

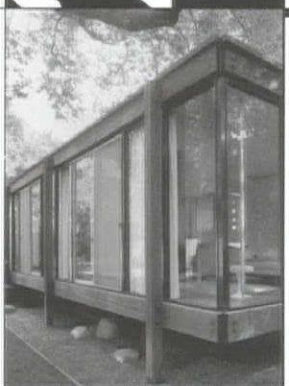


SOCIETY OF ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIANS
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAPTER

NEWS

2002
january february

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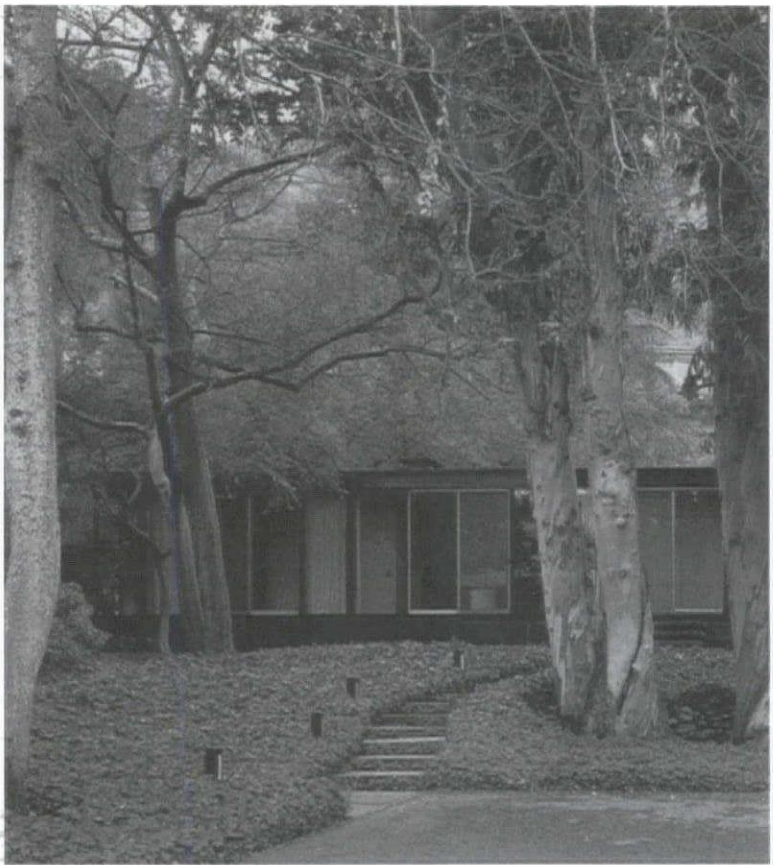
Modern Patrons: Ellwood in Pasadena

SAH/SCC
Lecture and Tour:
Saturday, January 26th

On Saturday afternoon, January 26th, from 2PM to 4:30PM, the Modern Patrons program will continue, this time in Pasadena with a visit to the Kubly residence designed by Craig Ellwood in 1965. Our afternoon at the Kubly residence will be an opportunity to experience the house, learn a great deal more about Craig Ellwood firsthand, and share the perspective of the owner who commissioned the architect.

The event is \$10 and open to Life- and Patron-level members of SAH/SCC (the program will be available to the general membership only in the event there is space available). If you are a Life member or Patron and would like to attend, fill out and mail the order form on the back page. Space is limited.

In 2G: *The International Architecture Review* (Editorial Gustavo Gili, 1999), Alfonso Perez-Mendez writes: "The 1964-65 Kubly House in Pasadena was built for a sensitive client with a relatively limited budget and ambitious desires. In the design for the 2,150-square-foot, four-bedroom, two-bath residence the site was actively transformed with significant groundwork. Located on a sloping eucalyptus grove, the site was modified to create two levels. The carport was placed at the lower entry level. The house was sited on the upper level at the edge of the transitional slope. It was not the central element in the



Kubly residence
(Photo: Grant Mudford)

platform; instead, the pool was. The house was not thought as the goal of the sequence, but as a threshold, a frontal curtain announcing and veiling the promises of the yard. It was first designed as a steel construction, but when the estimates substantially exceeded the budget, Ellwood willingly accepted the possibility of 'addressing the building in wood.' The modified wood concept brought the 6 x 6 exterior wood columns forward, once again recovering for the structural expression the hierarchical front line. The effect was reinforced by the fact that the exempt columns also elevated the house from the ground.

"The origin of Kubly's exterior columns can probably be traced to the project's inception in steel. In Ellwood's words: 'The mistake most architects make in using steel is to treat it as wood. Maybe we are guilty

of reversing this; eccentric loading columns are much easier with steel'. The eccentrically-loaded columns became Kubly's idiosyncratic wood details. In Ellwood's steel buildings, welding avoided the necessity of connecting pieces. In Kubly on the contrary, the metal plates that secure the post-to-beam connection became the only perceivable detail in a very minimal building. The surgical presence of the plates changed the rustic

roughness of the 6" x 6" redwood posts, qualifying the image of the house at its most critical point. As in many Ellwood buildings, a visual objective determined the technical solutions.

