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L.A. Architect

May 1993

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AIA/LA Intern/Assoc.
Seminar, "Ecology for Our Future" ADPBR Conference.
SCC-Arc, 5454 Beethoven St.,
L.A., 9:00am-1:00pm. Info:
Claude Meyers at 310-574-1123.

Saturday May 8
AIA/LA Intern/Assoc.
Seminar, "Three Decades and What
Now?" Cal Poly Pomona,
Lecture and Reception. For
information call (310) 393-0611.

Friday May 14
AIA/LA Intern/Assoc.
Seminar, "Energy - Water - and
Material - conserving strategies
as our specialty.

Tuesday May 25
AIA/LA Intern/Assoc.
Seminar, "Energy - Water - and
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May 15-16
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Summer Camp, "Energy - Water
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May 22
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Frustrated Visionaries


Forget the health club; this ten pound catalogue of last year's landmark exhibition at the Guggenheim will provide you with physical and intellectual exercise. No book could capture the experience of seeing 800 or so extraordinary art works, installed by Zaha Hadid in the restored rotundas and Gwathmey-Steier's new galleries. But Hadid's designs were compromised by curatorial timidity, and the scale of the show overwhelmed most visitors. This superbly produced volume allows you to take a leisurely stroll through a vast territory, rather than dashing past all but your favorite sections, or bogging down at the mid point.

A mere decade ago, most of this work was still locked in the cells of Soviet museums. On a 1976 visit to Moscow, my KGB driver was very curious to know why I should want to spend several hours in the mausoleum Architecture Museum, when I could have had a jolly afternoon at the Park of Socialist Achievement. Back then, Western museums could borrow avant garde works only if they were accompanied by officially approved 1930s kitsch. Now, every year brings fresh revelations of the adventure that Stalin suppressed.

Suprematism, Constructivism and their many offshoots are dominant themes, and paintings predominate, but all the arts are represented, and it's fascinating to trace the links between canvases and ceramics, sculpture and stage designs, photography and posters. There's a brief sampling, in text and pictures, of major architectural projects. Many were unbuilt and even fewer were built until now. Isokki's plan for twin towers in Fukuoka derives directly from an Ivan Leonidov project of 1934, and Isozaki's plan for twin towers and even fewer were built - until now. Isokki's plan for twin towers and even fewer were built - until now.
The "Green Product"

The "green product" market consists of some tried and true items and some new and innovative ones. If you are investigating a new or experimental product, be sure to get sound guarantees from the manufacturer. You'll need them. One of the confusing things in getting a product is that life-cycle cost analysis data is rarely available. A product that breaks down twice as fast as the one it's replacing may require more energy to extract from natural resources, through extraction of natural resources, through production of toxic, renewable and recycled materials, we are making progress.

The principles of sustainable development outlined by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. Their system takes a product from extraction of natural resources, through manufacturing and consumer use, to final disposal or recycling. For now, though, most products require close scrutiny by the architect.

As we pressure companies to focus on non-toxic, renewable and recycled materials, we are gradually seeing the established companies come out with new product lines to address these issues. Glidden has a line of non-toxic paints, and Louisiana Pacific has produced Fiberboard wall board and Nature Guard insulation from recycled paper waste. Ask the companies you specify from what they've been developing. We need to keep the pressure on. Although the many new companies embracing these issues are exciting to see, they often don't have the funding to go through UL or ICBO certification, and their products are unavailable in all but experimental projects.

Many small companies' products are innovative and useful, however; if the work stands up, we should support them. My office has found the following resource guides useful:

Interior Concerns Resource Guide (415) 389-8049
Environmental Resource Guide (AIA); GREEBE, Center for Resourceful Building Technology (406) 549-7678; LA Network Resource Guide to Recycled Products (213) 847-3057; Eco-Honor Network (213) 662-5707

It is important to remember resource renew-

al and conservation. A line of decadent trees on the south side - or turf block instead of paver-

ent - are not risky or costly moves, but they are easy to overlook.

Finally, other architects are trying new things all the time, transmission of the message is the world of plan-

tary responsibilities. The local forums and confer-

cences - such AIA Environmental Resource Committee should help us get the feedback we need for the better solutions.

POLLY OSBORNE, A.I.A.

Green Products. Architects in the movies.

Ideals Unlimited At Monterey

Architects is in a transition from the con-

straints of a crowded and polluted world into the seamlessness of cyber-space, or so one would think from the tone of "Limits/No Limits" AIA/CC's Eleventh Monterey Design Conference, held March 19-21. Taking a breath from tedious preoccupations of a bad economy, speakers focused on both the direc-

tion and the ethics of a changing profession.

The conference started with some mind bend-

ing. Berkeley journalist Timothy Ferris urged listeners not to accept conceptual limits. Citing Magritte's painting of a picture frame floating eerily before a "real" landscape, he said both physics and art are opposed to arbi-

tral divisions between real and unreal. As if to illus-

trate the notion of ignoring conventional categories, designer Charles White III of OLI, Venice showed projects such as a mechanized sculpture of a sea battle that is currently being installed in front Las Vegas Mirage Hotel.

The end to conventional thinking was a use-

ful intro to presentations on CAD, which appears to be barreling toward Virtual Reality. The first thing to do is to throw away your pencil, according to architect and software designer Dennis Neely, who said architecture is soon to be dominated by digital technology, spelling the end to cons of "hand-drawn, paper-

back" technology. SCI-Arc's Michael Rotondi bridged the gap between computer-based design and Tibetan Buddhism. The computer, he said, is "not about efficiency and productivity," but rather "an instrument for conceptualizing and extending consciousness." He described the new role of the architect as mediator between the conceptual and the physical, between "new urban space and electronic space."

Janet Abrams, architecture critic, argued that the limitlessness of global communications can result in some unexpected limits on personal space. The efficacy of communications has brought about a decentralized society, which in turn has popularized conventions and meetings which can take place anywhere. Yet the grow-

ing demand to push crowds of people through the sequence of airport-business hotel-conven-

tion center is leading to crowding and ulti-

mately the "confinement of the space of one's body, plus a little. Not that she is comforted by the notion of escape into cyberpace. Virtual reality, she said, "makes you seasick."

