SONGS AND MEMORIES BY DIONE NEUTRA ON SEPTEMBER 14

Dione Neutra, widow of the late Richard Neutra, has one of the most unique programs of music and memorabilia in the region. The event will be held on Tuesday evening, September 14th, at the scenic setting of the L.A. County Museum of Art.

The evening will begin at 6:00 p.m. with a special pre-meeting on contemporary stained-glass as an architectural art form. Carpenter, stained-glass designer and builder, Mr. Pauline Fries, will show colour slides of some modern stained-glass windows and architectural treatments.

At 7:00 p.m., members and guests will gather in The Cafe next to the Bing Theater to meet Dione Neutra and enjoy a lavish array of wines, cheeses and fruits. Reservations for the cheese reception, are $3.50 per person, please make your reservation now.

The main program, featuring Dione Neutra and other internationally-known experts, will begin at 8:00 p.m. in the Bing Theater. Additional speakers will be open to the public without reservations, and the program will feature a unique show of audience overflow attendance at this unusual evening.

For more information, please call or write to the enclosed white envelope by Friday, September 10.

Dave Martin, AIA

The annual Home Tour sponsored by the Women's Architectural League, will take place on Sunday, October 24, from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm. Six homes dating from 1937 to 1974 will be highlighted on the tour in Bel Air and Rustic Canyon communities of West Los Angeles.

The featured homes represent the work of six architects, including Thomas M. Abbott, Marshall Lewis, Allen Spie, Martin Geber, Charles Murray, and W. Forest Ovepeck. Shown above is one of the houses on the tour, a home by Thornton M. Abbott that was built in 1937. Tickets for the Home Tour are priced at $6.00 for adults and $2.50 for students (ages 12 and older).

The program will take place on Sunday, October 11, 1976. The event will begin at 7:30 p.m. with a McDonald's meal at the Bradbury Building. For more information, please contact the Architectural League's Western Round-up CCAIA — and its relationships with the SCC/AIA Chapter — for entries in San Diego.
DEPARTMENT OF ARCHITECTURE
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
LOS ANGELES

The Department of Architecture at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles endeavors to represent the philosophical thrust and challenge of new frontiers in architectural education.

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The unique Los Angeles setting provides an urban enterprise rich in its reservoir of physical problems relative to housing, transportation and future growth.

The research and development emphasis of the program enables students and faculty alike to contribute to the management of urban growth and the environmental consequences.

The professionally accredited program offers the following degree options:

Undergraduate:
- B. Sc. in Architecture — 4 years
- B. Architecture — 5 years
- M. Architecture — 2 years

In addition to the above, students may choose to participate in a number of multi-disciplinary programs tailored to meet specific requirements. Admission to the program is highly selective, drawing from the ranks of the most highly motivated students from all over the world.

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FACULTY

L.A. ARCHITECT September 1976
CITY BUILDING EDUCATION PROGRAMS: Doreen Gehry Nelson's promising effort to set new priorities in environmental education

The need for environmental education in primary schools has been clear to many architects in recent years, but acted upon by few educators. Though many school programs now cultivate awareness of the natural environment, the built environment is still neglected.

City Building Educational Programs is a significant exception. This important Los Angeles program seeks to raise environmental awareness to grade-school level through simplified form—design processes, skill training especially attitudes, aligning that design process, skills and attitudes with real survival tools.

Now in its sixth year in Los Angeles, City Building Educational Programs is run by a non-profit corporation that contracts with five L.A. County unified school districts to form the full curricula of some 20 county grade schools. Besides teachers, it uses architect consultants and, as of last year, consultants from writing and theater professions as well. More than 600 children participate.

City Building Educational Programs is the invention of Doreen G. Nelson, a grade-school teacher, university lecturer, writer, and sister of architect Frank Gehry.

Ms. Nelson thought up the idea of organizing a curriculum around the theme of City building when, in 1967, she was asked by then-mayor of Los Angeles Sam Yorty to take part in the Goals for Los Angeles. She was impressed by the program's environmental quality as a major goal. This, she felt, would form the basis of what a future Los Angeles would look like.

"We soon discovered that most people interviewed didn't have the tools, vocabulary, problem-solving ability— even, perhaps, the interest in the present environment— to imagine or invent the future," says Ms. Nelson. She then spent the next two years developing a curriculum to teach children these skills. "I thought I'd better teach kids because I thought it was too late to teach adults," she says.