"This example, and the insistence on the cost of the house, reflects the fact that Ellwood's career was sustained by his ability of building at low cost. Removing this fact from this account would erase the ultimate ideological reason why prototypes, series, and the play of repetition and change, organized the production of the office."

According to Perez-Mendez, Craig Ellwood was "originally born John Burke in Clarendon, Texas in 1922 and first came to California when he was 5. At 17, he arrived in Los Angeles and after the war landed a series of side jobs acting in Hollywood. Responding to the great demand for housing, he partnered with three others to form a construction company named after a liquor store that was located in front of their offices Lords & Ellwood, which he soon adopted as his own name. Later he would join the builder Lamport, Cofer & Salzman working as a cost estimator and later a draftsman on the construction of the Case Study Program Eames and Entenza houses which would be his introduction to modern architecture and most importantly, John Entenza of Arts and Architecture magazine. The effect of the magazine and Ellwood's friendship with Entenza cannot be underestimated."



Interior of Kubly residence
(Photos: Grant Mudford)



2002
january february

President's Letter

With little resistance, two major monuments of modern architecture in Southern California were destroyed in 2001. Although the actions themselves were not connected to one another, these two losses should be taken together as a scandal of enormous significance.

Both of the fatalities were Schindler houses, a particularly bitter counterpoint to the recent renaissance of Schindler's reputation. MOCA's exhibition "The Architecture of R.M. Schindler," generated record attendances during its run last winter and spring. It has since moved to Washington, D.C., and Vienna. And Phaidon recently published Judith Sheine's R.M. Schindler, a smart and comprehensive survey of his works and ideas, which is reportedly selling very well. Public interest in Schindler, by all appearances, has never been greater.

The Packard House in San Marino was built in 1924 and demolished sometime last spring. Its walls were constructed of "gunite," an experimental method in which cement mortar was sprayed onto a backing of removable formwork and reinforced by wire mesh. Conventional concrete walls required two layers of wooden forms, but Schindler constantly searched for a more economical solution. From the slab-tilt construction at Kings Road in 1922, to the Packard House in 1924, to the slip-form construction of Pueblo Ribera in 1925, to the concrete frames of the Lovell Beach House of 1926, Schindler was working at the absolute zenith of his vigorous material imagination.

The Packard House may have been the first use of gunite ever in residential architecture. Because of problems with the cost, Schindler never used gunite construction again. But it certainly influenced Neutra to use a similar technique at the Lovell "Health" House in 1927. The Packard House's site, on Gainsborough Drive east of San Gabriel Blvd., is currently host to the construction of another generic stucco mansion, a building that seemingly violates every one of Schindler's architectural principles.

The Wolfe House at Avalon on Santa Catalina Island was built in 1928 and destroyed last autumn. Its loss had been feared for years, because the house had been poorly maintained by an absentee landlord throughout the 1980s and 1990s, and was in a state of virtual ruin when it was recently sold. Preservationists were reportedly told that the new owner would restore the house, but shockingly learned of the demolition after it had occurred.

The Wolfe House was simply one of Schindler's greatest buildings. Here, he brilliantly integrated the spaces of the house, its views, its interlocking forms, and the hillside site. Because the cascading sequence of forms and spaces were composed so sympathetically with the natural landscape, Sheine has suggested that the Wolfe House should be "considered a source of inspiration for Wright's Fallingwater." This project also saw Schindler finally embrace wood framing and stucco for its economy and flexibility. This became his standard material language for his excellent houses and apartments of the 1930s, and for younger architects such as Gregory Ain.

To lose these two major monuments is tragic enough. But doubly scandalous is the apparent complacency and indeed neglect of the architecture and preservation communities. Since the destruction of Irving Gill's Dodge House in 1970, Los Angeles has developed a strong tradition of activism, culminating in the saving of Schindler's Kings Road House. Where were the watchdogs? The preservationists? The journalists? The students?

What is needed now is a full-scale retroactive assault of publicity and protest, including the naming of names: owners, demolition contractors, city officials. Then, we must turn the bright light of responsibility on ourselves. More in March.

On a more positive note, we are happy to introduce a new graphic format for the newsletter this month. The goal of the new design is to update our image, while preserving the newsletter's basic format. Our organization itself remains committed to our mission of offering tours and other educational events to promote awareness and understanding of Southern California's rich architectural history.

We also welcome new board members, Hal Meltzer and Ted Kane. Hal is an artist whose work has been exhibited nationally and internationally. He is chairman of the City of Palm Springs Historic Site Preservation Board, as well as a member of the executive board and architectural advisory committee at the Palm Springs Desert Museum. Ted Kane is a 1999 graduate of the UCLA Dept. of Architecture and a 1995 graduate of the University of Kentucky, College of Architecture. He works for Moore Ruble Yudell, and is currently researching military architecture and its influences on post-war design, a project that includes surveys of historic WWII airplane hangars throughout the southwest.