Even so, cyberspace seems to be only safe place to practice architecture, in view of the mess that architects have made of the planet, according to the next batch of speakers. Berkebeek of Kansas City, Mo, had the courage to criticize design awards (the AIA/CC awards had been handed out the previous night). Regardless of the way a building looks, he said, "if it makes its occupants sick, or makes the planet sick, it's not good architecture."

Washington architect James Cutler described his evolution from a Lou Kahn-trained formalist to an environmental activist. "I realized I was part of a profession that was devasitng the planet," he said. One form of environmentalism, of course, is to build almost nothing, something advocated by Gary Giacomini, a supervi-

sor of Marin County, where local officials have downzoned much of the county to no more than one house for every 60 acres.

Wolf Prisz, principle of Vienna-based Coop Himmelblau, brought the conference his own brand of "no limits." Pritz cultivated his bad-

boy persona as he skewered received ideas of functionality and construction. If Himmelblau's work is modestly freedom, however, it is freed-

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...
The projects on this page represent three different approaches to sustainable design.

The Issacs Residence, by Jock de Swart, addresses energy conservation and healthy materials issues, but, also, responds to the clients' 'state'. According to the Architect, 'a person's state is affected by all external stimuli and their internal experience...'. Such stimuli include: "light, texture, view, sound, touch, smell, electro-magnetics, psychic, astral, earth, moon and sun". "Feng-shui, pattern language, and geomancy," are some of the systems for interpreting architectural experience.

John Picard's solution, for his residence, was driven by energy conservation concerns. He incorporated: a photovoltaic panel with tracking systems from Real Goods Trading Corporation, Spaceguard air purification system, Smart House unity management computer system, Aquastar tankless, gas fired hot water system, Sunfrost energy efficient refrigerator and recycled steel framing products from Angeles Metal Systems, to name a few.

David Hertz approached the Lehrer Renovation with a clear, recycled materials design strategy. Shown are interiors of the first phase of the Lehrer Renovation, by David Hertz, Syndesis, Inc. Phase II, under construction, will fully integrate environmental strategies to create a serene blend of low-tech and hi-tech. In addition to use of Hertz' own recycled concrete product, Syndecrete, Phase II will include: recycled lumber, demolition and other construction materials; exposed shell (less cost, less scrap), natural ventilation and light; orientation for passive solar gain.
Cal-Earth confronts the codes, by Iliona Outram

Cal-Earth And The Codes
Architect Nader Khalili AIA has set up the California Earth Art and Architecture Institute, known as Cal-Earth, in the desert city of Hesperia, to pioneer research into earth and ceramic structures by building prototypes, with detailed engineering calculations and technical drawings, with the intention of gaining approval from the ICBO (International Council of Building Officials) so that unreinforced earth and ceramic construction will be part of the UBC (Uniform Building Code). If successful, it will be possible to build structures entirely of earth and natural materials, without the need for one single piece of timber or manufactured and toxic products.

"The timeless essence of the elements, the time­less natural forms of arches, vaults, and domes, the principle of gravity and the spirit of quest will give you the ability to build anywhere in the world in any what is around you. I believe that the architec­tures of earth are spoken with the unity of the elements." —Nader Khalili

Every piece of research at Cal-Earth is based on these timeless principles and forms, with a direct practical application. Apprentices study with working by their hands to make buildings of adobe, ceramics, sandbags, straw bale; or create materials such as molded earth glaze with a simple Fresnel (solar) lens; or devices that wind catchers, passive solar energy tow­ers, prefabricated ceramics, stacking devices and compasses for construction.

The student tries to identify with the problem by putting together seemingly unrelated ideas as Persian poetry and high-tech design in the process called Synetics. In this way it is under­stood that all the answers are within ourselves and are interconnected as one body. The approach to design is holistic rather than a piecemeal remedy for a variety of design prob­lems found in today’s architecture.

The high-desert site in Hesperia was chosen for its very harsh climate and close proximity to the San Andreas fault. Cal-Earth is in the high­est earthquake zone, Zone 4; there is burning summer sun and freezing winter nights, winds often reach 25mph, and this year heavy rainfall caused desert flash floods. Brick and sandbag structures stood in water for some days. All these provide the greatest challenge to the work and the best to test the structures.

The 7.4 magnitude earthquake in June last year proved the point. The following photographs show the local building department that the 20ft diameter unreinforced brick dome had not suf­fered the smallest crack.

The intention of the Uniform Building Code was to provide safety standards for people. The intention at Cal-Earth is to introduce the con­cepts of ideal forms and spaces in unreinforced or minimally reinforced masonry structures base isolated on sand foundations, so that the, structures could be used worldwide, especially where steel and concrete are not available. When these are built as arches, vaults, and domes their material attains to a structural unity and acts as if it were homogenous, and they do not suffer the localised stresses expected in an earthquake but shift like a bowl on a table. These structures are in compression existing an earthquake by sharing all the forces equally. The load in the two prototype domes at Cal­Earth at any one point is not more than 12 psi in comparison to meridional forces, and 16 psi in tension for hoop stresses. Domes, arches, vaults and apses, use this natural potential of earth which rests about a 60 degree angle of repose within the earth’s gravity field in a mound shape.

Events and time have more than tested these forms: in the devastating Tabas quake in Iran in 1977, measuring 7.7 on the richter scale, eighteen of the city’s large dome water reservoirs survived without damage; they were built of unfired adobe and sunk a few feet into the ground, and were built directly onto the sand without foundations. All almost other structures in that city had collapsed except for a few vaults hugging together.

Yet the whole logic of the UBC is based on conventional timber and concrete/steel con­struction; masonry is treated as a piecemeal extension of it. Code assumes vertical walls, a rectangular plan with a flat or pitched roof hav­ing all the stresses and bending moments. This makes timber and steel the most appropriate materials. A straight masonry wall will shatter into hundreds of pieces; using rebar as rein­forcement is like trying to patch a broken doll with splints. Cal-Earth does not espouse this piecemeal approach to construction.

