

RD

RESIDENTIAL DESIGN

FOR ARCHITECTS AND BUILDERS
OF DISTINCTIVE HOMES

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Urban Oases





Lit from Within

ANZA TRAIL
PALM SPRINGS, CALIFORNIA
ROB PAULUS ARCHITECTS

Designing a house for an interior designer is an exercise in nailing the broad strokes: the relationship of house to the site and the floor plan flow from indoors to outdoors. Rob Paulus Architects understands how to take a house from idea to reality, while leaving room for owners to infuse their own personalities—after all, the firm has developed award-winning for-sale housing on numerous occasions.

Designed for close friends, Anza Trail is pared down to the essentials for enjoying Palm Springs' extraordinary microclimate. "As I get older as an architect, it doesn't really matter whether you spend \$5 or \$500 a square foot—it's about keeping things as simple as possible," says Rob. "The goal here was to amplify the experience of the desert, so simplifying the architecture and the materials amplifies the natural view."

The space-efficient main house has two bedrooms flanking an ample great room. On the southwestern side, the great room connects through multislide doors to a shaded courtyard and pool; on the northern side, another set of sliding doors opens to a garden area. A separate casita, facing the

courtyard and pool, operates as a flex space—potentially a rental, home office, pool cabana, or additional guest space.

Befitting Palm Springs' heritage, the house has a Midcentury vibe, but it's elevated by a butterfly roof that brings mountain views and natural light into the interiors. Says project manager Kenneth Lowe, "When you're inside, it will feel like the whole roof is floating. And, with multislide doors on both walls, the house will feel like a big open pavilion."—*S. Claire Conroy*



Project: Anza Trail; architect: Rob Paulus, AIA; Kenneth Lowe, Assoc. AIA, Rob Paulus Architects; interior designer: Brent Zimmerman, Brent Zimmerman Design, Palm Springs, California; project size: 3,170 (conditioned); 4,264 (total); site size: 0.584 acre; renderings: Rob Paulus Architects.