

## Out of Season: The Vanishing Architecture of the Wildwoods

*Mark Havens, Joseph Giovannini, Jamer Hunt*  
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**Mark Havens, Joseph Giovannini, Jamer Hunt : Out of Season: The Vanishing Architecture of the Wildwoods**  
before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Out of Season: The Vanishing Architecture of the Wildwoods:

9 of 9 people found the following review helpful. Wildwood Like You Never Seen It Before -- and Won't AgainBy happycamper45Out of Season: The Vanishing Architecture of the Wildwoods combines two of my favorite things: art photography of colorful, clever images and the '60s Wildwood I loved and is slipping away.Featured on the cover and inside is one of my favorite motels, the great-but-gone Hialeah, once located in Wildwood Crest. I stayed there with my family in 1966 as well as the Pan American ('67) and Admiral ('68), now called the Ocean View, which also take their star turns in Out of Season.The big, bold images in this coffee table book taken by Mark Haven in the off season let your eye wander unobstructed by the summer influx of vacationers to appreciate the lines, colors and simple architectural tricks that made these buildings deceptively simple but gems nonetheless. The original neon signs, some of which were works of art in their own right, get a few pages. Haven also trained his lens several times on the beach-type chairs that punctuate the motel landscape outside the rooms and the telephone booths installed in the parking lots. These seemingly mundane items carry a weight that delight the eye probably something you hadn't considered until Haven generously points it out. If you remember the glossy postcards of these motels, these photographs strip away the pretense and show the beauty within.As someone who grew up summering and working in Wildwood and walking its streets for decades, I never could figure out what made it all work. With this handsome book, Haven takes some of the mystery out of what made Wildwood magical, kindly taking this aging shore town beyond its rough-around-edges image.The two essays are worth your time as well. Joseph Giovanni in his aptly named essay "Spontaneous Combustion" touches on some of academics of Wildwood's famous motel architecture, and also mentions the importance of the pre-WWII rooming houses that have vanished along with Doo-Woop motels. We agree that their replacement with modern condominiums has changed the town's lively street culture for the worst. No looming three-

story condo will ever need an offbeat or elderly Irish widow landlady to run it. Each photo is time-stamped but not date-stamped, which is a shame. Including the day, month and year would have provided even more context. After all, history is the subject here. Also, I am the author of a small book of memoir poems about Wildwood called "The Island of Decades Before." 8 of 8 people found the following review helpful. Haunting and Beautiful By SolanMark Havens has an eye for capturing the stark and eerie still lifes of the abandoned and worn down motels that cover the island of Wildwood, New Jersey. He also has a talent for creating vivid, photographic bouquets out of the surprisingly colorful doors, window trims, and road signs found in many of these same locales, framing them in sleek, symmetrical snapshots that highlight the once modern architecture. It's the contrast between these two aspects that drives this collection of wonderfully reproduced photos and elevates the work far above that of a nostalgia-laced coffee table book. The pictures, taken over the course of ten years, evoke a story of Wildwood's heyday, of its current, dismal atrophy, and beg the question of its future. For a Jersey transplant, such as myself, it helps to make clear the wonder and excitement that the shore town held for many in their youth and the sense of loss for this rapidly changing place. For locals, nostalgia can certainly be found, but likely with a new sense of the everyday art inherent in these quickly disappearing haunts. 6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Amazing collection of photos...and so much more!! By t-dub This is an excellent collection of photographs of mid-century motel architecture, which is disappearing fast and being replaced by generic hotels and condos. I'm not sure what reviewers who gave a negative or neutral review wanted from this collection. I think they are missing the point of the book. It isn't simply to document the existence of these motels, although the photographer certainly does that very well. 'Out of Season' captures the unique features, personalities and motifs of each motel. Who remembers anything exceptional about the architecture of a Holiday Inn or Sheraton? I appreciate the effort the photographer has made to preserve these memories and these buildings at this particular time in our nation's architectural history. Mr. Havens's excellent composition and use of color, shadow and light make this a collection of art photography, not a catalog.

Wildwood, New Jersey: thanks to a combination of economics, geography, and chance, this Jersey Shore vacation spot has, for more than four decades, been home to a wealth of immaculately preserved mid-century motels. These jewels of neon and bright colors remained frozen in time until recently; now, a substantial number have been demolished and many that remain face an uncertain future. Determined to preserve them, photographer Mark Havens has captured their unique style over 10 years, sometimes shooting motel facades while workers were demolishing the backs. With essays by Joseph Giovannini and Jamer Hunt and evocative photographs, *Out of Season* celebrates the architecture of a bygone era of Jersey Shore summers.

"Photographer Mark Havens spent 10 years documenting the motels of Wildwood in coastal New Jersey - a land of beautiful modernist kitsch, full of pink stilts, zig-zag verandas and ubiquitous palm trees."