Cal-Earth’s experience with the local building department has been positive, all things consid­ered. The temporary occupancy permit allowed the building of prototype structures as experi­mental work. After completing a set of draw­ings for the single skin unreinforced masonry dome, and for the one of sandbags and barbed wire were submitted to the local Building Department. Khalili’s engineer in Chicago, Phil Vittore, a world expert with more than 80 large-span thin-shell reinforced concrete domes to his name, together with California engineer Carl Howe, submitted detailed calculations. But this is just the start of a long and expensive process. It may cost many thousands to gain approval for two prototypes which cost $1,500 (brick) and $480 (sandbag) to build, since the structures are unusual, every step of the process is being charged by the building officials at an hourly rate, rather that the usual fee for build­ings of this size.

Title 24 heat loss calculations were also required. These do not truly represent the capacity of a building to keep its occupants warn as they stress the R-value of material. A better analysis would show the U-value of the building as a whole, since by opening one win­ dow how much of the R-value goes out the window.

After consideration the Hesperia Building Department sent the plans to the ICBO (International Council of Building Officials) who advise the UBC. However, the questions which were returned from the ICBO reiterate the code’s view of masonry as a discrete material and therefore a ‘broken’ structure, rather than a homogenous one. Khalili and his team are currently awaiting the hoped-for approval which can create a precedent. The heroic spirit of this work will continue into testing the structures, if necessary, at whatever expense.

Without this spirit of pioneering no thorough­going changes can take place to create an environmentally harmonious architecture, and the debate will stay on the level of piecemeal adaptations to environmentally unsound princi­ples. We need to return to the timeless princi­ples within earth architecture which nature uses when making caverns of rock or domes of earth, and the UBC must progress to recognize these alternatives. In the words of Nader Khalili ‘The Architecture of Utopia begins by under­standing the four universal elements, earth, water, air and fire, their equilibrium and ulti­mate unity.”

For more information please contact the Geltufan Foundation P.O. Box 145 Claremont CA 91711-0415 Tel/Fax: (909) 625 4383 or Cal-Earth 619 956 0613 (619) 244 0614

CAL-EARTH WORKSHOP
June 12 & 13, Saturday & Sunday Hands-on workshop in Earth and Ceramic Architecture with Nader Khalili, at Cal-Earth site, Hesperia, CA How to build your own home with Earth (Adobe, Rammed Earth, Sandbags, Straw bales) How to build Ceramic Houses How to build scale-model as well as life-size arches, vaults, and domes. How to work with timeless materials and time­less principles to build ecologically sustainable earth-houses utilizing solar, wind, and natural energy sources.

How to integrate Architecture, Ceramics, Sculpture, Graphics, Painting, the Four Elements, and spirituality through Archeny (a fusion of architecture and alchemy) Fee $275.00 Place: Cal-Earth site, Hesperia, CA Direction: Highway 10/E.15 N. Hesperia Exit Right, Topar left, Live Oak Left, Bally Ln. Right Nearest Airport, Ontario, California.

The analysis provided is applicable to “mam­mam tooth and pebble systems such as “thin” reinforced concrete members not to discrete ele­ments such as filled sandbags, or one wall of unreinforced brick. An analysis to model the actual conditions is required. Section 2503(b).

Phil Vittore, engineer: “The analysis is applicable to the concept such as “thin” reinforced concrete members. This is a correct observation but it is not the correct translation of the information applicable in this situation based on the following: The dome cannot be analyzed into discrete elements as in a conventional structure because there is no single pless of stress, and the individual elements to succeeding elements. The dome will convey stresses from any portion of the dome to surrounding areas without creating con­centrated stresses. The calculated stresses given in the information necessary to see if the individ­ual parts (i.e. bricks or sandbags) will develop the necessary cohesion to each other to be a monolithic structure. The design was based upon this condition being met. In the analysis we provided do take into account the “discrete elements” of bricks and sandbags when applying the hoop and meridional stresses to the material of the element and the junction of each ele­ment...etc.”

Top left Excavation for 3 vault residence, showing sand bags, window blockouts and barred wire reinforced. Top right Building section and par­tial plan through sand bag dome, showing an analysis of sandgravel footings and stacking profile. Plan shows barred wire layout and plaster application. Left Brick domes, foreground and left; sand bag dome in right rear. All structures at Cal­Earth, Hesperia, CA. Nadia Khalili, A.I.A. Photos: W.S.P.
Greening The Grid

By Robert Cornell

Landscaping for a Sustainable Environment

Landscaping has traditionally served as the handmaiden of project oriented development in urban areas. Its role has been primarily aesthetic and functional: to define, accent or soften spaces and structures and to provide amenities and access for the varied groups of users of the site. Because it is seen as secondary in importance to hardscape, provisions for landscaping are often made late in the design and construction process with mixed results. Landscaping is also to some degree seen as insensitve, as witnessed by communities such as Santa Barbara that banned landscape irrigation towards the end of the six year drought. The role of landscape must change as we determine how to make our urban areas more sustainable, both from an environmental and a human standpoint. The traditional aesthetic and functional issues must share the stage with concerns for water and energy conservation, reduction of pollution and preservation of bio diversity. Indeed, landscape should shed its image as a supporting actor and take a major role in greening the urban infrastructure, and acting as a soft, connective living tissue to join the disparate elements of the city.

The megalopolis of Greater Los Angeles makes an interesting case study for the use of landscaping to address many of the ills of the urban core in our country. Ironically L.A. once had the image of a garden city; now its popular images are of vast hardscapes of cement and asphalt and widespread areas of blight and violence. To most environmentalists L.A. represents the antithesis of the natural environment which we strive to protect.

However, L.A., does encompass many important bioresources and interfaces with many significant bioresource areas along its periphery. L.A. is more Swiss cheese than concrete monolith. What L.A. needs, metaphorically speaking, is not more holes punched in it but rather threads to tie together both its diverse urban core areas, as well as its isolated regions of native plant and animal communities.

