

PRESS RELEASE



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

\$3 MILLION LAWSUIT AGAINST LOCAL HOMEBUILDER DISMISSED

Lawsuit settled after copyright determined expired

PALM SPRINGS, Calif. — A \$3 million copyright infringement lawsuit filed by architect William Krisel against Contempo Homes in Palm Springs has been dismissed.

Krisel claimed Contempo Homes infringes his architectural copyrighted designs of the mid-century modern homes built by the Alexander Construction Company in the 1950's, and that his designs have not been given sufficient historical credit for their popularity.

"We were able to show the court that the original designs of the Alexander Homes had lapsed and fallen into the public domain because the copyright expired in 1987 and they had not been renewed," said Shaun M. Murphy of Slovak, Baron & Empey Attorneys at Law, the firm retained by Contempo Homes to defend the lawsuit. "Based on the court's ruling, these designs are available for use by anyone," Murphy added.

History of the lawsuit — Contempo Homes built six new houses inspired by William Krisel designs, which were built in the 1950's by Bob Alexander of Alexander Home Development. The houses, located in the "Little Tuscany" region of Palm Springs off Vista Chino Drive, were built with new "green" features, making them energy-efficient and highly desirable in the Palm Springs market.

"This is a tremendous victory for Contempo Homes," said Murphy. "It validates the company's design of 21st century improvements to a classic and popular mid-century style."

Under threat of summary judgment, the plaintiff agreed to dismiss the entire action. The dismissal was filed December 4, 2007. The original lawsuit was filed in June 2006.

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