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## THIS DESERT-MODERN RETREAT TAKES RELAXATION— AND JAW-DROPPING VIEWS—SERIOUSLY

*It's an exercise in monklike minimalism.*

BY JANELLE ZARA PUBLISHED: MAY 24, 2023

**T**wo hours east of Los Angeles, the city of Indian Wells sits in the arid Coachella Valley, where the crystal blue of an often unbearably bright sky touches down on the terra-cotta terrain. The dramatic contrast of the skyline sent architects on the trajectory of desert modernism, a midcentury style defined by its minimalist contours and glass walls of sliding doors. Their mission was a lofty one: to dematerialize any barriers between themselves and the beauty of the landscape.



Sun shines upon the monochrome kitchen by Bulthaup. The fittings are by Dornbracht.

Douglas Friedman

San Francisco–based [ELLE DECOR A-List](#) designer [Nicole Hollis](#) recently completed a project in Indian Wells, where the house, built from the ground up by Napa Valley’s [Kroeger Janev Architects](#), carries all the hallmarks of desert modernism to an enormous scale. Spread over 14,450 square feet, the house has 14-foot ceilings and expansive glass walls that frame views of Eisenhower Mountain. Rather than high-tech amenities or opulent decor, Hollis says, “the clients’ focus was on the views and sight lines and the connection to the desert around them.”