On the level of scale of infrastructure, landscaping could take on a leading role in "greening the grid" of the city. "Greening the grid" is a concept presently being developed by a range of L.A.-based planners, landscape architects and architects. They propose that by "greening" existing, intersecting linear features such as the Los Angeles river and storm channels, freeway medians and shoulders, street and rapid transit arteries, old railroad rights of way and burnt-out, abandoned properties, etc., a landscaped (green) interconnecting grid could be created.

This would connect communities with alternative transportation routes for foot traffic and bicycles. Additionally, by emphasizing the use of native plant materials the grid could provide linkages between isolated bioresource islands such as Griffith Park (our largest urban park) and larger natural areas such as the San Gabriel mountains to maintain genetic viability of native plants and animals.

Additionally the "green grid" could provide more trees to counteract the urban heat island effect. Los Angeles is 5° hotter on average than it was in 1940 when there was a lot less asphalt and concrete to absorb and retain heat. Water for these additional trees and for other green cooling areas could be provided from recycled sewage water piped through the grid. As it is now, the heart of L. A.'s infrastructure that is green are the street trees which are basically separate islands of green that passively follow existing city streets and rights of way. This in no way approaches the synergistic connecting effect of a green grid.

The green grid could also have many positive social influences. In a recent survey of impacted urban area residents by L. A. Times, additional parks and recreational facilities ranked at the top of their wish lists along with youth services. Since landscape provides many entry level jobs, green infrastructure work could also provide employment.

Teaming Up For Sustainability

Sustainable landscape design produces optimal results when site development is approached from a holistic standpoint. Because environmental issues involve hardscape and softscape design simultaneously, landscape professionals should be part of the design team early in site development.

The treatment of storm water runoff and provisions for site erosion control are good examples of areas that would benefit from this interaction. Traditionally, building architects have called in soils and civil engineering firms to handle these issues. This has led to overbuilt, expensive and unsightly masonry structures; concrete swales and channelized drains, retaining and sloping walls, etc. A softer approach in site development work with the use of permeable paving and rethinking drainage patterns to use the landscape to keep storm water dispersed and on site as long as possible will help to reduce both the runoff and pollution problem.

Other areas of useful collaboration would be in the protection and preservation of existing trees, and native or existing vegetation; provisions for shade trees (which complements the building architect's efforts towards solar insulation, provisions for ventilation and use of solar collectors); provision of greywater systems for landscape irrigation and recycling areas for green waste composting on-site.

Increased collaboration between hardscape and softscape specialists at either the level of infrastructure or specific site development may at first appear to complicate the building architect's practice. However, with good team players it will certainly make their work more, and our urban environments will benefit from a more verdant and sustainable future. Surveys show that by the year 2000 over half the world's population will live in urban areas. If the world is to work our cities must be made to work. Greening our cities will be an important part of this process.

Robert Cornell
in Los Angeles, this project, if built out to its planned capacity, will house almost 28,000 people. It has been four years since Maguire Thomas took over the planning of Piaya Vista from Summa Corp., which was driven to its knees by citizen activists intent on saving the last remaining salvagable wetlands in Los Angeles. No other development in our area has grappled with mitigating its impact to the extent that Maguire Thomas has done with Piaya Vista. Clean-fueled internal public transportation systems, pedestrian oriented street layouts, state-of-the-art waste management, consideration of neighboring views, restoration of the wetlands, re-use of treated wastewater; the list goes on.

You would think that such good planning would be rewarded, but there has been no easy road for these upscale pioneers. They have been assessed an amount not a fraction of the compensation equivalent to a typical auto-rip-gen-eration game by continuing to enhance their plan may directly effect the extent to which others follow its good example.

Piaya Vista — if we build it, they will come

Two L.A. projects taking widely divergent paths toward more sustainable city design are Piaya Vista, a planned sustainable environment, and the L.A. Eco-Village Demonstration, a community-generated revised physical environment.

Piaya Vista — if we are a community, we can build one

In many ways this is the antithesis of Piaya Vista, although it could have as many far-reaching implications for the future of the development get green-lighted, the design dialog between citizen, government and Maguire Thomas has a trend-setting potential to continue and even expand into an ongoing working partnership. Community gardens, rooftop gardens, efficient construction, passive and active solar design, solar access, non-toxic building materials, and recycled building materials; these are among the neighborhood aspects Maguire Thomas may be willing to address if they can see the clear benefits of including these features.

It is up to all of us who care about the future of our cities to communicate the importance, and salability, of these sorts of ideas.

Maguire Thomas has a chance to build a community that can serve as a benchmark for any new development in our area. The extent to which it raises the stakes in the development game by continuing to enhance their plan may directly affect the extent to which others follow its good example.

L.A. Eco-Village — if we are a community, we can build one

In many ways this is the antithesis of Piaya Vista, although it could have as many far-reaching implications for the future of our cities.

On superficial examination, the Eco-Village site is a somewhat run-down neighborhood that has few friends within two miles.

Hoping to give form to an entire new wave or having it engulf us unprepared. Where would you like to see your business positioned as the city design-professionals. This brave attempt by a neighborhood to preserve and enhance its unique identity, while transforming it into a sustainable community, should be nurtured by every aspect of city government and the business community that can play a part, because this is an example of a true rebalancing of the city. The explosion of sustainability-oriented creativity that has already begun will transform our cities faster than many of us imagine.

In the Los Angeles area alone, for example, the LA Planning Department has started a General Plan Framework Project that looks like it could be based on sustainable city principles, the CRA has held sustainability roundtables, and the City of Santa Monica is producing a wonderful document that will provide a foundation of sustainability on which the city can base all its actions. A group of citizens in Long Beach has started a local Slow Street project which city government is helping not hindering; a minority group in LA is seeking environmental justice with help from The Gas Company; community gardens are springing up around the city courtesy of Common Ground and LA Harvest; there is a plan in put into action to make Ventura Boulevard of all streets into a more pedestrian-oriented thoroughfare.

People want this new community badly enough that they are becoming their own planners, developers and builders. From a flyer about a co-housing seminar: "Imagine a home where you know all your neighbors, where families, singles and couples next to each other with shared facilities such as childcare, dining, offices, workshops, and safe outdoor play area with environmentally sensitive design, emphasizing itself as a sustainable and maintaining open space all in a community you helped design."

