

SAH/SCC

SOCIETY OF ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIANS
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAPTER

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http://www.cacr.caltech.edu/~mac/sah/index.htm

SAH/SCC
NEWS
1998
may/june

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Detail of cover of Los Angeles: The End of the Rainbow by Merry Ovnick.

DIALOGUES WITH DESIGN: ESTHER MCCOY LECTURE SERIES ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY: BOB WINTER AND MERRY OVNICK

Dialogues With Design was established for SAH/SCC members and the public to hear about LA's architectural history from those who made it. The series, organized by SAH/SCC Board Member Alison Cotter and SAH/SCC News editor Julie D. Taylor, continues throughout the year and is held at the LA Central Library downtown, from 1:30PM to 3PM. The Sunday afternoon programs are free and open to the public. SAH/SCC members can reserve seats by filling out a form on Page 8, or by calling 800.9SAHSCC. May's program is the final in the spring series. Watch the newsletter for upcoming Fall events.

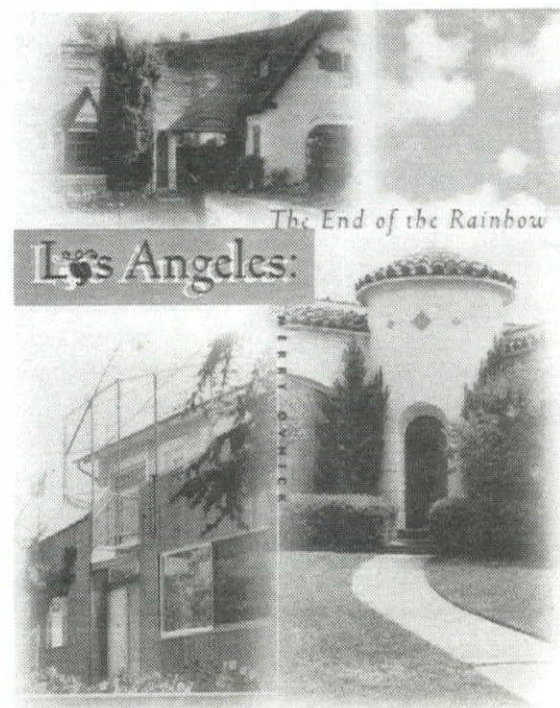
On May 17th, Bob Winter and Merry Ovnick will discuss and debate the stature of Los Angeles in the canon of architectural history. They will focus on the struggles endured to establish the importance of the full range of LA's history—from Missions to Google.

The oracular and irreverent Robert W. Winter, Professor of History Emeritus at Occidental College, has dispensed knowledge and awakened all of us to the architectural gems (and foibles) of California. The four editions (with variations in title) of *Los Angeles: An Architectural Guide* (Gibbs-Smith, 1994), co-authored with the late David Gebhard, have been, successfully, the ultimate building-spotter's handbook. Among his other publications are: *A Guide to the Architecture of San Francisco and Northern California*, also with Gebhard (1974, 1985), *The California Bungalow* (Hennessey & Ingalls, 1980), *American Bungalow Style* (Simon & Schuster, 1996), and *Toward a Simpler Way of Life* (University of California Press, 1997).

He was one of the founders of the Southern California Chapter of the Society of Architectural Historians in the early 1970s, serving three years as president. This year, he served as co-chair of the local committee hosting the 51st Annual Meeting of the national Society of Architectural Historians in Los Angeles this past April.

Before coming to Occidental in 1963, Dr. Winter held teaching assignments at Dartmouth and Bowdoin, then was assistant professor of history at UCLA. He has chaired the Pasadena Cultural Heritage Commission twice. For 12 years, he belonged to the Cultural Heritage Board; five years as vice president, and two years as president. In 1986, he published a monograph, *Myron Hunt at Occidental College*. Dr. Winter is a trustee of the Pasadena Historical Society and an advisory council member of the Conservancy and the Cultural Heritage Foundation of Southern California.

