

PALM SPRINGS

Many gather to meet photographer

BY XOCHITE PEÑA
THE DESERT SUN

Throngs of fans filled a small boutique on North Palm Canyon Drive Saturday and waited in crowded lines to get iconic photographer Julius Shulman to sign a copy of his latest work "Julius Shulman: Palm Springs."

The store, Just Fabulous, celebrated its one-year anniversary with a book-signing event featuring the 97-year-old Shulman who has become synonymous with Palm Springs architecture.

"We're very thrilled. It's a great honor and a privilege," said Just Fabulous owner Stephen Monkarsh of Saturday's event.

"It's very important that we preserve and protect the treasures in Palm Springs. His work is a masterpiece."

A frail-looking Shulman, wearing khaki shorts, a button-down shirt and suspenders, sat at the front of the store with co-author Michael Stern and signed away.



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Iconic photographer Julius Shulman signs his book "Julius Shulman: Palm Springs" at a book signing at Just Fabulous on Saturday.

The coffee table book captures the rise of Modernism in the desert and features more than 60 buildings by 15 architects including Albert Frey, William Cody, Donald Wexler and John Lautner.

"It's really wonderful that Palm Springs has

been documented so well by Mr. Shulman," said David Martin who lives in Los Angeles but owns a weekend home in Palm Springs.

As an architect, Martin said it's the composition and angles in Shulman's work that makes him an admirer.

Palm Springs real estate agent Jackie Storm says it's her love of mid-century Modernism that has made her take notice of his work.

"He's just a phenomenal photographer," she said.

Regina McGrath said she's been a fan since moving to the desert 10 years ago.

"He's an icon. He's synonymous when you think of Palm Springs," she said.

After the book signing, people gathered in the garden area behind the store for a free screening of "Julius Shulman: Desert Modern," a new film by Stern.

"I can't think of a better way to celebrate the store's one-year anniversary," Monkarsh said.