This is the new market. If you choose to look, you will be amazed at the magnitude and diversity of energy being brought to bear on shifting our cities toward a more sustainable basis. It is a wave of gigantic proportions. UCLA Professor Richard Schore, FAMA has written: "Architecture now has this rarest of opportunities to give form to an entire new era of peace, global awareness, and broad forces for change. If it misses this moment, it will perhaps never again recover from the place on the sidelines." We have the choice of catching the wave or having it engulf us unprepared. Where would you like to see your business positioned and perhaps most importantly: where do you see yourself?
L.A.A.: How would you define sustainable design?
S.M.: The literal translation is "providing for the needs of the present generation without sacrificing the ability of future generations to secure their own needs." I think that means thinking of the effects of our decisions on the future. The Native Americans used to plan for seven generations. Everything they did, the way they used their land, the way they built, the way they used their resources reflected their thinking. We in America, because we have always lived in the "land of plenty," never think about running out of anything. We never think about running out of natural resources. Now we are seeing that we are running out of all of these things.

L.A.A.: How does that apply to technology, or buildings?
S.M.: There are different layers to this. One is energy. If we design buildings that have all renewable energy resources as a means of heating and cooling then obviously this is more sustainable. We want to specify materials that are renewable, that do not deplete the rain forest or our primeval cedar forests. For example, it is important for me to specify cedar, unless I know that the source is renewable. The cedars that we all love so much, the clear cedar, comes from the old growth forests, in many places. Particularly in recreational facilities.

L.A.A.: Sustainable planning has been in the consciousness of some people for many years, in fact, decades. There have been a lot of planned, sustainable communities. There is one here in LA called Eco-Village. How can the AIA implement some of these wonderful ideas in the real world? How do we bring developers to the table?
S.M.: We can’t always start with the optimal concept that the Eco-Village community represents. We must be patient. I think in the Seventies we looked at the very radical idea of living with an all or nothing at all attitude. We have to take incremental steps. We have to work with the developers. We have to make them aware of the problem. I feel that any measure we can achieve is better than nothing. Most things are very logical, but we have to change the way people think and their value structure. In the Eighties our values were based on glitz, consumerism, and "me, me, me." We have to define an entirely new value system. But right now it seems that we must inch John Q. Developer into it gradually. It’s happening. Toll Brothers, the largest home developer in Southeastern Pennsylvania, is starting to recycle every bit of the waste products from their sites. The utilities companies are going to be creating major initiatives. You have the most progressive utility companies in the country in California. I never get discouraged. However, die-hard environmentalists are discouraged by the companies that say that they’re a green companies, when they are not." I say, if the consumer begins to demand environmental sensitivity as a criteria for the selection of products, then the movement has a chance of being successful.

L.A.A.: How do you feel about energy independence? The homeowners going off the grid, using wind, fuel cell or portable technology; implementing gray water recycling, compost toilets, and the other kinds of things not approved by local municipalities.
S.M.: It is terrific. Composting toilets are wonderful for natural settings. Sometimes we have a problem with local officials accepting them. When we explain to them the problems with waste water disposal, they begin to be more accepting. Soon the composting toilets or clivus toilets will be used routinely in many places. Particularly in recreational facilities.

The same is true with reusing gray water and wetlands mitigation. It was impossible to use the wetlands mitigation for waste water in Pennsylvania. However, now a municipality in Pennsylvania has a facility that uses wetlands for waste water management. So it’s starting to be accepted. The people who have been fighting this battle since the sixties get very discouraged and impatient and I understand why. But, I think they all have to realize that great things are happening now. And from my perspective, as a newcomer, what we have seen happen in the last year and a half is absolutely incredible.

L.A.A.: What can we do to implement the use of these kinds of things, like the clivus toilet?
S.M.: I think we have to document a track record of the other counties and municipalities and cities that have approved the use of the clivus. We must educate the zoning officials who think only in terms of single zoning (residential here, commercial there, industrial over there). We must break down that mentality because we can’t have sustainable communities without it changing the way we build. Single use zoning promotes dependence on the automobile which is not sustainable.

L.A.A.: How do we get the type of commitment you are talking about from less willing architects, designers, and planners?
S.M.: How do we get architects to talk about the things that they know are quality of life issues and not be afraid to do so. Everyone complains about the plight of architects and the role that we have in the community, but we all as a profession have let it happen. We have to take back our leadership role again. The one wonderful thing that has happened as a result of this careful look at our environment, is the absolute awareness that we cannot solve our problems independently; that we need the expertise of many professionals to solve the complex problems that we all face.

L.A.A.: The schools are basically teaching architecture as theoretical art. How do you deal with that?
S.M.: I go to as many schools as I can, and I speak. I am invited a lot this year because I’m a woman who’s president of the AIA. I take advantage of the opportunity to talk about issues that concern me. The problem is we have academics in the schools whose great expertise is theory. This is what they pride themselves on and feel comfortable with. They don’t see the benefit of the other. However, many people are very concerned about where education is today—in all parts of our profession. The AIA and the collateral organizations; the Registration Boards, ACSA, NAAB, and the AIAS have joined together to sponsor a study of architectural education in America. We are finalizing an agreement with the Carnegie Foundation for this study. I think this is going to have a tremendous impact on architectural education. I also urge alumni to get involved in their alma maters to effect change in the way we are preparing future generations of architects.
**Sustaining L.A.**

**Crisis of Perception**

A Crisis of Perception

"Believe in the perpetual openness of the human mind to new influx of light and power."

—Ralph Waldo Emerson

The emerging paradigm is clear and well-defined - we are faced with a crisis of perception. All that mankind formulates, envisions and creates is an abstract expression of a systemic, organic and universal process. It is the way this expression interfaces with the Natural Order that constitutes our historic, modern dilemma.

By confronting these endemic, ecological forces, Los Angeles can become the manifestation of the new paradigm. By drawing upon all its assets, its environment, its technology and, most importantly, its people, a healthy organism can emerge vibrant and in harmony with itself and its biosphere.