In 1993, he received the Donald Pflueger Award in local history from the Historical Society of Southern California and President's Awards from the California Preservation Foundation and the Southern California Chapter of the American Institute of Architects. His current projects include

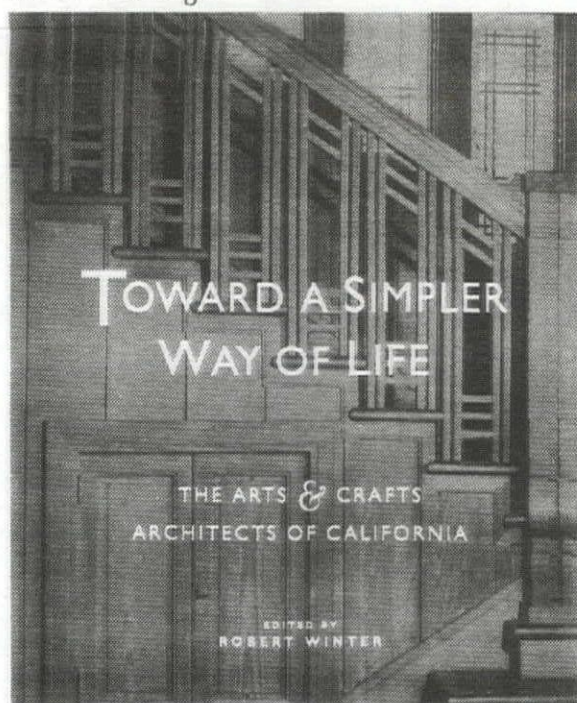


Merry Ovnick's book *Los Angeles: The End of the Rainbow*, published by Balcony Press, was called "delightful and informative" by the LA Times.

a dual biography of tile maker Ernest Batchelder (who designed Winter's Pasadena home) and Alice Coleman Batchelder, and a history of Pasadena architecture.

His desultory and long term-student, Merry Ovnick, is a lecturer in history at California State University, Northridge. She authored *Los Angeles: The End of the Rainbow* (Balcony Press, 1994). She is currently an active Board Member of SAH/SCC, responsible for increasing the Chapter's membership and organizing such tours as Spanish Romance & California Living this past March, and the upcoming Redlands Rendezvous, June 6th (see page 2), she also served on the host committee for the April conference.

Call 800.9SAHSCC to reserve your spot for Dialogues With Design.



Robert Winter's book *Toward a Simpler Way of Life* was recently published by the University of California Press.

SAH/SCC NEWS

REDLANDS RENDEZVOUS

SAH/SCC BUS TOUR: JUNE 6TH

Redlands beckons:

Saturday, June 6th. It's a warm and hospitable town chock full of well-maintained homes and public structures—a veritable text book of Victorian, Mission Revival, and Craftsman styles. Sign up now for **Redlands Rendezvous**, organized by SAH/SCC Board Member Merry Ovnick. It's \$75 for SAH/SCC members; \$90 for non-members. See Page 8 for order form.

We'll start the day with juice and pastries before boarding our luxury tour bus in West LA. Along the way we'll laugh at early-day films set in Southern California. The real fun begins when we arrive in Redlands.

Redlands was a citrus boom town of the 1880s. Newcomers hoping to make it rich in the citrus business built Victorian houses, churches, and businesses among the orange groves and on the downtown blocks. Some of them did get rich, and their Victorian extravaganzas are something to behold. (And we will!) By the 1890s, Redlands was drawing wealthy Easterners as a winter paradise. Substantial mansions sprang up—among them the French Chateau-style Kimberly Crest (1897; Dennis & Farwell), which we'll tour.

The romance of Southern California, illustrated on local growers' orange crate labels, saw architectural expression in Redlands' Mission Revival style, which Gebhard and Winter's Guide calls "among the most spectacular remaining in California." One of the grandest examples anywhere is the A.K. Smiley Public Library (1897; T.R. Griffith).