Anthony Denzer

SAH/SCC NEWS is published bi-monthly by the Society of Architectural Historians / Southern California Chapter. Subscription is a benefit of membership and provides members with one of the most comprehensive calendars of architectural events in Southern California and advance notice exclusive SAH/SCC architectural events and tours.

Editor: Julie D. Taylor

Internet Editor: Brent Eckerman

Art Director: Svetlana Petrovic

Information and ads for the newsletter should be sent three weeks before the issue date.

Issue Deadline: March/April 2002 February 10

Please send all ad materials, notices of events, exhibitions and news to the attention of the editor.

Julie D. Taylor, Editor

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Authors on Architecture:

An Afternoon with Michael Webb



Photo: MaryJane O'Donnell

SAH/SCC Event:

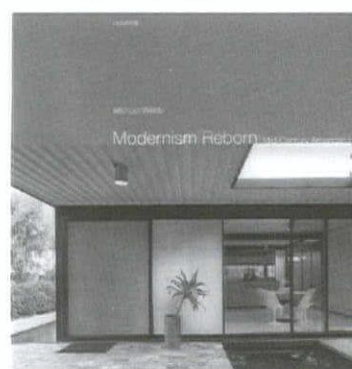
March 2nd, at Form Zero

We are pleased to announce that SAH/SCC's Authors on Architecture series is back on March 2nd at Form Zero Books in downtown Los Angeles. Noted architectural writer Michael Webb will speak about his new book *Modernism Reborn: Mid-Century Modern American Houses* (Universe Publishing/Rizzoli). Starting at 2PM, Webb will give us firsthand insight into the central themes of his book through a lecture and a slide show presentation, with book signing to follow.

Webb is a contributing writer for *Architectural Digest*, and also writes for *The New York Times*, *Los Angeles Times Magazine*, *Domus*, *A+U*, *Graphis*, and *The Architectural Review*.

Other recent books include *Beach Houses*, *Architecture + Design L.A.*, *It's a Great Wall!*, and *Through the Windows of Paris*.

Coffee and beverages will be served. This event is free for all SAH/SCC members, but reservations are required; see form on the back page. Card-carrying SAH/SCC members receive a 10 percent discount on all books purchased at Form Zero, 811 Traction Avenue.



5, Saturday

Hillmont House. Tour of restored Victorian mansion with owners and restorers Jan and Robert Angel. Neighborhood Place Project; Pasadena; 1-4PM; \$10; res. req. 626.967.3332. home.att.net/~mavb/npp.htm.

7, Monday

Theme Park Magic. Program on lighting design for fun. Designers Lighting Forum; product display-6PM, program-7PM. 310.535.0105. dlfla.org.

8, Tuesday

Horizont. Lecture on work of Swiss video artist Kathryn Haefelfinger. Form Zero Architectural Books + Gallery, 811 Traction Ave., LA; 7PM, res. req. 213.620.1920. formzero.com.

9, Wednesday

Good Design/Good Business. Lecture at architecture firm. AIA/LA Design Committee; free for AIA members and students, \$5 for others; res. req. 310.395.9080, Maryam Arguello Belli.

10, Thursday

Rustic Canyon. Tour of historic and scenic canyon in Santa Monica. Neighborhood Place Project; Santa Monica; 1-4PM; \$10; res. req. 626.967.3332. home.att.net/~mavb/npp.htm.

10, Thursday

What's Shakin': New Architecture in LA. Informal discussion on current exhibition with architect Greg Lynn of Form, and his client Eugene Hwang of Uniserve. MOCA at The Geffen Contemporary, 152 N. Central Ave., LA; 6:30PM. 213.621.2766. moca-la.org.

12-13, Saturday-Sunday

Student Thesis Reviews and Exhibition. Final presentations of graduate projects with guest reviewers. Southern California Institute of Architecture, 350 Merrick St., LA; 9:30AM-6:30PM. 213.613.2200. sciarc.edu.

13, Sunday

Chamber Music in Historic Sites: Gonzalo Rubalcaba Trio. Latin jazz at the Mayan Theater, designed by Morgan, Walls & Clements (1927). The Da Camera Society; Mayan Theater, LA; 3PM; \$29-\$36; res. req. 310.954.4300.

17, Thursday

Nethercutt Collection. Tour of artifacts from the Merle Norman collection and tour of the Nethercutt Museum. Neighborhood Place Project; Sylmar; 1-4PM; \$10; res. req. 626.967.3332. home.att.net/~mavb/npp.htm.

17, Thursday

Moving Beyond the Picturesque or Landscape Preservation Post-Fred (Olmsted): Making Room for Bob (Zion), Carol (Johnson), Ted (Osmundson), and Alice (Ireys). Lecture on landscape preservation and other landscape issues, with Historic Landscape Initiative coordinator Charles A. Birnbaum. Getty Conservation Institute, 1200 Getty Center Dr., LA; 7PM; res. req. 310.440.7300.