At the same time, Ms. Nelson was taking a hard look at contemporary primary education as a whole — and finding it misguided. "I found myself teaching, remotely from children, what they recall. Kids were learning skills and information that could well be irrelevant and useless in twenty years. Since they often couldn't see the point of what they were learning, it was hard to turn them on. They were learning to replicate, but not to probe," says Ms. Nelson. "Even my 'gifted' children didn't know how to be creative.

Clearly, kids had to be taught techniques for surviving and thriving in an unforeseeable future. These techniques should include problem-solving and decision-making (the same skills the L.A. adult population needed). But, more importantly, a passionate generation of children spiritually fed on six hours of TV a day needed to gain a sense of their own worth. They needed to be taught how to take charge of themselves—and to take responsibility for themselves and their lives.

Ideas came from Frank Gehry, who is also experimenting with teaching city planning to L.A. school children, and some Boeing architects. Support came early on from the University of Southern California School of Architecture, where then Dean Ralph Knowles and Assistant Dean Gerald Weisbach sought to include community involvement— including teaching students to learn and design with their own community teachers— as part of the curriculum. Lecturer students training Volunteer groups were involved. The program started in 1971 and 1972 at the Smithsonian Institution asked Doreen Nelson and a few Boeing architects to develop workshops that became the curriculum prototype.

With support of funding from the National Endowment for the Arts; the California Arts Commission; Mark Taper Forum; USC and UCLA Schools of Architecture and Education; and matching funds from participating L.A. County School Districts, a non-profit corporation ("The Center for City Building Educational Programs") was set up to expand the program.

A number of architects and design­ers have become involved. Gerald Weisbach (now vice-president of the Center), Shelly and Raymond Kappe (they will donate Sci Arc space for workshops next year); Charles Eames; and others. The program draws upon USC graduate students and offers for-credit training courses through UCLA. Architect consultants can now be compensated.

This year, a new "communications city building educational program will supplement the "architecture" program. The program was piloted last year with a movement specialist and playwright from the Mark Taper Forum. In planning stages is a third program with science as its theme.

Future Shock and Future Thinking

The program teaches techniques to help kids take charge of their lives by promoting future-thinking. Alvin Toffler's "Future Shock explains why future-thinking is necessary—and John Dewey's educational theories— suggest how future-thinking can be included in K-12. L.A. County Schools Districts emphasizes process rather than product. The program is not a concrete activity rather than abstract book-learning. It stresses two key techniques: "Invention" (creative thinking and brainstorming) and problem-solving, and these two techniques are the crux of the City Building Educational Programs. Lists, inventories, pie charts and flow charts are basic tools of the CBEP kids. Besides basic reading and math skills, they learn a wide range of problem-solving techniques—and, more important, problem-solving attitudes: risk-taking; trial and error; studying resources and constraints; decision-making and teamwork.

The curriculum's second big empha­sis is invention. "Invent" is probably the teachers' most authoritative com­mand. The program teaches methods for inventing just as it does for prob­lem-solving (a key device, called "transformation" is described in the captions below). The idea is that future adults will not only have to learn how to solve problems, but decide what problems to solve.

City Building Is Invention

What has all this to do with building cities? "The real goal of the program," explains Frank Gehry, "is to get kids to express themselves— to develop their individuality. Building things champions self-expression and creative and positive paths.

In the program, learning, building, problem-solving and invention are interwoven. and the city environment— real and simulated—is a rich resource to develop kids' abilities to problem-solve and invent. "The city is all-encompassing," explains Gehry. "Kids don't know they could be important in the city. They say, "They are used to passively accepting. They don't know they had a right to an opinion." By taking charge of building an imaginative city, kids are learning to take charge of themselves.

Good Marks

The program demands tremendous amounts of energy from teachers, consultants and kids. Does the effort pay off? Yes.

One of the difficulties in evaluating the program is that its achievements are intertwined. And the city environment is the common good. And the city environment is the city's citizens need most. "It's democracy in action," says teacher Ruth Hibert.

To find out more on the National Endowment for the Arts' programs, call Mr. Ellison (Awards and Grants)—400 Park Ave., Suite 302, New York, N.Y. 10022. To find out more on other programs, write, call or visit the web sites of the—anta Monica Unified School Dis­trict and Sci Arc. Among the Santa Monica school children will take part. The Santa Monica Clerk's Office for information involving call Robin Magrath, Assistant Director, City Building Educational Programs, 1524 Clevelander Blvd., Santa Monica, CA 90401. "Non-architect consultant manuals can be had for $9.50 by 62 Ms. Magazine.