Dr. Larry E. Burgess, the library's director, will give us the library's design history—including the 1937 removal of its landmark tower. The library has just been renovated and is at its best—a real



The A.K. Smiley Library (sans tower) is part of Redlands Rendezvous.

jewel overall, and especially in its photogenic details. And even the missing tower will be there in slides and, soon, in fact: a Smiley Library Tower & Building Fund has been established to reconstruct it to its original glory. Your ticket includes a donation (tax deductible) of \$25 toward that project.

We'll also hear Dr. Kenneth Breisch, author of *Henry Hobson Richardson and the Small Public Library in America* (M.I.T. Press, 1997) on the late 19th-century revolution in functionalist library design, of which this library is a great example. We'll enjoy box lunches in Smiley Park and a look at the Lincoln Shrine (1932; Elmer Grey) with its murals by Dean Cornwell (who also did murals in Los Angeles Central Library). After lunch, Dr. Burgess will guide us on a bus tour to the highlights of Redlands architecture, including the campus of the University of Redlands, founded in 1907 with Beaux Arts buildings by Norman Marsh (also known for his design of Venice, CA). Bring your cameras!

We'll conclude with a reception in an 1890 home still set among its original citrus grove—a gracious step back into time. And then we'll return to LA, film-entertained along the way.

INDUSTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Initiative for Architectural Research (IAR) was established in 1997 as a joint effort of the Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture (ACSA), American Institute of Architects (AIA), and Architectural Research Centers Consortium (ARCC), in an effort to provide a singular voice advocating for the varying complexity and breadth of research being conducted by architectural practitioners, academics, and members of the building industry. IAR has three primary objectives: to serve as a powerful and active advocate for architectural research; to serve as a clearinghouse for information about architectural research; and to facilitate research efforts that address specific needs of the architectural profession. The IAR website (<http://www.architectureresearch.org>) includes listings of educational programs and research centers, grant and conference opportunities, links to related organizations, and (in the future) a search engine directed toward A/R: Architecture/Research, a compilation of architectural research projects.

The James Marston Fitch Charitable Trust will award a \$20,000 research grant to mid-career professionals who have an advanced or professional degree and at least 10 years' experience, and an established identity in one or more of the following fields: historic preservation, architecture, landscape architecture, urban design, environmental planning, archaeology, architectural history, and the decorative arts. Other smaller grants up to \$10,000 are made at the discretion of the Trustees. The grants are intended to support innovative original research and creative design that advances the practice of preservation in the United States. These grants are partially made possible by the generosity of the Kress Foundation. For information and applications, contact Morley Bland, The James Marston Fitch Charitable Trust, Office of Beyer Blinder Belle, 41 East 11th St., New York, NY 10003; tel. 212.777.7800; fax 212.475.7424. Postmark deadline: August 15, 1998.

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Executive Assistant: Grace Samudio

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September/October 1998	August 7th

Please send all ad materials, notices of events, exhibitions and news—plus photographs—to the attention of the editor:

Julie D. Taylor, Editor
SAH/SCC News
P.O. Box 92224
Pasadena, CA 91109-2224
800.9SAHSCC (800.972.4722)
Newsletter telephone: 310.247.1099
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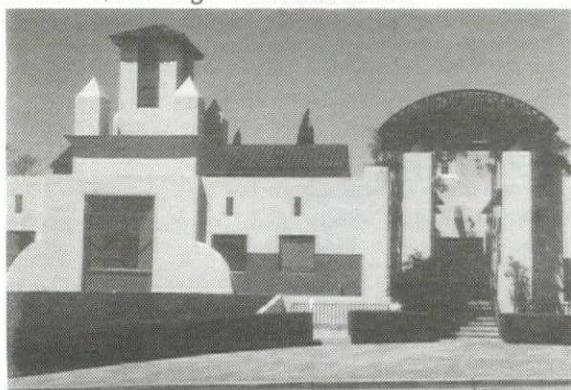
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SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO: 200 YEARS OF ARCHITECTURE

SAH/SCC TRAIN AND GUIDED TOUR: MAY 23RD

The architectural charm of San Juan Capistrano is admired for its quaintness and commitment to adobe and Spanish architectural detailing. Most buildings in the community, with rare exception, follow the strict architectural guidelines. However, a design competition for the new library netted a new approach. Designed by award-winning architect Michael Graves, the San Juan Capistrano Library has earned the title of "the first post-modern building in town," and created a new interest in the architecture of the area. Join SAH/SCC for **San Juan Capistrano: 200 Years of Architecture**, a day-long guided tour on Saturday, May 23rd, organized by SAH/SCC Board Member Rochelle Mills. The cost is \$50 for SAH/SCC members; \$65 non-members; see Page 8 for order form.