18, Friday

Strategic Landscapes. Opening reception for exhibition of work by architect and UCLA professor Dagmar Richter showing her strategic approach to design. Form Zero Architectural Books + Gallery, 811 Traction Ave., LA; 7-9PM. 213.620.1920. formzero.com.

18, Friday

Manfredi Nicoletti: Architecture as a Metaphor of Nature. Opening reception for exhibition on Nicoletti, an Italian architect who presents proposals for sustainable bioclimatic architecture. Italian Cultural Institute, 1023 Hilgard, LA; 6-9PM. 310.443.3250. iicusa.org.

18, Friday

Chamber Music in Historic Sites: Ida Kavafian, Violin. Jazz-inspired works by Ravel, Poulenc, Bolcom, and Gershwin at The Doheny Mansion, designed by Hunt and Eisen (1899). The Da Camera Society; Doheny Mansion, 8 Chester Place, LA; mini-lecture-7:45PM, concert-8PM; \$47-\$70; res. req. 310.954.4300.

18-19, Friday-Saturday

Second Nature: Redefining the Riverfront. Design charette with student teams and faculty leader Gary Paige, with final presentations Saturday at 3PM. MOCA at The Geffen Contemporary, 152 N. Central Ave., LA; Fri., 11AM-5PM; Sat., 11AM-3PM. 213.621.1745. moca-la.org.

Conditions in Los Angeles." Woodbury University, Center for Community Research and Design, 6518 Hollywood Blvd., LA; 6:30PM; \$7. 323.852.7145. laforum.org.

24, Thursday

The Restoration of the Athenian Acropolis. Lecture on history of the project and film of the restoration process, with Acropolis Restoration Service documentation office head Fani Mallouchou-Tufano. Getty Conservation Institute, 1200 Getty Center Dr., LA; 7PM; res. req. 310.440.7300.

24, Thursday

The Doppler Effect. Lecture with Harvard professor Sarah Whiting. Otis College of Art and Design, Environmental Design Department, Ahmanson Building, 9045 Lincoln Blvd., LA; 7PM. 310.665.6868.

25-26, Friday-Saturday

The Fair Majestic Paradise of Stowe: The Restoration of an 18th-Century Garden. Day-long conference with architects and historians on the British country estate of Stowe.

Neighborhood Place Project; Duarte; 1-4PM; \$10; res. req. 626.967.3332. home.att.net/~mavb/npp.htm.

27, Sunday

Metro Art Tour: Hollywood and More. On-site tour from Hollywood to Downtown, with Gayle Gale. Santa Monica College; Hollywood/Vine Station; 10:30AM-4:30PM; \$30; res. req. 310.434.3400. events.smc.edu.

27, Sunday

Chamber Music in Historic Sites: Fuoco E Cenere. Vocal program with mezzo-soprano Rinat Shaham, at The Ebell of Los Angeles, designed by Silas Burns and Sumner P. Hunt (1927). Da Camera Society of Mount St. Mary's College; lecture-3:15PM, concert-4PM; \$33-36; res. req. 310.954.4300.

29, Tuesday

Introduction to Feng Shui. Class with Katar Diamond on ancient art of placement. Santa Monica College; John Adams Middle School, SM; 6:30-9:30PM; \$45; res. req. 310.434.3400. events.smc.edu.

SAH/SCC EVENT

26, Saturday



Photo: Grant Mudford

Modern Patrons

A visit to the Kubly residence in Pasadena designed by Craig Ellwood in 1965. 2-4:30PM; res. req. 800.9SAHSCC. See article for details.

19, Saturday

Architect as Developer: Housing, Office, and Retail Together. Slide talk with architect Allard Jansen. Friends of San Diego Architecture; Newschool of Architecture, 1249 F St., SD; 9:30-11:30AM; \$3. 619.235.4100.

20, Sunday

The "First City of the World": Rome and the Grand Tour. Lecture with Houston Museum of Fine Arts curator Edgar Peters Bowron. The Getty Center, 1200 Getty Center Dr., LA; 4PM; res. req. 310.440.7300.

24, Thursday

Los Angeles Before and After: A Discussion About Urban Growth. Panel with photographer Julius Shulman, author Norman Klein, SCI-Arc instructor Kazys Varnelis, and moderator Paulette Singley; part of LA Forum for Architecture and Urban Design's series "Slippery When Wet: Specific Conversations About Generic

The Huntington Library, 1151 Oxford Rd., San Marino; 9AM-5PM; \$20; res. req. 626.405.2194. huntington.org.

26, Saturday

Undiscovered Los Angeles: Water and Steel. On-site study tour of public and private buildings, with historic preservation consultant Robert Chattel and real estate developer Francesca G. Smith. UCLA Extension, Westwood; 8:30AM-5:30PM; \$150; res. req. 310.825.9061. uclaextension.org.

26, Saturday

Feng Shui: A Morning Introduction. Class on ancient art of placement, with Feng Shui Architecture president Simona F. Mainini. UCLA Extension, Life Sciences Bldg., Westwood; 10AM-1PM; \$35-\$50; res. req. 310.825.9061. uclaextension.org.

