

“Must We Destroy In Order To Build?”

by Jeanne Damman

The Cave Creek Museum is celebrating its 50th Anniversary from October 2019 through May of 2020. In honor of this milestone, we are featuring the work of architectural designer and builder Gerry Jones, whose career spans 67 years in Arizona. Mr. Jones has been an advocate and pioneer in the development of architecture that preserves land of unspoiled beauty.

Being a realist, Mr. Jones believes that we who choose to live in the Sonoran Desert must accept responsibility for protecting the pristine natural setting of its unique landscape. To this end, he developed the concept of land-fit architecture and has executed it in many of his Carefree and Cave Creek homes.

Mr. Jones laid out the original 2200-acre community of Carefree that was founded by Tom Darlington and K. T. Palmer in the late 1950s. He established the positions of its roads and lots, then designed and built many of the finest homes in the desert foothills. Along the way, his design ethic became the basis of Carefree’s architectural guidelines. Mr. Jones’s dedication to preserving mountainous terrain and respecting the natural contours of his building sites led to 17 years teaching extreme terrain architecture at the Frank Lloyd Wright School of Architecture. His students include architects who now design in harmony with nature all over the world. Mr. Jones also wrote the first Maricopa County Hillside Building Ordinance, which has protected local mountains throughout the county since 1982.

There will be many opportunities to celebrate the Museum’s 50th Anniversary as Cave Creek and Carefree honor Mr. Jones’s contributions. At age 93, Mr. Jones is still designing new homes.