The San Juan Capistrano Library designed by award-winning architect Michael Graves has earned the title of "the first post-modern building in town." (Photo: Ted Wells)

The Tour will meet at Union Station in Los Angeles at 8AM for the 8:20AM train to San Juan Capistrano. Those who join the train will enjoy a discussion of the history of the train route and cities we pass along the way. We welcome our guests to join in and share their stories of train rides and knowledge of the area as well. We arrive in the SJC station at 9:48AM. (Those coming from the South may meet us at the historic train station at 10AM.) We will begin our day by walking to the Mission to look at the centuries-old structure, the ruins from the quake of 1812, and look into the restoration efforts.

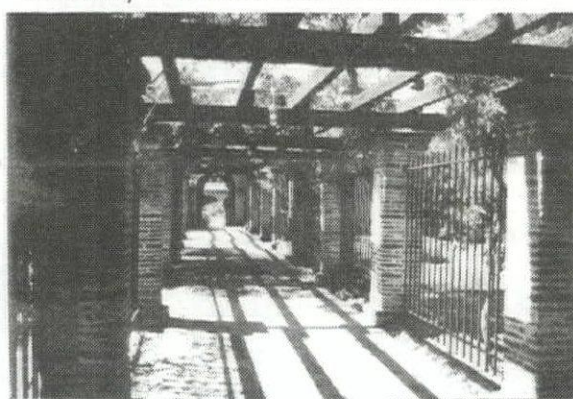
Then, it's fast-forward to the present for a guided tour of the San Juan Capistrano Library with the Friends of the SJC Library. Afterwards, guests can relax on the Library grounds and enjoy their own picnic lunches, or visit one of the many nearby eateries. Following lunch, we will take a walking tour of the downtown areas, as well as step back in time on a stroll through Los Rios, California's oldest neighborhood and home to the original mission families. After a few moments of shopping and wandering on your own in the town, we will re-board the Amtrak at 4:20PM to return to Union Station at 5:50PM.

The year 1776 is known to most primarily as the year of the Declaration of Independence. However, out West, in the area of the Mexican territory that would one day become Southern California, the American Revolution could not have been more irrelevant. That is because Spanish missionaries were busy seeking sites and

populations that could support and promote the building of missions. The Franciscan padres were drawn to the area for its vast resources of Indian converts as well as the fresh-water fertile land that would support crops and commerce necessary for the survival of the missions and their important work.

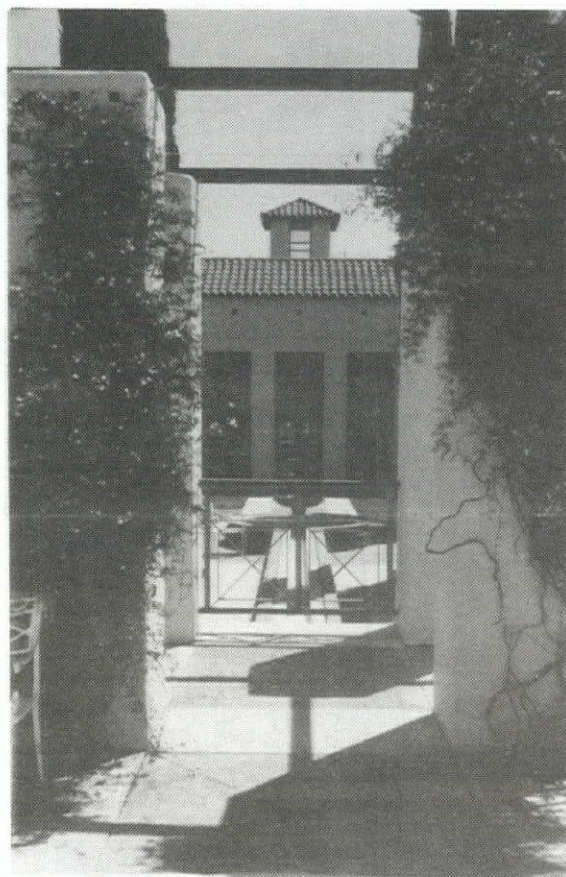
The Capistrano Valley, blessed with an abundance of all three—Indians, water, fertile land—garnered the attention of the missionaries, and on November 1, 1776, Padre Junipero Serra founded Mission San Juan Capistrano, the seventh of 21 missions. By 1796, the mission boasted a thriving industry in agriculture and livestock, as well as weaving and tanning. The mission's growth and prosperity continued well into the 1800s.