26, Saturday

City of Hope/Duarte History. Tour of City of Hope National Medical Center and Duarte Historical Museum.

29, Tuesday

The Role of the Critic and the Societies in Shaping the American Arts and Crafts Ideal. Lecture with Arizona State University professor Beverly Brandt. Friends of the Gamble House, 4 Westmoreland Pl., Pasadena; 7:30PM; \$10-\$15; res. req. 626.793.3334. gamblehouse.usc.edu.

31, Thursday

Los Angeles's House, Housing, Home: The Next Domestic Design Challenge. Panel with architects Larry Scarpa, Julie Eizenberg, and John Kaliski, and housing and development experts Jan Briedenbach, Sally Richman, and Jay Stark; part of LA Forum for Architecture and Urban Design's series "Slippery When Wet: Specific Conversations About Generic Conditions in Los Angeles." Woodbury University, Center for Community Research and Design, 6518 Hollywood Blvd., LA; 7PM; \$7. 323.852.7145. laforum.org.



SOCIETY OF ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIANS
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAPTER

2, Saturday

Masters in Glass. Class on the works of Louis Comfort Tiffany and Emile Galle, with art historian Eleanor Schrader Schapa. UCLA Extension, 1010 Westwood Center, Westwood; 10AM-1PM; \$35-\$50; res. req. 310.825.9061.

2, Saturday

"Airport 101". Tour of behind-the-scenes at El Monte Airport Terminal. Neighborhood Place Project; El Monte; 1-4PM; \$10; res. req. 626.967.3332. home.att.net/~mavb/npp.htm.

2, 9, Saturday

Basic Tiling Techniques. Class on floor, wall, counter tiling, with Rick Longobart. Santa Monica College, 1600 Pico Blvd., Art Bldg., SM; 9AM-2PM; \$70; res. req. 310.434.3400. events.smc.edu.

2, 9, Saturday

Collecting and Understanding Photography. Two-session class on contemporary photography, with collector and former gallerist Ruth Bloom. UCLA Extension; Dodd Hall, Westwood, and MOCA; 9:30AM-12:30PM; \$130; res. req. 310.825.9061. uclaextension.org.

4, Monday

The Smart Home Theatre. Program on lighting design and automation for every budget. Designers Lighting Forum; product display-6PM, program-7PM. 310.535.0105. dfla.org.

5, Tuesday

The Remaking of Mexican California: Community Formation and Identity in the 20th Century. Annual Ray Allen Billington Memorial Lecture, with Stanford history professor Albert Camarillo. The Huntington Library, 1151 Oxford Rd., San Marino; 7:30PM; res. req. 626.405.2100. huntington.org.

7, Thursday

Vincent Price Gallery. Tour of horror-film star's collection, housed on the campus of East Los Angeles College. Neighborhood Place Project; 1-4PM; \$10; res. req. 626.967.3332. home.att.net/~mavb/npp.htm.

7, Thursday

LA Architect: Meet the Editor. Reception for new editor Laura Hull. AIA/LA Chapter Office, 3780 Wilshire Blvd., Ste. 800, LA; 6-8PM. 818.956.5313.

7, Thursday

School Work: Designing New Schools for the Los Angeles Unified School District. Panel with architects Alice Kimm, Marvin L. Taft, and Stephen Kanner, and LAUSD Design Advisory Group member John Mutlow, moderated by Julie Silliman; part of LA Forum for Architecture and Urban Design's series "Slippery When Wet: Specific Conversations About Generic Conditions in Los Angeles." Woodbury University, Center for Community Research and Design, 6518 Hollywood Blvd., LA; 6:30PM; \$7; 323.852.7145. laforum.org.

7, Thursday

Strategic Landscapes. Lecture on work by architect and UCLA professor Dagmar Richter showing her strategic approach to design. Form Zero Architectural Books + Gallery, 811 Traction Ave., LA; 7PM; res. req. 213.620.1920. formzero.com.

8, Friday

Chamber Music in Historic Sites: Altenberg Trio. Performances of Haydn, Bernstein, and Brahms at The Doheny Mansion, designed by Hunt and Eisen (1899). The Da Camera Society; Doheny Mansion, 8 Chester Place, LA; mini-lecture-7:45PM, concert-8PM; \$70; res. req. 310.954.4300.

9, Saturday

A Day in Rome. Class on architectural wonders of Rome, with art gallery director Irini Vallera-Rickerson. UCLA Extension, Westwood Center, UCLA, Westwood; 9AM-4PM; \$70-\$100; res. req. 310.825.9061. uclaextension.org.

9-10, Saturday-Sunday

Feng Shui for Architecture and Interior Design. Class on ancient art of placement, with Feng Shui Architecture president Simona F. Mainini. UCLA Extension, Dodd Hall, Westwood; 9AM-5PM; \$100-\$150; res. req. 310.825.9061. uclaextension.org.

