracle Manor in 1997. Greiman, a noted artist and designer as well as the founder of Made in Space, a design firm in Los Angeles, and Rotondi, an accomplished architect and head of Roto Architecture, also in LA, conceived of the vision and subsequent design of Miracle Manor: the Manor's landscape, buildings and interiors are as transparent to the experience of the desert itself. In each of the serene guest rooms, panoramic windows offer a mesmerizing view of the ever-changing desert landscape and Greiman-Rotondi designed beds, storage units and desks ensure an uncluttered, nurturing experience.

### Green Policies

There are a number of environmental policies in place at The Manor.

These include:

- Sustainable or recycled construction materials
- Indigenous plant restoration and desert plant landscaping to conserve water use and provide a learning garden for guests
- Gardens watered with pool overflow
- Organic cotton bedding
- Low-level exterior lighting, solar-rheostat controlled
- Recycling program

### In The Area/Things to Do

Hiking options are plentiful in the Desert Hot Springs area. The Manor is located on the south edge of Joshua Tree National Park, a 45-minute drive away. One can also hike or walk leisurely through 1,000 Palms, a nature preserve in the area just east of the Manor.

Miracle Manor is located in close proximity of numerous area festivals and events. Among season highlights are the Palm Springs Modernism Show & Sale; Palm Springs International Film Festival; and Coachella Festival, an annual three-day music festival in the desert.

### Weather

“There is no bad weather in the desert.” – April Greiman

Often volatile but always spectacular, the weather in Desert Hot Springs averages high season (November to April) temperatures of 60 – 75 degrees Fahrenheit.

### Media contact

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## Is it possible to create a place where your body becomes still and your mind becomes quiet?

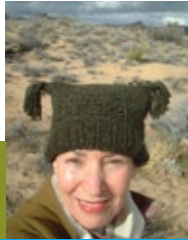
Striving to answer that question led longtime Miracle Manor guests April Greiman and Michael Rotondi to consider assuming ownership of their beloved retreat. Their goal was to create a space where guests might find **peace of mind through vastness of space.**

As a legendary graphic designer and a world renowned architect, Greiman and Rotondi have regularly grappled with such questions. Rotondi's architecture practice is marked by an enthusiastic embrace of found conditions as an opportunity for improvisation. Greiman has been influential worldwide for her explorations of image, typography and color as objects in time and space. Here, **where space is the object itself**, Greiman and Rotondi are the invisible force, allowing nature to do its thing.

The idea comes naturally to Greiman and Rotondi, whose frequent visits to Miracle Manor balanced the intensity of their highly technologized lives long before assuming ownership of the retreat. Their own personal journey literally led them to this place. Now as owners and designers, staying true to the original idea means providing **a design that is transparent to the experience.**

Creating a visually and literally quiet design allows the desert and the healing waters to take center stage. As the water provides a medium for rejuvenation, so too **the environment is a medium for the experience of retreat.** With their design, **nothing is more than it needs to be and everything seems inevitable.**





## April Greiman

April Greiman's innovative ideas and projects, and hybrid-based approach, have been influential worldwide over the last 30 years. Her explorations of her explorations of image, word, color and materials as objects in time and space are grounded in her singular fusion of art and technology.

Greiman has been instrumental in the acceptance and use of advanced technology in the arts and the design process since the early 1980s. She pioneered digital and computer art and became renowned for her unique experiments with the Apple Macintosh and Quantel Paintboxes. Clients whose commissions have become legendary for her experimental merger of word and image include PacTel, Esprit, US West, the Walker Art Center, SCI-Arc, and the United States Postal Service, which commissioned a commemorative stamp for the 19th Amendment in 1995. Over 150 million impressions of this stamp were printed.

In 2006, the Pasadena Museum of California Art mounted a one-woman show of April Greiman's digital photography: *Drive-by Shooting* ([www.drive-byshooting.com](http://www.drive-byshooting.com)).

Today, April Greiman continues a unique approach that blends technology and science with symbol and myth, words and images, with texture and space. Her unique expertise is focused on color-surfaces-materials consulting and trans-media projects for such clients as Accenture Tower, Minneapolis; Madame Tussauds, Hollywood Blvd; and the Great Park, Irvine, California.

A growing interest in the built environment has led to close collaborations with architecture firms such as Emilio Ambasz & Associates, DMJM/Aecom, Frank O. Gehry & Associates and RoTo Architects. These projects range from motion and animation, three-dimensional objects and exhibitions, to the development of color, surfaces and materials palettes.

Among her most prestigious awards are the Hall Chair Art Fellowship, Hallmark Corporation (1989); local, state and national design awards, American Institute of Architects (1994-99); AIGA Fellowship (2003); Gold Medal, American Institute of Graphic Arts (1998); and Chrysler Award for Innovation, Chrysler Corporation (1998).

Ms. Greiman lectures, participates in juries, and exhibits her work worldwide. Winner of Apple's MacWorld Inaugural Art Competition and grants from the NEA for studies in computer graphics and Hewlett-Packard for large-scale imagery, she continues to blur the boundaries between art, science, and technology.