In order to survive or really work, much less be great, Los Angeles must re-examine itself, and come to terms with its true nature, albeit its current state, that of a dying organism—a city on the endangered species list. Our groundwater is polluted; the nature, albeit its current state, that of a life consciousness where the common good, indeed survivability, will outweigh individual self-expression to become the universal approach. This commitment will not come through the traditional programmatic approach to design and architecture, but rather through the realization of the inter-connectivity of everything, physical and non-physical, large and small. As design professionals we will have to rethink the way we do things — the questions we ask, the way we work, the fees we charge, the commitment we bring to the work. To be successful, we need to work together, to share ideas and resources, and to learn to develop projects from both the top-down and the bottom-up, wherein all players are winners. To quote Fritjof Capra from his recent book, "The Turning Point": "Paradigm shift and transformation...may result directly from crisis...today, that shift is from the perception of the universe as a mechanical system, composed of elementary building blocks—mechanistic, 17th century world view—to an ecological view of the world as an interconnected whole, and an awareness of the fundamental interdependence of all phenomena."

The projects, investigations and ideas covered in this first "Green Issue" of LA Architect, only just scratch the surface of what is starting here. Due to limited space, many substantive issues could not be covered. They will be picked up in later issues. What we have attempted to do is to give an initial overview of representative ideas and projects, to indicate the wide range of investigation going on, in Los Angeles, the most ecologically diverse county in North America. Ranging from the no-tech garden dwelling of Esta James, to the low-tech, Islam-inspired, sand bag vaults of Nader Khalili on the high desert, to the hi-tech computer monitored, recycled corrugated steel box of John Picard, this feature addresses the various interpretations of what it means to be sustainable. Bob Walter discusses two alternative options for sustainable urban living—Playa Vista, which represents the corporate, top-down approach and Eco-Village, a demonstration project in the inner-city, whose design is derived from interaction between its ethnically diverse community. While L.A. has one of the lowest ratios of public green space to hard space in the country, several ambitious greenway plans are in the works. Our much maligned transportation and freeway circulation system is paradoxically, the only connective tissue that could bind together the disparate and isolated pockets of humanity that make up Los Angeles. Proposals to green the roadways, the rivers and the abandoned rail lines and to revitalize these links are currently being studied and funded by LACTC. Landscape architect, Bob Cornell considers greening as a sustainable design strategy vs. the old paradigm, landscaping as window dressing (see p.10). This is only the beginning.

The L.A. of the Gold Coast myth may be history, but out of the fires of a new perception, a new hope is emerging. The great exigencies, complexities, and diversities that have created the chaos of L.A. can be transformed into a new and vital expression for the city, not only as the survivor, but as the leader in renewal and sustainability. It will take work.

**WALTER SCOTT PERRY**

**ENVIRONMENTAL EDITOR**

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**THE CIRCULATION SYSTEM**

of a dying organism?

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**KEY: ARTERIAL CONGESTION: A.M., 1990**

- LESS THAN 20 MPH
- 20 TO 35 MPH

Compiled by Paul Chew - Dept. of Transportation L.A.

Khan's on the high desert, to the hi-tech computer monitored, recycled corrugated steel box of John Picard, this feature addresses the various interpretations of what it means to be sustainable. Bob Walter discusses two alternative options for sustainable urban living—Playa Vista, which represents the corporate, top-down approach and Eco-Village, a demonstration project in the inner-city, whose design is derived from interaction between its ethnically diverse community. While L.A. has one of the lowest ratios of public green space to hard space in the country, several ambitious greenway plans are in the works. Our much maligned transportation and freeway circulation system is paradoxically, the only connective tissue that could bind together the disparate and isolated pockets of humanity that make up Los Angeles. Proposals to green the roadways, the rivers and the abandoned rail lines and to revitalize these links are currently being studied and funded by LACTC. Landscape architect, Bob Cornell considers greening as a sustainable design strategy vs. the old paradigm, landscaping as window dressing (see p.10). This is only the beginning.

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**ENVIRONMENTAL EDITOR**

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**ABOVE**

Arterial congestion in Los Angeles, a dying organism; graphic by Marty Kirschen, W.S.P

**BUTTOM**


Middle, low-tech sandbag and brick domes of Nader Khalili's Cal Earth research school.

Right, no-tech garden habitat of Esta Kraisins-James, who has created a bio-regional art garden to teach the principles of art and nature to inner-city children.

Photos: Walter Scott Perry
Jefferson celebrated, CLCID taken to task....

FRIDAY, MARCH 31, 1994

APRIL 13, 1993

April 13, 1993 was the 250th anniversary of Thomas Jefferson's birth. That seems to me to be a rather important date, not just for white Americans, but for all people, everywhere.

Yet all I saw about Jefferson in the L.A. Times was a minor article about a small exhibit at the Huntington Library in Pasadena. I heard nothing on the radio nor television, not even a sentence or two from such a thoughtful liberal as Dan Rather.

Jefferson was not a hero in the same sense as George Washington. Jefferson avoided any sort of participation in the shooting and killing part of the revolution. He fled when the British came near Monticello. He freed his slaves, all right, but not until he was dead and no longer needed them. He liked the good life and he led it.

But there seems to me to be among his remarkable achievements, which do not need listing here, a sort of understanding that democracy has the potential to bring us an order of architecture and landscape architecture that will make the participation of the citizens in the development of the nation a special architecture that will make the participation of the citizens in the development of the nation a special order of democracy.

Jefferson's deeds from Monticello to the Louisiana Purchase so clearly indicate. The word independence, as Jefferson's deeds from Monticello to the Louisiana Purchase so clearly indicate. The word was only the word, but it made action worth taking.

So the word fades. Every day we see the vast misery of our failures: AIDS, Bosnia, the Rodney King case, the chaos of our cities. But we know too that there are plenty who know what to do, including William Jefferson Clinton and Al Gore. But, being lawyers, they need architects.

From William Krisel (AIA-E)

CLCID CONFUSING PUBLIC

As chairman of the LA/AIA Licensing Task Force, I was shocked to find an advertising flyer falling out of the radio nor television, not even a sentence or two from such a thoughtful liberal as Dan Rather.

