



SOCIETY OF ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIANS
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAPTER

NEWS

2003
january february

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Kesling Modern Structures Tour

Sunday, February 9th

On Sunday, February 9th, SAH/SCC will host a tour of five Streamline Moderne homes built in the 1930s by William Kesling in the Silverlake and Los Feliz areas. The tour celebrates the publication of Patrick Pascal's book on this unsung modernist, Kesling Modern Structures: Popularizing Modern Design in Southern California, 1934-1962 (Balcony Press, 2002).

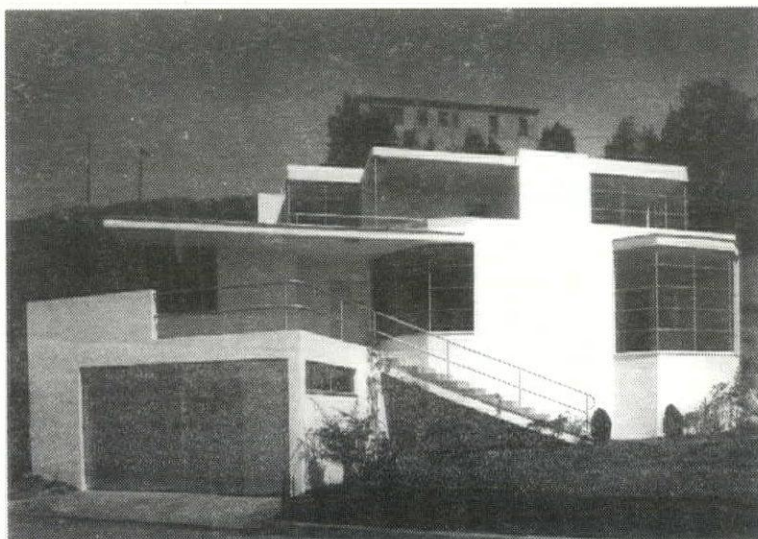


Photo: Julius Shulman

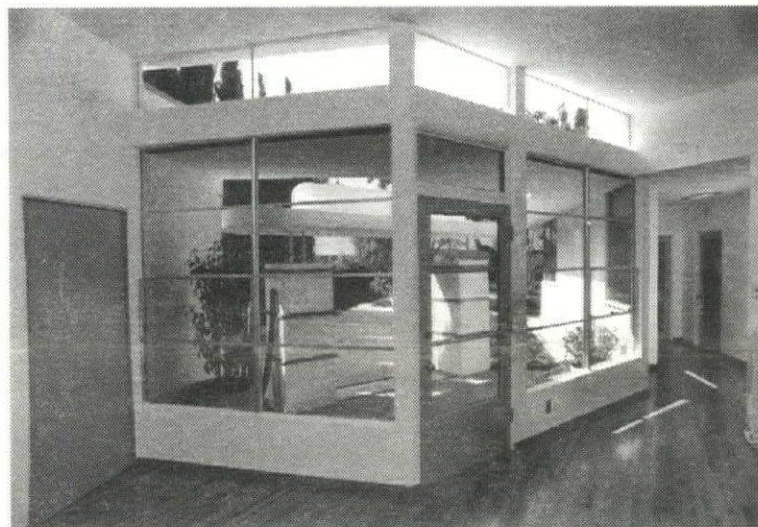


Photo: David Sadofski

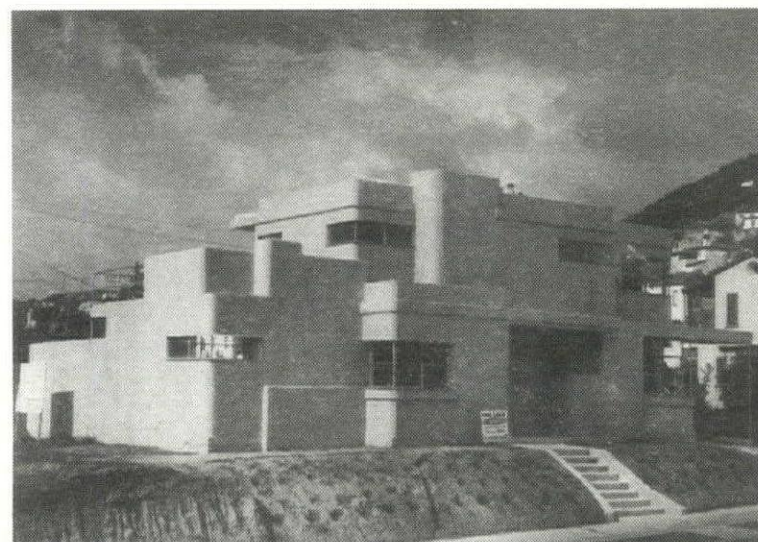


Photo: Julius Shulman

marred by scandal. A second reason for Kesling's obscurity is that his work has received little publicity. Pascal's book and this tour aim to correct this. Of the 35 homes Kesling built in Los Angeles in the '30s, only 20 remain recognizable—and they are treasures.