In 1833, the Secularization Act was passed to reduce the mission's stronghold in land ownership. However, despite the Act's good intentions, the Native Indian families did not benefit from the land grants. Instead, the land grants helped establish the Rancho system, putting large quantities of land in the ownership of powerful men and families. As a direct result, the Mission of San Juan Capistrano began to lose its footing as the community leader. After being declared a pueblo by the Mexican government in 1845—as opposed to a religious parish—the mission itself was sold to an Englishman, John Forster (also known as Don Juan Forster) for \$710. Forster, who married the governor's sister, eventually owned more than 250,000 acres, indicative of the impact the Secularization Act had on the wealthy landowners. Not surprisingly, the population of San Juan Capistrano began to decline. The Mission remained in private ownership until 1865 when it was returned to the Catholic Church by none other than Abraham Lincoln.



The outdoor walkway of the Mission San Juan Capistrano. (Photo: Ted Wells)

After the victory over Mexico in 1848, California was made a state. San Juan Capistrano—with a location halfway between the larger cities of San Diego and Los Angeles—became as well known for its bandits, squatters, and other unsavory residents and drifters, as for its former Mission and thriving economy. With the migration of folks to the north in search of promises of gold, a legacy of drunken brawls, stage coach robberies, and mayhem became San Juan Capistrano's legend,



The San Juan Capistrano Library courtyard. (Photo: Ted Wells)

which was easily transferred to the stuff of early Hollywood. The community began again to grow with new stores, a hotel, and locally raised cattle that were driven north to prospectors and sold at large profits. The Homestead Act encouraged Easterners to venture West in search of the American Dream, and rapid growth followed. Board and batten homes were being built adjacent to earlier mission-era adobes in the Los Rios area. In 1887, with the arrival of the California Central Railroad, a land boom once again flourished.

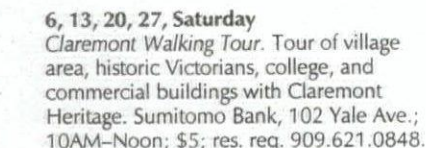
Despite the growth in San Juan Capistrano's economy and population, at the turn of century, the mission impact was largely ineffectual. However, in 1939, a live radio broadcast discussing the swallows' annual return to the mission brought a new notoriety to the community that to this day is now as famous as the Mission itself.

TOUR DETAILS

- Saturday, May 23rd, 8AM to 6:00PM
- Meet at Union Station, downtown LA
- \$50 SAH/SCC members; \$65 non-members includes round-trip train fare to and from Los Angeles, admission to the Mission, and a gift to the Friends of the SJC Library who have generously volunteered to serve as docents for our group
- Tour price without train fare: \$35 SAH/SCC members; \$50 non-members
- NOTE: History discussions will take place aboard train