Her ideas and work have appeared in articles, interviews, reviews and broadcasts in the media, ranging from Newsweek and Time, to The New York Times and USA Today to CNN, PBS and ESPN. Books have included *April Greiman: Floating Ideas into Time and Space*, *It's not what April you think it Greiman is*, *Hybrid Imagery: The Fusion of Technology and Graphic Arts*, and *Something from Nothing*.

April Greiman was born in Metropolitan New York City and studied at the Allgemeine Kuntsgewerbeschule (General Arts Trade School) in Basel, Switzerland and the Kansas City Art Institute. She moved to Los Angeles in 1976, establishing her multi-disciplinary practice, currently called Made in Space.

[www.madeinspace.la](http://www.madeinspace.la)



## Michael Rotondi

Michael Rotondi is the principal at RoTo Architects responsible for all aspects of project design and delivery. He is recognized as an innovative architect and educator. He has practiced and taught architecture for 30 years, and has always been based in Los Angeles, first as a founding partner of Morphosis, (1975-1991) and now at RoTo Architects (1991-present). He was a founder of the Southern California Institute of Architecture (SCI-Arc) and served as the Director for ten years (1987-1997).

RoTo's projects range from educational to institutional, cultural, commercial, entertainment, residential and religious. Clients ranged from individuals to diverse groups in large organizations.

Mr. Rotondi has received numerous awards for both design and teaching, which include the American Academy of Arts and Letters Prize for Architecture for his body of work in 1992. In 1997 he was recognized by the AIACC for his work as an educator and was elected to the AIA College of Fellows in 1985. The works have been published widely and he has lectured and taught throughout the world.

Michael Rotondi's leadership as an educator has given him the insights, knowledge, and practices that are essential to teaching, learning, and administering all levels and types of education. He has developed programs, written curriculum, hired faculty and designed facilities for professional, disciplinary and trans-disciplinary education systems. The knowledge that comes from his work as an educator forms the basis of his work as an architect.

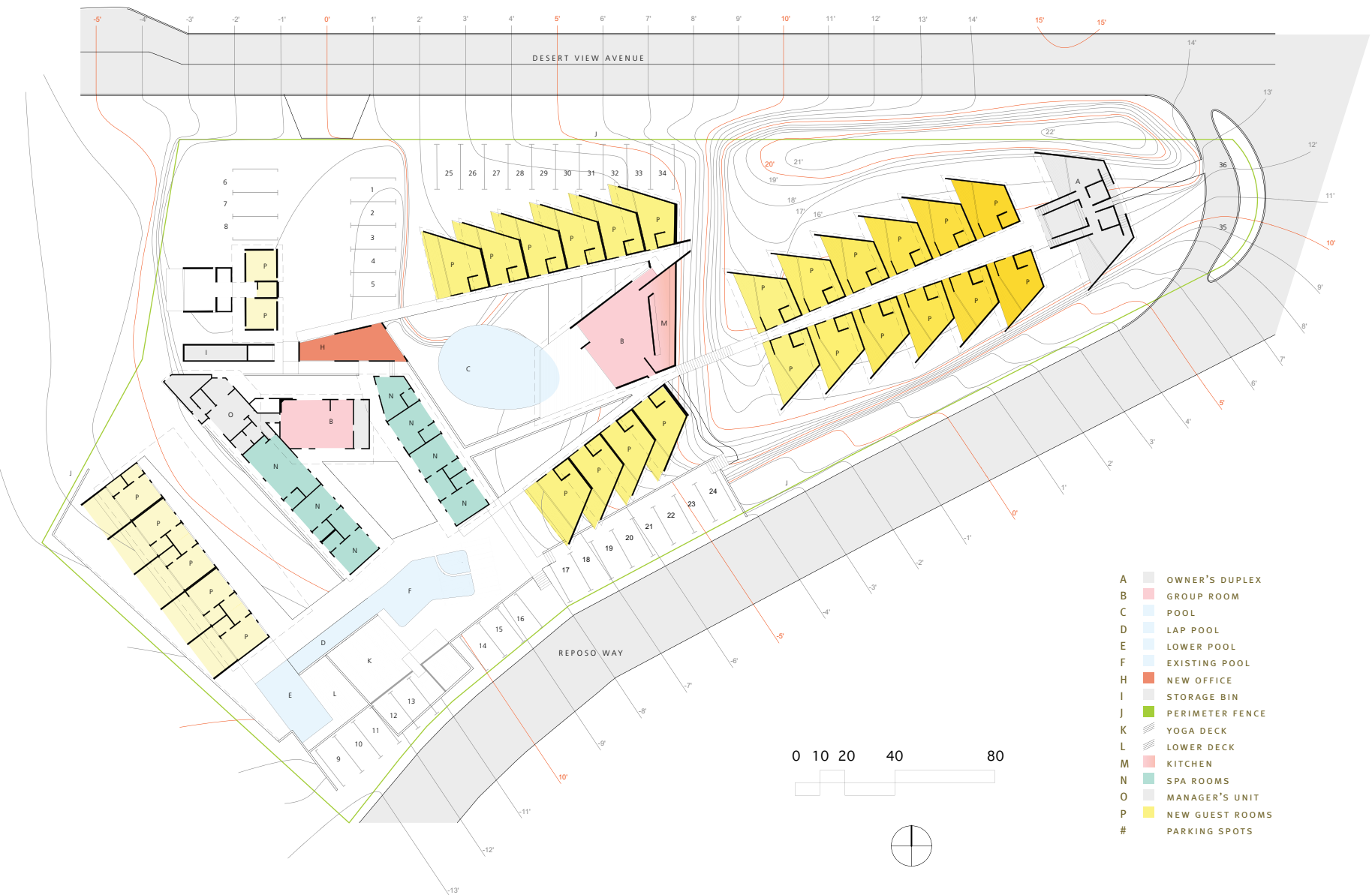
[www.ROTOARK.COM](http://www.ROTOARK.COM)