Mr. Krisel. The appearance of advertising in L.A. Architect does not constitute an endorsement of the information provided in flyers in the future. I do hope L.A. Architect will review more carefully the information provided in flyers in the future.

Editor's response: Thank you for your useful response, Mr. Krisel. The appearance of advertising in L.A. Architect does not constitute an endorsement of the information provided in flyers in the future.

John Spafla, MDC WaUcoveriap. 4«0I $. AlaiMda,

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California Rapid Transit District (RTD) and the Los Angeles County Transportation Commission (LACTC), MTA is the most potent planning agency in the region, as well as the most powerful and best financed public-works administra-
tor in Southern California.

The Urban Design Committee has been monitoring rail transit planning by MTA for several years, addressing such questions as whether the ongoing planning con-
sistent with the general plans of both the City and County of Los Angeles; whether the proposed rail alignments, such as the westerly Red Line detour around the Wilshire-Fairfax area, respect existing patterns of development and neighborhood character; and whether the social, economic and urban-design implications of route selection and station planning are ade-
quately addressed.

Such issues will be confronted at a special meeting of the Urban Design Committee on May 13 at the Chapter office. This event will con-
centrate on transit planning currently in MTA's Westside Area division. Subjects to be reviewed include the Crenshaw/Prairie Avenue Transportation Corridor Study and the westerly extension of the Red Line from the Wilshire-Western station. The MTA will be represented by Miriam Simmons, public affairs manager of the Westside Area Team; Ellen Gelbard, Westside Area project man-
ger; and Dale Royal, project manager for the Crenshaw/Prairie Corridor.

The regularly scheduled meeting of the UDC on June 3 will feature Jim Amis of the MTA in a discus-
sion about joint development at transit stations.

Further information can be obtained by calling James Black at (213) 380-2102.

JAMES BLACK
URBAN DESIGN COMMITTEE

AIA/LA endorses Watershed Restoration Platform

The AIA/LA has endorsed the plat-
tform of a coalition formed to pro-
mote a comprehensive and multi-pur-
pose approach to the problem of flood control, stream water pollution, groundwater re-charge and the lack of urban park land and riparian wildlife habitat in L.A. County. Unpaid L.A.: A Coalition to Restore the Watershed was founded by Friends of the Los Angeles River, Heal the Bay and other environ-
mental groups.

Preservation

Christmas in April

Since the riots last year there has been a lot of rhetoric about rebuilding communities, lending a
hand, helping our fellow man. There were a few bursts of effort and energy, but by and large the whole situation stagnated. Fears of a repeat performance, fueled by a bloodthirsty media, were born of a kind of guilt— the knowledge that as a society we have not done what we said we would do. Most of the positive things that have happened have been neighborhood to neighborhood, within the community.

One of the programs which con-
nects people is "Christmas in April," an instant home renovation for low income elderly, handi-
capped, and/or others in need.

Implemented in other cities across the nation, this is the inaugu-
ral year for Los Angeles. Painting, plumbing, plastering, roofing, electric and landscaping are only a few of the services pro-
vided to those who otherwise can't afford it. All labor and materials are donated. In one Herculean effort volunteers descended upon the selected homes to perform the transformations.

I am a resident of West Adams/South Los Angeles, and have been fully embraced by my neighbors, who have lived there a long time.

My neighbor Marie has lived in the same house since 1931, when she was 14 years old. For sev-
ers years she has had no heat, no electric on one side of the house. The plumbing is dreadful. Her kitchen floor is about to cave in. The plaster ceiling in her front room is crumbling. That's the short list. Last December I nomi-
nated her house for Christmas in April and happily, hers was among those selected.

Twenty-six people from USC have signed up as volunteers, dozens more from West Adams Heritage Association, of which Marie is a member. We were set to go on April 17 when we got the news: Christmas in April would be postponed until May because of the fear generated by jury deliberations in the King/police trial. Marie's Christmas in April will now take

Christmas in April . . . Golf Competition coming up . . .

Calling all golfers!

We are going to have a golf competition in May and any golfers interested in helping with the set-up of this event should call Nicci at (213)380-4595.

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Art and Architecture (IFRAA), which is affiliated with the AIA, seeks built and unbuilt religious structures for their 1993 Awards Program. Entry forms are due by July 1; submissions by August 2. For entry forms and contact, contact: IFRAA National Headquarters, Doris Justis, Executive Secretary, 1777 Church Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036. Tel. (202) 387-8333/Fax (202) 986-6447.

Show Off Your Schools
School architects are invited to enter their designs in the Association of School Business Officials International (ASBO) annual architectural exhibition. All entries are displayed at ASBO International’s 75th Annual Meeting & Exhibits which will be a major feature of ASBO’s annual conference in Boston, Oct. 31-Nov. 2, 1993. The winning designs will also feature in ASBO’s monthly journal, School Business Affairs.

Winning Students

AIA Committees and Events Timeline
ARE Seminar, USC/Harris Hall, All day, May 1
Associate Board, Chapter Office, 6 pm, May 4
Architectural Foundation, Chapter Office, 6 pm, May 5
Urban Design, Chapter Office, 6:30 pm, May 6
ARE Seminar, USC/Harris Hall, All day, May 8
Design Prof. Coalition, Chapter Office, 8:30 am, May 11
LA Architect Board, Chapter Office, 7:30 am, May 12
Urban Design, Chapter Office, 6 pm, May 13
ARE Seminar, USC/Harris Hall, All day, May 15
Golf Tournament, Brea Golf Course, All day, May 17
Health Committee, Chapter Office, 3:30 pm, May 18
Board Meeting, Chapter office, 5:30 pm, May 19
SAA, Chapter office, 2:00 pm, May 20
ARE Seminar, USC/Harris Hall, All day, May 22
Design Committee, TBA, 6:30 pm, May 15
Codes, Chapter Office, 9:00 pm, May 26
Pro-Practice, Chapter Office, 5:45 pm, May 27
ARE Seminar, USC/Harris Hall, All day, May 29

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The importance of your vote at McCormick Place in Chicago during the AIA National Convention.