To find out more on other programs, call James E. Elison, Administrator, Dept. of Education and Environment, at the AIA Los Angeles Headquarters. Several AIA books, including "The Teacher's Introduction to Environmental Education" are available through the AIA.

Activity Chart

The curriculum is loosely divided into four phases, structured to present appropriate gaps in perception and problems. Problems are open ended to assure children to invent and discover.

I. Preliminary Experience and Introduction Activities
1. Who Am I
2. Shape Recognition
3. Community Mapping
4. Environmental Evaluation
5. Classifying Objects
6. Physical Activity and Movement Simulation
7. Classification Transformation
8. Illusion Games
II. The Individual and His Environment
1. Object Transformation
2. Object Transformation
3. Relativitv Games
4. Relativitv Games
III. The Individual and His Problems
1. Relativitv Games
2. Object Transformation
3. Object Transformation
4. Object Transformation
5. The Individual and Social Environment
6. Relationship to an Object
7. Relationship to an Object
8. Relationship to an Object
9. Relationship to an Organization
10. Relationship to an Organization
11. Relationship to an Organization
12. Relationship to an Organization
13. Relationship to an Organization

PHILO

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21. Relationship to an Organization
22. Relationship to an Organization
CHAPTER NEWS AND NOTES

The 7,211st meeting of the SCC/AIA Board of Directors was held on May 25, 1976. Officers, directors and guests gathered in the Bradbury Building to discuss Chapter affairs. The following recommendations of the Membership Committee were approved: Transfers: James L. Blair, AIA; Richard C. Colby, AIA; T. Fogg, AIA; Josephine A. Fisher, AIA; Kyo San Kim, AIA. Associates: Vincent Baldwin. Address change: Richard C. Colby, AIA.

Reported on student activities.

On behalf of the CDC, AIA, requested by Student Chairmen Jerry Palkov and Richard Lessner presented their recommended awards of $100 on the Sunset Coast Line bal­ boat measure. Ralph Inland's request for Board support of the Citywide Murals Project was approved. James Boner and Roger Scherer appeared on behalf of the CDC and requested support for the project, but the Board declined to act on the request. Roger Lyman and Lester Wertheimer reported on their Task Force, which is collecting information on costs, legal problems, and lack grievances and positive actions to the CDC. They are also recommending that a report be re­ported on student activities.

C.S.I. is sponsoring three classes of interest to architects and their employees, including "Scope of Work Agreements, Contracts and Specifications" by Hans W. Meier, FCSI, which begins September 19, 1976, at 3:00 p.m.

"Contract Administration" by R. A. Marden, AIA, starting January 17, 1977, at 6:00 p.m.

"Specifications Writing II" by Jerome I. Orland, CSI (7 weeks starting January 20, 1977, at 6:00 p.m.). All classes will meet at the Masonic Temple, 303 Wilshire Boulevard, Los Angeles. For additional information, call 228-8171 or David A. Deyell, AIA, CSI, at 914-6258.

Jonathan Kirch, editor of L.A. ARCHITECT, will offer a two-week course on "Effective Communication for Professionals" in U.C.L.A. Extension in the Fall quarter. The course is designed for professionals who must communicate speci­ fically to clients and colleagues, through the use of an informal seminar format. In the seminar, the course is taught to write and speak with impact, clarity, and confidence. For information and enrollment, contact Jonathan Kirch at 832-8359 or UCLA Extension at 825-7381.

UCLA Extension's Continuing Edu­ cation in Engineering and Mathematic­s is offering several courses of interest to our Autumn Fall Quarter, starting September 20. Courses include "Structural Analysis for Static and Dynamic Loadings by Computer," (499-245); "Modern Reinforced Concrete Methods and Seismic Problems" (499-41); and "Timber Structures and Masonry" (499-78). For starting dates and other details, call UCLA Ex­ tension at 213-825-4100.

Edward Abrahamson and Ronald Rothchild have joined in the archi­ tectural firm of Abrahamson and Rothchild. Chamber members of the firm of Albert C. Martin prior to forming their new partnership with offices in Pasadena.

Craig Hodgott, Charles Moore, recent graduates of the faculty of U.C.L.A.'s School of Archi­ tecture, are three of 11 American archi­tectural graduates — the others are all non-Americans — who will offer a ten-week Intensive, Continuing Education Program, "Special Topics in the Architectural section of the 1876 Centennial Exhi­ bition — "Suburban Alternatives" is the theme of the exhibition.

