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LMSE MAGAZINE



Troy Bankord

FORWARD THINKING

Palm Springs



Diva
Denise

Los Angeles



Mario
Lopez

San Diego



big
mike

Las Vegas



Jason &
DeMarco

Troy Bankord

He's Hip. He's Hot. And He's Here!



He'd been visiting Palm Springs for over 20 years, dreaming of the time that perhaps he would make it his full-time home. But last fall, Style-setter and Hip & HOT Environmental Designer – and most-assuredly Palm Springs' MOST ELIGIBLE Bachelor – Troy Bankord, finally forged west after a 26-year stint in Phoenix & Scottsdale. And with no grass growing beneath his feet, the footprint this man has made in Palm Springs in one year is a Sizeable one!

At first glance, Troy can come off as intimidating, given his fit, sexy stature, Nordic good looks and posture of confidence. But when you pull up a chair for a visit, he is personable and real; refreshing! His passion for life and all things design, exudes from this guy's being! With so much creative energy that at times you feel he's going to burst. Well, not really, but you get what I'm saying. He's been called a 'Purist,' and 'earth angel,' and even been told by a client that he's so creative, he "could accessorize a turd."

Bankord, the Lead Designer & Chief Transformation Officer of Troy Bankord Design, was the 2006 recipient of the prestigious 'Master of the Southwest' distinction by Phoenix Home & Garden magazine and his creative abilities don't stop there. His infatuation for incorporating patterned and perforated concrete block into his design projects has gained him the title of 'King of Concrete Block' by Sunset magazine; a publication regularly publishing his work. He explained that he uses different styles of block to create texture, depth & dimension, while also utilizing block forms to create visual screen walls and dramatic backdrops. "And when they're backlit at night and the light flows through the architectural perforations... Beautiful... Perforated or decorative block walls add weight, balance a nostalgic nod to our past as well as punch to a project; yet they still possess a "lightness" about them. I love how air and energy flow through them."

Not just any designer, Bankord's forte is 'Creating Places of Peace,' the tagline for his design firm. With an emphasis on landscaping and "our connection to the earth," he passionately designs both, emphatically stating that the feeling of peace is derived from balance, scale, & the flow of energy that moves from indoors to out. And he sees our spaces as adding a spiritual element/connection to our lives. Having grown up with parents as designers & contractors outside of Rockford, IL, he recalls that his parents would always complete the landscaping portion of a home first and then move on to the interior renovations. "It gave us a place to enjoy; to meditate. And to get away from the dust. And by the time my parents had finished the renovation, we could then enjoy it in a more mature state."

LOOKING FORWARD

Troy holds his family in high regard, and having instilled the "Midwestern work ethic" in him and like his parents, he is a mover and a shaker. In Phoenix, he was a design columnist for Phoenix Home & Garden magazine and regularly hosted television design segments or morning shows featuring his projects that were being included on architectural or home & garden tours.

As his love of (mid-century) architecture rose, so did his pioneering efforts to put tired mid-century modern neighborhoods on the map by being the first to purchase one of the homes & renovate it.

Apparently, he wasn't just the talk of the town in Phoenix... He's already starting to turn Palm Springs upside down! As a new member of the Palm Springs Gay Men's Chorus, he has been asked to also co-chair their annual fundraising event, which he has so cleverly named, "The Dinner in The Desert." "It's going to be a beautiful sit-down dinner in a dreamy garden setting as a fundraiser for the chorus on Saturday, March 16th. Amazing music, a dance floor, stupendous raffles... And served by members of the chorus in black tie."

And didn't I say this guy was hot? He's got 'irons in the fire' for potential television shows, including one show based in France where an entire village is being delicately renovated. As a graduate



Troy is a member of the PSMoCom (Palm Springs Modern Committee), the Palm Springs Art Museum, the Architecture & Design Council & the Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation, Modern Phoenix and he even finds time to donate & volunteer for the LGBT Community Center & Phoenix & Habitat for Humanity.



from Marquette University's College of Broadcast Journalism, Troy has a regular gig as a radio show guest talking design on Garrett Miller's 'G Rated' Blog Talk radio show. In the future he plans to launch his lines of outdoor lighting, pots, furniture & pool accessories, along with a "hip & healthy" restaurant concept he hopes to develop & sell. In addition, he hopes to spearhead a Palm Springs Beautification Committee to assist the entire City of Palm Springs with a long-term vision for its landscaped spaces as the new development nears on Palm Canyon.

Troy also will be emcee'ing the "Swanky Pets" fundraiser & pet fashion show for a local animal shelter, hosted by Swank Interiors on Sunday, March 10th. He is assisting in various events for Modernism Week in February along with having one of his garden design projects on the Vista Las Palmas Home & Garden tour.

Well, it seems that Phoenix' loss is OUR GAIN! We're thrilled to call you our own. All I can say is this. WOW! If he's done this much in one year's time, what are 10 years going to bring?

Best Wishes, Troy. You ROCK! And by the way..... if you're looking for a date with this guy, my advice would be to join the chorus or buy a ticket for the garden tour during Modernism Week.

For more information www.troybankorddesign.com



'Creating Places of Peace'





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TO NEW BEGINNINGS...



photo by Lani Garfield



Troy uses self designed fountains and his signature backlighting in landscapes to create a fluid emotion giving the home owner a serene natural environment.



As "Ken," he was asked to mingle with the crowd at the 'P.S. I Love You' fundraiser event for the LGBT Community Center in Palm Springs sponsored by the Shawn Salvage Gallery with framed photographic art of iconic Barbie's poised in classic Palm Springs locales.



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