SAH/SCC EVENT

23, Saturday

13, Wednesday

Good Design/Good Business. Lecture at architecture firm. AIA/LA Design Committee; free for AIA members and students, \$5 for others; res. req. 310.395.9080. Maryam Arguello Belli.

13, Wednesday

The Early Louis Sullivan Building Photographs. Slide presentation and book signing with authors Crombie Taylor and Jeffrey Plank of the new book from William Stout Publishers. Sullivan and Goss Bookstore, 7 E. Anapamu St., Santa Barbara; 5:30-7PM. 805.730.1460.

14, Thursday

Wrigley House. Tour of William Wrigley's mansion, Grand Avenue, and Tournament of Roses Museum. Neighborhood Place Project; Pasadena; 1-4PM; \$10; res. req. 626.967.3332. home.att.net/~mavb/npp.htm.

19, Tuesday

The Early Louis Sullivan Building Photographs. Slide presentation and book signing with authors Crombie Taylor and Jeffrey Plank of the new book from William Stout Publishers. Form Zero Architectural Books + Gallery, 811 Traction Ave., LA; 7PM; res. req. 213.620.1920. formzero.com.

19, Tuesday

At the Crossroads of Empire: Vienna, Modernism, and Design. Lecture with Bard Graduate Center director Derek Ostergard. Friends of the Gamble House, 4 Westmoreland Pl., Pasadena; 7:30PM; \$10-\$15; res. req. 626.793.3334. gamblehouse.usc.edu.

23, Saturday

20th-Century Furniture. Class on Arts & Crafts, Art Deco, International Style, and more, with art historian Eleanor Schrader Schapa. UCLA Extension, 1010 Westwood Center, Westwood; 9AM-1PM; \$35-\$50; res. req. 310.825.9061. uclaextension.org.

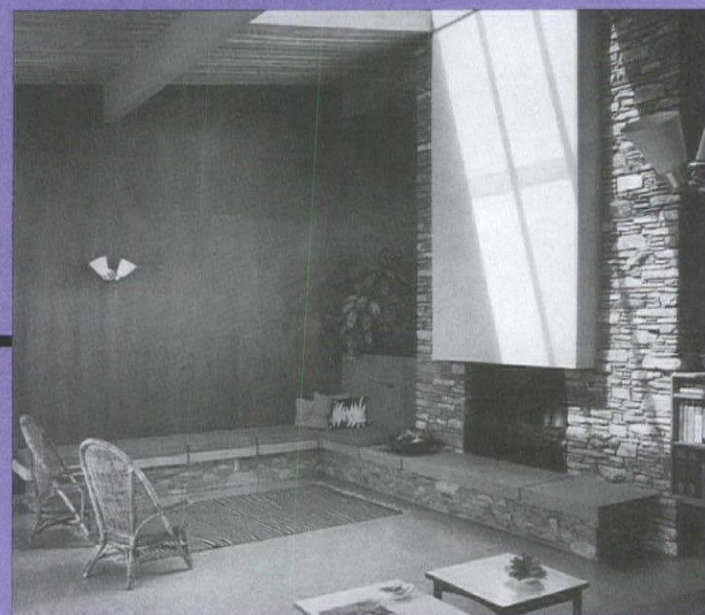


Photo: Marvin Rand

Modern Patrons:

A visit to a residence in Bel Air, designed by J.R. Davidson in 1957. 2-4:30PM; res. req. 800.9SAHSCC. See article for details.

10, Sunday

California: This Land of Golden Promise. Slide talk with authors Joan Irvine Smith and Jean Stern on new book from Chapman University Press. Plein Air Arts Council; Bowers Museum of Cultural Art, 2002 N. Main St., Santa Ana; 2-3:30PM; \$5; res. req. 714.567.3600. bowers.org.

10, Sunday

Sir William Hamilton (1730-1803): A Modern Pliny on the Bay of Naples. Lecture with the British Museum's assistant keeper of Greek and Roman antiquities Ian Jenkins. The Getty Center, 1200 Getty Center Dr., LA; 4PM; res. req. 310.440.7300.

12, Tuesday

Coping with an Uncertain World. UCLA Extension-LA Times 2002 real estate forecast, with speakers Eli Broad, Roy March, and Allison Lynn Reaser. UCLA Extension; Beverly Hills Hotel, 9641 Sunset Blvd., BH; 8AM-5PM; \$275; res. req. 310.206.1409. uclaextension.org/forecast2002.

14, Thursday

Laughter and Unease in Rome and Naples: Some Destabilizing Encounters With Foreign Places. Lecture with Getty Scholar in Residence Chloe Chard. The Getty Center, 1200 Getty Center Dr., LA; 4PM; res. req. 310.440.7300.

16, Saturday

North Park: The Renaissance of an Historic Village. Slide talk with SDSU decorative arts professor emeritus Don Covington. Friends of San Diego Architecture; Chula Vista Library, 379 Orange Ave., Chula Vista; 10AM-12PM; \$3. 619.235.4100.