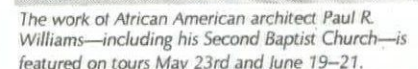
SAH/SCC EVENTS 3

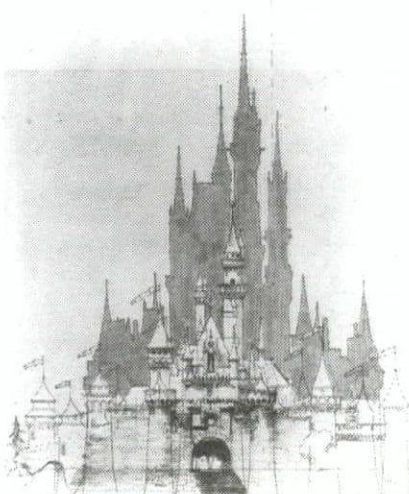
4, Thursday
Pasadena Art Walk. Self-guided, Old Town open house. The Armory Center for the Arts. 6-10PM. 626.792.5101.



18, Thursday
Trends and Opportunities in the California Market. Mid-year real estate forecast conference with Thad Seligman, Grubb & Ellis. UCLA Extension, Beverly Hills Hotel, 9641 Sunset Blvd., LA; 8AM-5PM; \$235; res. req. 310.206.1409.

26-July 10, Thursday-Thursday
Spanish Colonial Architecture in Mexico.
 Foreign study tour with scholar Humberto Rodríguez-Camilloni. Society of Architectural Historians, 1365 N. Astor St., Chicago, IL: \$3,295. 312.573.1365.





A sketch of Fantasyland in Paris by Ahmad Jafari from "The Architecture of Reassurance" at the Armand Hammer Museum. (Photo: Walt Disney Imagineering Collection. ©Disney)

Design Showcase Houses

Pasadena Showcase House of Design, through May 17. Presented by Pasadena Junior Philharmonic; benefits Los Angeles Philharmonic, Music Mobile Program, Concerts for Youth at Pasadena Civic Auditorium, Pasadena Instrumental Competition. Saturday, Sunday, Tuesday 9:30AM-4PM; Wednesday-Friday 9:30AM-8PM; \$18-20. 626.792.4661.

Villa Toscana, through May 17. Presented by ASID/Orange County; benefits Philharmonic Society of Orange County. Lemon Heights; Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday-Sunday, 10AM-4PM; Thursday 10AM-8PM; \$15-20. 714.840.7542.

Silver Showcase: A Dutch Colonial Revival, through May 31. Benefits San Diego Historical Society. The Reynolds House, 532 Marina Ave., Coronado. Tuesday-Thursday 10AM-4PM; Friday 10AM-8PM; Saturday-Sunday 11AM-4PM; \$15. 616.533.7355.

Design House '98, through May 31. Benefits New West Symphony. Camarillo; Wednesday-Saturday 10AM-4PM; Sunday Noon-4PM; Fridays 5:30-8PM \$16. 805.655.5613.

The Doctor's House Museum

1601 W. Mountain, Brand Park, Glendale. 818.242.7447. *The Fell-White Collection*, ongoing. Family heirlooms from the 19th century, including clothing and mementos, donated to the Glendale Historical Society.

Dunbar Hotel

4225 S. Central Ave., LA. 213.234.7882. *Pride and Perseverance: An Historical Overview of the Vernon-Central Community 1928-1948*, May 17-June 30. Exhibition about the community curated by Rick Moss, including photographs, maps, oral histories, and artifacts, coordinated by the Dunbar Economic Development Corporation.

Form Zero

2445 Main St., SM. 310.450.0222. *Kobe 1995: After the Earthquake*, May 8-July 5. A documentation by Tokyo-based photographer Ryuji Miyamoto, which was previously presented at the Venice Biennale.

Gamble House

4 Westmoreland Pl., Pasadena. 626.93.3334. Tours of Greene and Greene house, Thursday-Sunday, Noon-3PM.

The J. Paul Getty Center

1200 Getty Center Dr., LA. 310.440.7300. res. req. *Landscape Drawings 1500-1900*, June 9-August 23. Exhibition examines landscapes from Renaissance through 19th century.

Making Architecture: The Getty Center From Concept Through Construction, through December 6. Photos, time-line, models, and sketches documenting the process with Richard Meier, Robert Irwin, and Dinwiddie Construction.

