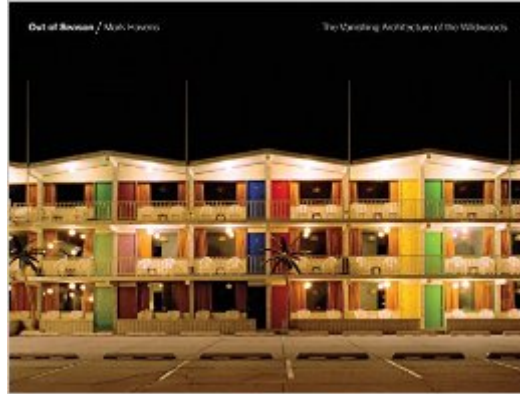


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# Out Of Season: The Vanishing Architecture Of The Wildwoods



## Synopsis

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 midcentury 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.

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars See all reviews (10 customer reviews)

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## Customer Reviews

*Out 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 â ”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.

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