17, Sunday

People, Places, and Furniture in 18th-Century England. Decorative arts lecture, with author Ann Gore. The Huntington Library, 1151 Oxford Rd., San Marino; 2:30PM; res. req. 626.405.2100. huntington.org.

23, Saturday

Creating "Blueprints" for a Successful Presentation. Class on basic tools of professional presentations for design professionals, with communications specialist Leonard Lipton. UCLA Extension, 1010 Westwood Center, Westwood; 9AM-4PM; \$100; res. req. 310.825.9061. uclaextension.org.

24, Sunday

Chamber Music in Historic Sites: Los Angeles Master Chorale. Spanish Renaissance, Mexican Baroque, and Venetian polychoral music at Los Angeles City Hall Rotunda, designed by Austin, Parkinson, Martin & Whittlesey (1928). The Da Camera Society; City Hall, LA; 2PM and 3:30PM; \$30; res. req. 310.954.4300.

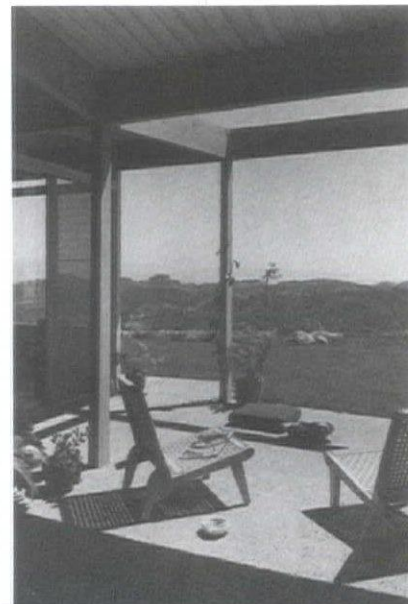
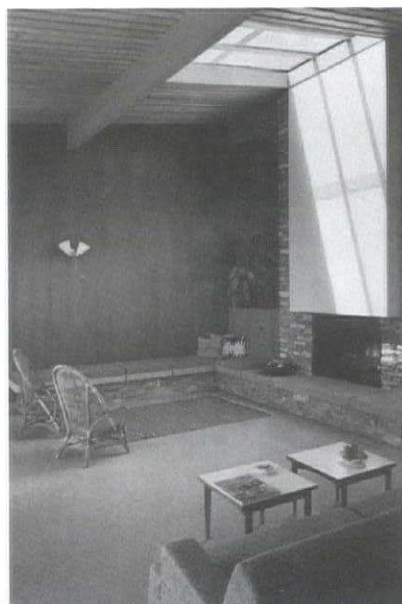
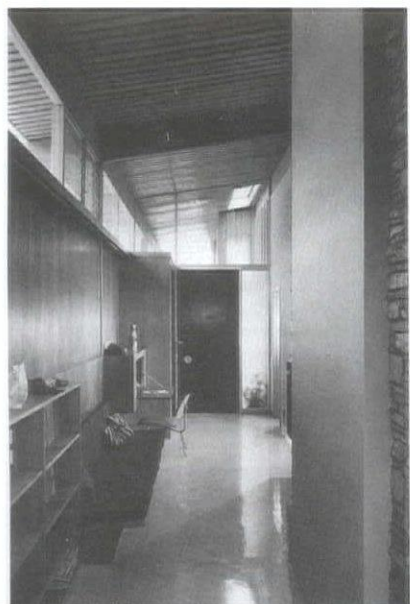


J.R. Davidson
(Photo: Valenska)

Modern Patrons: Davidson in Bel Air

SAH/SCC Lecture and Tour:
Saturday, February 23rd

Bel Air residence
(Photos: Marvin Rand)



On Saturday afternoon, February 23rd, from 2PM to 4:30PM, the Modern Patrons program will continue, this time in Bel Air with a visit to a residence designed by J.R. Davidson in 1957. This will be an opportunity to experience the house, learn a great deal more about J.R. Davidson first-hand, and share the perspective of the owner who commissioned the architect.

The event is \$10 and open to Life- and Patron-level members of SAH/SCC (the program will be available to the general membership only in the event there is space available). If you are a Life member or Patron and would like to attend, fill out and mail the order form on the back page. Space is limited.

In her book *The Second Generation* (Peregrine Smith, 1984), Esther McCoy writes: "The 1957 house in Bel Air is on a canyon rim with 100 feet of fairly level land. Davidson pushed the house forward to save the level space at the back for terrace and open garden. The 2,300-square-foot house stretches to the back setbacks, forming a rectangle with two projections; one is the family room, which separates children's play yard from adult's outdoor living.

"Davidson had the opportunity to stretch his skill with the gallery plan in this house. It is an extension of the living room, almost a room in itself. The large fireplace which backs up to it, is flanked by three-foot high cabinets without glass above, thus making the fireplace freestanding and the two spaces interlocking. Along the wide gallery are desk, settee, and the many cabinets and shelves typical of earlier galleries.