Beyond Beauty: Antiquities as Evidence, through January 17, 1999. Comparative study of antiquities in context.

Hollyhock House

4808 Hollywood Blvd., LA. 213.662.7272. Tours of Frank Lloyd Wright's Hollyhock House, Tuesday-Sunday, 1, 2, 3PM. *Fine Arts Seismic Facility*, U.C. Riverside, through May 22. Project by Israel Callas Shortridge Associates, Annie Chu, Dagmar Richter, Pamela Burton & Co., and Fields & Devereaux.

Challenging Creation, June 7-August 31. Exhibition by the Association for Women in Architecture.

Helen Lindhurst Architecture Gallery USC, Watt Hall, LA. 213.740.2097. Class of 1998, May 8-15. Bachelor and Master candidates work.

Los Angeles County Museum of Art 5905 Wilshire Blvd., LA. 213.857.6000. *Hirado Porcelain of Japan from the Kurtzman Family Collection*, through June 22.

The Marston House

3525 7th Ave., SD. 619.298.3142. A 1905 home designed by Irving Gill and William Hebbard sits upon an almost five-acre estate, including historic gardens. Tours: Friday-Sunday, Noon-3:45PM.

Museum of Contemporary Art, LA 250 S. Grand Ave., LA. 213.626.6222. *American Vernacular*, through June 21. Exhibition explores the reality and mythology of the built environment.

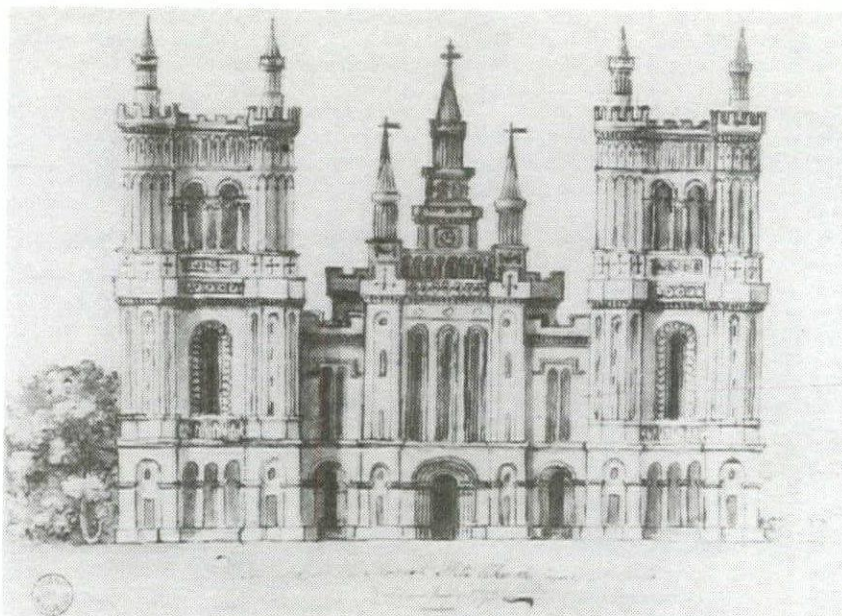
Oakland Museum of California

1000 Oak St., Oakland. 510.238.2200. *Gold Rush! California's Untold Stories*, through July 26. Exhibition explores the impact of the Gold Rush on the state with artifacts and re-created archaeological dig.

Silver and Gold, Cased Images of the Gold Rush, through July 26. Exhibition of 150 daguerreotypes and ambrotypes of the faces and landscape of the Gold Rush.

Rancho Los Cerritos Historic Site

4600 Virginia Road, Long Beach. 562.570.1755. National historic landmark, 1844 adobe and gardens. Guided tours of gardens, library, and archives, Wednesday-Sunday.



Sketch design for a church in the style of Kelso Abbey by Robert Adam at the Armand Hammer Museum. (Photo: Collection Sir John Soane's Museum, London, England)

San Francisco Museum of Modern Art

151 3rd St., SF. 415.357.4000. *Keith Haring*, May 8-September 6. First American retrospective of the 1980s graffiti artist.