The 1977 International Chair­ man for the Southern California Chapter, AIA, is open to all members of the chapter interested in designing a new chair. The dead­ line for submission is Tuesday, November 15, 1976. Applications can be obtained from the SCC/AIA, 233 "A" Street, Suite 510, San Diego, Ca. 92101, or by calling (714) 232-0109. Winning pro­ posals will receive a $1,000 honorarium and $30,000, and will be displayed at the 1977 AIA Convention in San Diego.

William Purshad, Structural Engi­ neer, has been appointed Director for Architects on "Engineering Design for Architects" on Saturday, December 11, 1976, at 9:00 a.m. A limited class will meet at 306 West Street in Los Angeles. Call Bill Purshad at 628-7080 for more information.

A comprehensive survey of the black community in Southern California including over 200 works by 63 artists — will be launched by the Los Angeles County Museum of Art on Monday, November 21. The exhibit includes paint­ ings, prints, drawings, graphics, crafts and decorative arts.

The following programs in architec­ ture will be offered by UCLA Extension in the Spring 1977 quarter. The city is offered "American Domestic Architecture and Inter­ nal Planning," L. B. Chesser, AIA; or Lloyd Wright: When Democracy Builds..." Twenty Century Styles of Architecture to 1932," Kathryn A. Smith; and "City Building Education Program: Internship for Architects, Planners, Designers" by Donovan G. Nielson and staff. For information on starting dates and fees, call UCLA Extension at 825-9501.

Chamber members mourn the passing of Eugene E. Hougham, AIA, who died July 19, 1976, at the age of 44. A member of the SCC/AIA Chapter, Mr. Hougham had maintained an archi­ tectural practice in Los Angeles since 1965. He is survived by his wife, Jane, and their four daughters.

The Alexandre house by Roland Coote, Jr., AIA, is prominently dis­ played in the March 29, 1976, issue of Progressive Architect­ure — but you did not see it in L.A. ARCHITECT! Editorial Board member Thomas Hines wrote about the Ar­ chitect who in the March 1976 issue of our publication, and the editors of P/A asked him to contribute an expanded version for Progressive Architecture. We're proud of a.p.a's great job and thank him for a part in bringing Roland Coote's work to the attention of architects to national prominence.

Helen Flusher is the newest member of the Chapter office staff in Brad­bury Building. Mel Flusher, who re­ placed Rosalind Flusher as Adminis­ trative Secretary, is a graduate of USC with a degree in Latin. She has taught Spanish in the L.A. public school system and served as an assistant editor and academic analyst in the administration of the California state college system.

Chapter member immanuel H. Lewis, Consulting Building Econom­ ist, will repeat last year's seminar on "Economics of Design and Con­ struction" in ten consecutive Mon­ day evening meetings beginning, Mon­ day, October 17th. Participation in the sem­i­ nar — which will focus on cost plan­ ning, design, and cost evaluation — was estimated to be limited to 15 per­ sons. For information, call immanuel H. Lewin at 657-2197.

Otto H. Killian, AIA, has been named senior vice president of William L. Panattoni, P.A. A resident of Glendale, Killian is cur­ rently in charge of more than $120 million of work in the Middle East and the United States.

A new national anthem for the United States and the barring of Taiwan from the Olympics were subjects for im­ promptu speeches at a recent weekly dinner meeting of Architects' Toastmasters. Prepared speeches celebrating aspects of the bicenten­ nial were delivered by Charles Wong, AIA (and Cass Potulick). Mech. Eng.; Jakob Helweg, AIA, shared the joys and hazards of re­ modeling his home. The Toast­ masters meet at 6:30 p.m. every other Monday at Damian's Mr. Pizza at 1511 Sunset Boulevard, Los Angeles. Chapter members, architectural employees, and allied profes­ sionals are welcome to attend. For information, call 382-8060 at 655-7220 (weekdays) or 241-9403 (evenings and weekends).

The Fourth International Confer­ ence on "Architectural Congress will be held in Shiga, Japan, from October 11 to 16, 1976. Panelists, Emperor of Iran, will preside over the confer­ ence. Celebration of the Shah's birth­ day will be the highlight of the confer­ ence. Participants have been invited to be a part of the birthday festivities. For details, contact Peggy Bowman at 783-1421 or Lorraine Rudolf at 661-4760.

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