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Close to water

Palm Springs, 45 degrees. Where is human life possible? Only the pool. A few framed the water holes in the desert so masterfully as the architect William F. Cody. A touching private exhibition in Los Angeles honors him.

By Peter Judge

Now summer is low season in Palm Springs, the old weekend destination of half Hollywood: too hot, 45 degrees Celsius. The only place where life is possible, would now be in or near water: Either you put immediately on the bottom of the pool like Dustin Hoffman in "The Graduate", or one purely jumps to the system water from the desert air, the humidity of to let suck skin because that cools naturally. But what in such circumstances is, of course?

Pools in the desert are a frivolous absurdity, albeit a very tempting: blue to himself sloshing mirages with sun loungers around it. And only a few have brought the framing of this mirage liable rectangles verkacheltem water to such a championship as the architect William Cody, whose first hotel in Palm Springs is still in operation today.

The Del Marcos Hotel 1947 grouped its rooms in two floors as changing rooms to a bathhouse. Outwardly the street corner towards it presents itself with ragged ramshackle, simultaneously very bonbonpastelligen forms such as the stage of the "Cabinet of Dr. Caligari" would have it teamed with those of Tati "Mon Oncle". Previously, garnished with palm trees and ornamental cacti, the nameplate of the hotel as a sheet of a film leader. A driver who does not go from the gas here is one of the driving license revoked. It is one of the reasons why William Cody like to impute the Googie architecture.

With the Googie architecture but there is such a thing, and that today sees nearly every Google architecture does not make it easier. Here Googie was indeed initially only the name of a coffee shop in Hollywood, whose buildings of architect John Lautner had designed 1949th He was indeed a student of Frank Lloyd Wright, but the architecture critic Douglas Haskell made Googie still a dirty word for the way they made those coffee shops with grandiose gestures splayed on the Boulevards in Los Angeles.