"On the living room side a nice drama is played out as forms build up from the colorful rubber tile floor to the long wide shelf at hearth level, capped with a concrete slab covered with bright pads and cushions, to the fireplace of Palos

Verdes stone, then on up to the finely proportioned white plaster hood. The hood folds over at the top to continue as a skylight, the hood and skylight so alike in dimensions that one seems a reflection of the other. Indeed, as the south sun enters through the skylight, throwing shadows of glazing bars on the white surface, the hood is something of a sundial whose shadows tell the time.

"The post-and-beam construction with posts at intervals of 9 feet in one direction and 21 feet in the other allows many half walls; a freestanding cabinet separates the living room from the kitchen, with book shelves and small bar on the living room side, and on the reverse it forms a passage from carport entrance through the end of the kitchen to the family room. Over all the spaces floats a ceiling of two by fours with spacers between, visible from any of the social rooms as a continuous textured surface."

Born Julius Ralph Davidson in 1889 in Berlin, the architect lived in London and Paris before arriving in Los Angeles with his wife Greta, in 1924. He was a seemingly shy, reserved man who wasn't concerned with self-promotion. Of Davidson's character, McCoy writes: "He said that to succeed as an architect in America one had to be aggressive, which he was not." His commissions primarily came from clients who would become friends. His efforts were solely devoted to providing a highly resolved modern architecture, finely crafted to the specific sensibilities of his clients and not using the commission to gain notoriety. Thus he endeavored almost virtually unknown (except among his colleagues) for nearly 50 years in Los Angeles. Only now, nearly 25 years after his death, Davidson's reputation is growing and finally gaining long overdue recognition for a remarkable legacy of exquisitely designed modern buildings, primarily residential, in and around Southern California.

SAH
scc publications order form

For those of you who missed out on recent SAH/SCC tours, or would like more information for your reference, here's an opportunity to get your hands on the publications printed especially for SAH/SCC events. Don't let another chance pass you by.

The Historic and Modern Spirit of Ventura: 20-page guide.
_____ at \$10 each

Modernism for the Masses: three-fold brochure with inserts of detailed floorplans of Eichler homes visited on the tour to Orange County.
_____ at \$10 each

Cool Pools: Booklet and cassette tape from "Reflections on Water: Cool Pools Along Sunset Boulevard."
_____ at \$10 each members
_____ at \$15 each non-members

Sarasota: 26-page, full-color brochure of works by Sarasota school architects from "On Parallel Lines: The Sarasota Modern Movement 1948-1966."
_____ at \$10 each

Reconsidering Lloyd Wright: 21-page, four color booklet from "Reconsidering Lloyd Wright House Tour."
_____ at \$10 each

Union Station and MTA Transit Center: A two-fold map for a self-guided walking tour including historical facts and photos.
_____ at \$2 each

Spanish Romance: Tour brochure of San Marino and Pasadena, visiting historic landmarks such as the Mission San Gabriel ArcAngel, El Molino Viejo, Mrs. Ethel Guthrie's House, and Mrs. Grace A. Ohlmond's House.
_____ at \$2 each

Eagle Rock — LA's Home Town: 17-page handbook with history and self-guided tour of Eagle Rock, by Jeff Samudio.
_____ at \$4 each

David Gebhard Annual Review: Essays on the Works Project Administration by Robert W. Winter, Orville O. Clarke, Jr., and Mitzi March Mogul.
_____ at \$5 each

Prices include sales tax. Total: \$ _____

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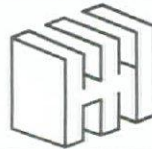
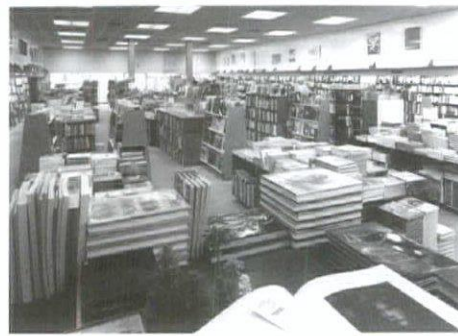
I N M E M O R I A M

SAH/SCC is sad to announce the passing of long-time Life Member David Palmer. David (along with his wife Helen) was always a welcome and inquisitive participant at talks and tours. At the Members Celebration a few years back, Barbara Lamprecht and I monopolized him to discuss letterforms, a passion and obsession all three of us share. He was amazed that two young (sic) women would be interested in his stories, and wondered if he were keeping us from doing other things. I think I can speak for Barbara when I say we wouldn't have wanted to be anywhere else at that moment.

Julie D. Taylor



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SAH/SCC Events:

Modern Patrons: Ellwood - January 26th

_____ member ticket(s) at \$10 each = \$ _____

Modern Patrons: Davidson - February 23rd

_____ member ticket(s) at \$10 each = \$ _____

Authors on Architecture - March 2nd

_____ member ticket(s) FREE

SAH/SCC Membership Benefits:

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- | | |
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| \$100 | Patron (up to 2 names at same address) |
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