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IN BLOOM with
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June 24 - June 30, 2017 LOS ANGELES, SANTA BARBARA & VENTURA COUNTIES

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COLDWELL BANKER'S MASTER ARCHITECT SERIES: PAUL R. WILLIAMS, FAIA

by Bret Parsons

Born in Los Angeles, architect Paul R. Williams (1894-1980) grew up with the City of Los Angeles, Oephaned at 4, Williams learned early on the qualities of figure determination that would golde his course. Exceptionally gifted, he designed nearly 2,000 projects throughout greater LA, from homes to churches, public buildings, retail stores, and horels to weekend cabins. In addition to a prolific carren, he broke racial harriers to become the first African American member of the American Institute of Architects. (AIA), and later, the first African American AIA Fellow. He won also a distinguished civic leader, appointed to the first LA City Planning Commission in 1920. Most are mesmerized that he learned to draw upside down in order to sketch for clients from across the desk-for the benefit of white clients who might have been uneasy sitting next to him. Known as the "architect to the stars," he never flusched when designing houses in neighborhoods where he could not reside. After six illustrious decades of practice. Williams retired in 1973. Despite his legendary status, many of his works currently face demolition or alternations rendering them unrecognizable. During AIA's annual convention in Ovlando last April, Williams became the first African American to be awarded ALA's 2017 Gold Medal. America's highest lumor becowed upon an architect. His granddrugheer Karen E. Hudson accepted the award. followed by former First Lady Michelle Oburna who remarked about the entire family. Paul Revere Williams, whose projects all share a ubiquirous thread of elegance and perfect proportional pitch. made extraordinary contributions to this city we call home, and in indeed. "Revered" to this day.













Propert of Faul E. Williams, 1955. Herald Expresses Color from Supples Public vita tra-

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