*"It's thrilling to see how many folks in the accommodations business truly care about offering guests a sense-of-place experience. The hotels and inns that made it onto the list give back to the community, work to conserve and sustain, and — day in and day out —*

— TRAVELER SENIOR EDITOR SHEILA FELDMAN BUCKMASTER

*celebrate the very best that their destinations have to offer."*

<u>2010</u>	Spa Magazine "Palm Springs Hot Spots" March 10	<u>2002</u>	The New York Times "California Steaming" December 29	<u>1999</u>	Elle "Beat the Retreat" September
<u>2010</u>	Variety "Spas offer retreat from Film Festival Rush" January 4		New Hotelz Design, Otto Riewoldt, Lawrence King Publishing, Ltd., UK		Condé-Nast Traveller "The Nouvelle Motel" May
<u>2009</u>	www.OneWed.com "Budget Honeymoon Idea: Take a Mini-Moon" June 3		Los Angeles Magazine "52 Great Weekends" May		Message Clothes Catalog Spring
<u>2008</u>	Chicago Tribune "Desert Hot Springs: Where Being in Hot Water is a Good Thing" December	<u>2001</u>	Baumeister B11 "Miracle Manor in Desert Hot Springs" November	<u>1998</u>	Blueprint "Rave" March
	LA Times –The Guide "Desert Hot Springs: Where Being in Hot Water is a Good Thing" December 16		Dwell "Good Design, Aisle Four" August		Buzz "The Art of the Hot Tub" May
	Spa Magazine Annual		Casa Brutus Miracle Manor Retreat #16; July		Condé-Nast Traveller "Motel California" August
	National Geographic Traveler "Stay List"		Travel + Leisure "Desert Modern" June		Elle Decor "Miracle Manor Retreat, CA" July / August
<u>2007</u>	The Architects Newspaper "Lonely Lonely Lautner" December 12		GreatLife "A Woman's Guide to Men's Health" June		House Beautiful "Motel Makeover" July
	H Magazine "Hot Springs Hideaway" September 2007		Hot Air / Virgin Atlantic "Far-Flung Hotels" April – June		ID "Desert Zen" May
<u>2006</u>	LA Weekly "Some Like it Hot" April 2006		LA Times Magazine "Midnight at the Oasis" February 11		LA Architect "Miracle Manor Spa-tel" July / August
	Sunset Magazine "Motels with Attitude" January		San Francisco Magazine "Beyond the Pool" February		LA Times Travel Magazine "A Mind-Emptying Kind of Experience" November 8
<u>2005</u>	Iranian Jewish Chronicle "Finding Center in Desert and Snow" March	<u>2000</u>	The Desert Sun "Desert Hot Springs is Swimming in its Best Resource" October 24		LA Times "Tripping through 1998" December 27
<u>2003</u>	Dwell Magazine "Why I Love Hotels" October		Harpers + Queen "A Date in the Desert" April		The New York Times "In a Motel Makeover, No Room for Kitsch" July 9
	The LA Times February		New York Post Travel "Chill Out in the Desert" March 7		Wallpaper "In Hot Water"
	Budget Living Magazine "Meet Me at the Oasis" February / March		Los Angeles Times "Retro Palm Springs" February 27		wanderlust
	SPA Magazine, Annual Directory				Travel & Leisure "Inn of the Month" October
					Variety "Palm Springs Weekends" November 16



- A  OWNER'S DUPLEX
- B  GROUP ROOM
- C  POOL
- D  LAP POOL
- E  LOWER POOL
- F  EXISTING POOL
- H  NEW OFFICE
- I  STORAGE BIN
- J  PERIMETER FENCE
- K  YOGA DECK
- L  LOWER DECK
- M  KITCHEN
- N  SPA ROOMS
- O  MANAGER'S UNIT
- P  NEW GUEST ROOMS
- #  PARKING SPOTS

*miracle manor retreat*  
 Desert Hot Springs  
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