To become a delegate of the AIA Los Angeles Chapter you will need to fill out and return the form below to the Chapter by May 27. By signing the form, you are giving the AIA/LA the authority to vote for you at the convention. To become a delegate, you must first become accredited in your area of expertise. Accreditation can be obtained by attending an AIA/LA chapter meeting or by attending an AIA/LA chapter event.

The deadline for the questionnaires is May 27, 1993. The survey will be conducted by the AIA/LA, and the results will be used to determine the delegate vote.

To become a delegate of the AIA Los Angeles Chapter, you must be a member of the chapter. To become a member, you must join the AIA/LA and pay your annual membership fee.

The deadline for the questionnaire is May 27, 1993. The survey will be conducted by the AIA/LA. The results will be used to determine the delegate vote.

The AIA/LA is a non-profit organization that seeks to promote the interests of architects and their clients. The AIA/LA is a member of the American Institute of Architects, and it is affiliated with the AIA National Convention.

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Bullocks Closed, Sheraton Saved
Two Mid-Wilshire landmarks—the Sheraton Town House and the Bullocks Wilshire department store—became the focus of preservation concern in April. The Sheraton Town House won a crucial battle for survival on April 7, when Los Angeles City Council unanimously approved designation of the former hotel as a Historic-Landmark of the City of Los Angeles. The decision means that the owners cannot obtain a demolition permit without first doing an environmental impact report.

Architect Norman Alspaugh designed the Town House in 1929 as speculative luxury apartments for oil tycoon Edward Doheny. The owner, Kokusai Kogyo Group of Japan, had planned to demolish the hotel to create a parking lot. On March 21, nearly 200 preservationists attempted to rally in front of the building. Preservationists were quoted when the city's Cultural Heritage Commission voted 3-2 against recommending landmark status, which only the city council could override. The decision led some observers to accuse Mayor Bradley of personally lobbying each of the commissioners to vote against designation. A Bradley spokeswoman declined to comment.

Les fortunate was Bullocks Wilshire, the Art Deco department store designed by John and Donald Parkinson in 1929, with interiors by Jack Peters. As expected, the store closed its doors in April, as part of cost-cutting moves by its operator, Macy Stores of New York. Owners, Cal Tech, the building does not appear to be in imminent danger, but its closing deprives local residents to see what is widely regarded as one of the most important of all Los Angeles buildings.

AIA/CC Awards For L.A.
Five projects by Los Angeles were among 17 winners of AIA/CC Honor and Merit Awards. Honor Awards were given to the Art Gallery in Ontario Stage III, by Barton Myers Architect Inc., in joint venture with Kawahara McKeen Blumberg Architects, both of Los Angeles, as well as an Honor Award for the University of Toledo Art Building in Toledo Ohio, by Frank O. Gehry Associates Inc. of Santa Monica and the Collaborative Inc. of Ohio. Merit Awards went to the Los Angeles Department of Water & Power North Hollywood Pump Station, by Barton Phelps & Associates and Delmon Hampton Associates, both of Los Angeles, the Powell Library Staging Facility at UCLA (popularly known as the “Towall”) by Hodgetts & Fong Design Associates of Santa Monica; and the Kippen Condominiums by William Adams Architects of Santa Monica.

UCSD Arch. Under Threat
The newly started architectural program at the University of California at San Diego appears to be in jeopardy, as representatives of the school negotiate with university officials over which of the school's programs, if any, survive. The pressure to either scale down or eliminate the school of architecture is a result from the severe budget crisis on the UC San Diego campus. While the university has not arrived at an official decision, insiders say the MArch I program, which offers a professional degree, is almost certain to be axed, while the MArch II postgraduate research program has a chance of survival. A little more than half of school's 24 students in the program are in the professional program, and several are reportedly attempting to transfer into programs at UCLA or UC Berkeley.

The school, which opened its doors to students only last fall after three years of planning, is headed by Alde Naude Santov, dean, and has four tenured faculty, including Dana Cuff, Craig Hodgetts, William Curtis and Susan Ubbelsadle.

New L.A. Fellows
Six Los Angeles-area architects were named Fellows of the American Institute of Architects. The fellowship is the highest conferred by AIA, with the exception of the Gold Medal. The new AIA Fellows are: Steven Hethcik, AIA of Venice; David Lawrence Gray, AIA of Santa Monica; Barton Myers, AIA of Los Angeles; Barton Philips, AIA of Los Angeles; Gethright, AIA of Santa Monica; and Joseph Doyle Vaccaro, AIA of Los Angeles.

Jefferson Gets Gold
The legacy of Thomas Jefferson, architect of Monticello, the University of Virginia has been honored with a special AIA Gold Medal.
AIA honored Jefferson's pioneering architectural career on April 13 at Monticello with an event celebrating the 250th anniversary of Jefferson's birth. AIA President Susan Maier presented the Gold Medal to the Thomas Jefferson Memorial Foundation for exhibition and permanent loan.

Extension Head Sought
UCLA Extension is seeking a professional to head its Interior and Environmental Design Program, which is accredited by FIDER.

The new program head will serve as both program and administrative specialist, responsible for the development, implementation and review of 875 programs each year in the disciplines of Interior and Environmental Design, Architecture and Design, Architecture and Fashion Design.

Qualifications should include an advanced terminal degree in at least one of the following fields: Interior Design, Art History, and/or Architecture; minimum five years experience in current interior design practice; knowledge of FIDER; active professional membership in industry organizations; subject matter proficiency to teach students at the advanced studio level; and a demonstrated commitment to cultural diversity.

Salary range is $55,000 to $65,000, plus benefits package. Screening begins May 17, 1993. Please send resumes to Marva Cooper Bell, Department of Employee Services, UCLA Extension, P.O. Box 24901, Los Angeles, CA, 90024 or call (310) 825-4287.

For further information, contact UCLA Extension, 10095 Le Conte Ave., Ste. 315, Los Angeles, CA, 90024-2883 or by calling (310) 825-4287.

"Historically revered as a statesman and politician, the third president of the United States was also a brilliant architect and urban planner," according to the AIA award statement. "While laying the foundations of democracy, Jefferson simultaneously laid the theoretical foundations for American architectural thought, advocating unprecedented designs befitting the new founded institutions of a government by the people, for the people."