A.C. Rizzoli: Architect of Magnificent Visions, through June 23. Works created by reclusive San Francisco draftsman, 1930-1970.

Lorraine Wild: Selections from the Permanent Collection of Architecture, through June 23. Exhibition of works of LA-based graphic designer.

Paul Klee: Travels Near and Far, through July 28. Exhibition of selection of Klee's landscapes.

Joseph Cornell: Private Constellations, through October 13. An exhibition of 21 works by the artist known for two-dimensional collages and small box constructions.

Humane Technology: The Eames Studio and Beyond, ongoing. Re-installation of the Eameses' conference room, additional designs and films, plus work by designers who share the Eameses' vision.

Santa Barbara Museum of Art

1130 State Street, SB. 805.963.4364. *Carved Paper: The Art of Japanese Stencil*, through August 9. Masterfully carved, these stencils on exhibit embody the Japanese genius for design.

UCLA at the Armand Hammer Museum of Art and Cultural Center

10899 Wilshire Blvd., LA. 310.443.7020. *Robert Adam—The Creative Mind: From the Sketch to the Finished Drawing*, through July 12. Drawings from 18th-century architect Adam and others in five themes: Adam in Italy; Country Houses; Town Buildings; Public Architecture; and the Adam Office.

The Architecture of Reassurance: Designing the Disney Theme Parks, May 13-August 23. Exhibition follows the layout of the parks with more than 350 objects from visual archives of Walt Disney Imagineering.

UCLA Fowler Museum

UCLA Campus, LA. 310.206.0306. *From the Rainbow's Varied Hue: Textiles of the Southern Philippines*, May 10-August 23. Fifty rare cloths for social and ritual functions.

Villa Montezuma, Jesse Shepard House

1925 K St., San Diego. 619.239.2211. An 1887 Queen Anne style house designed by Comstock and Trotsche for the author. Tours: Saturday-Sunday, Noon-3:45PM.

PRESERVATION ALERT

Preservation Alert was created to inform you of local sites that are in danger. To submit sites for listing, send information on site, brief description of situation, and number to call to get involved. Photographs are always appreciated. Send to SAH/SCC News, P.O. Box 92224, Pasadena, CA 91109. Sites will be listed as space allows.

Although they tout the Cinerama Dome as "the only theater of its kind in the world," and "a famous architectural landmark and Hollywood icon," Pacific Theaters still sees room for "improvement." Their proposed development plan will: eliminate the street-level entrance, lobby, and marquee for a restaurant and stores; encase the remaining structure within a seven-story parking garage and retail mall; remove the rear of the Dome for a 15-screen multiplex and escalator; install a dropped ceiling to cover the interior geodesic structure; gut the auditorium and convert the two seating levels into one; and replace the "Cinerama" curved screen with a smaller flat screen. The smaller screen would be positioned further into the auditorium, changing the configuration from semi-circular to square, and what's left of the Cinerama Dome will become a box. To lend your support in preserving the Cinerama Dome, contact LA Councilwoman of the 13th District Jackie Goldberg, who controls the project approval process, at 200 N. Spring St., Los Angeles, CA 90012, and write a letter to the editor of your local newspaper. For more information, please call the Friends of Cinerama message line at 213.960.5045 and visit their web site at <http://pw1.netcom.com/~woodpsy/Savethedome.html>.

VOLUNTEERS WANTED FOR SCHINDLER HOUSE/MAK CENTER

Friends of the Schindler House and the MAK Center for Art and Architecture are seeking volunteers to act as docents for the house—an architectural landmark—and for the contemporary art exhibitions that the MAK Center stages there. Docents are asked to contribute one-half day a month in addition to a training session, as well as assisting at special events. For more information, contact Angelica at 213.651.1510.

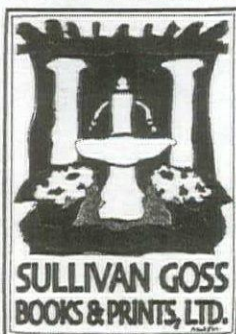
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**To volunteer
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