During the 1930s depression, as building construction came to a near standstill across the country, Southern California clients erected a surprising number of Streamline Moderne houses and business buildings. Kesling was in the right place at the right time. The new look can be traced back to transportation designers, who tested their designs in wind-tunnels and fluid tanks to produce aerodynamically advanced designs for train engines, automobiles, airplanes, and ships that enhanced forward motion by reducing wind (or water) resistance. Industrial designers discovered that refrigerators, toasters, and pencil boxes with the same curves and wind lines appealed to consumers over earlier boxy models. Shoppers were even willing to pay more, maybe because these "modernistic" gadgets seemed futuristic in the same way the era's science-fiction films and comic books painted a future technologically free of all problems.

Buildings referenced this fascination with speed and efficiency by exhibiting curved corners, ship's rails, and porthole windows. They also featured modern-age materials, such as chrome-plated steel interior trim, magnesite flooring, and glass block, which drew forward-thinking clients, even if hard times limited house size and curtailed the number of clients who could undertake new house construction.

The tour has limited space, and you must specify either the 11AM or 12:30PM session. See the back page to order your tickets for Kesling Modern Structures.

On February 9th, we'll enjoy a slide lecture by Pascal followed by a tour of five Kesling houses, ranging from his first Model Home to his largest houses, and ending with refreshments and a book signing. Tour-goers will see three houses in Silverlake: the Model Home (1935), the Skinner House (1936), and the Hough House (1935), then two houses in Los Feliz: the Ulm House (1937) and the nearby Johnstone House (1935).

The cost is \$60 for SAH/SCC members; \$65 for non-members. For an additional \$20 you can reserve a copy of Pascal's book, which will be held for you at the tour check-in table. The book retails for \$27 (including tax), and a few copies will be available to purchase the day of the tour for that price. The tour is limited to 58 tickets for the tour starting at 11AM, and another 58 available for the tour starting at 12:30PM.

One of Southern California's claims to architectural fame is the number of Streamline Moderne structures built here during the Depression. William Kesling was one of the more prolific designers in this style, yet he remains little known. One reason is that Kesling's career was brief (1934-1937) and

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President's Letter

Our community has lost one of its great figures, and one of its last direct links to the Case Study era, with the death of Don Hensman, who passed away in December in Pasadena. He was 78 years old.

Working largely in partnership with Conrad Buff III and Calvin Straub, Hensman was an instrumental figure in the development of mid-century modern architecture, particularly the "post-and-beam style" of residential architecture characterized by a rectilinear system of exposed structural members and an effortless transition between house and garden.

Buff, Straub, and Hensman won more than 30 awards for house designs from the American Institute of Architects, and Hensman himself was honored as a Fellow (FAIA). Many of these designs, secluded homes for wealthy private clients, have enjoyed a new life in recent years with the popular nostalgia for mid-century design, and particularly with the publication of Julius Shulman's *Modernism Rediscovered*.

One project that stands out in Shulman's volume is the Mirman Residence recreation pavilion (Arcadia, 1959), which is a simple backyard shelter for entertaining and playing games. Shulman's pictures clearly illustrate the basic values that Hensman's architecture embraced: the building becomes an ordered framework supporting the casual, family-oriented enjoyment of leisure time. This is, without question, the architecture of optimism.

But the firm's masterwork was Case Study House #20, the Bass House (Altadena, 1958), which was optimistic in another way: its advanced technology. CSH #20 was built of factory-produced stressed skin panels and plywood vaults so novel that they perplexed city building officials. Despite copious engineering calculations, the architects were not awarded a building permit until a sample plywood vault had been temporarily erected and loaded with weights. Progressive design, Hensman knew, always had to prove itself to its skeptics.

Although Hensman spent his last years at the Holly Street Village complex in downtown Pasadena, he never really "retired," always remaining active in the local architectural community, giving lectures to students, and even designing buildings. He completed the Moseley Residence in the Pasadena hills in the late 1990s, a building that continued to employ all the excellent hallmarks of his mid-century designs.

Few people realize that Hensman was a prolific designer of tract homes prior to his association with Buff and Straub. While he was an undergraduate student at USC in the late 1940s, Hensman worked nights and weekends drawing plans for homebuilders in places like Torrance and the San Fernando Valley. This was his real education. He later joked that he had built more than 3,000 homes by his 21st birthday, burning the midnight oil at the drafting board in between his studies.

I had the privilege of knowing Hensman personally, and he was a warm, kind man who genuinely appreciated his good fortune; he was very modest about his successes. He took special interest in the next generations of architects, and he was eager to share his experiences in order to help young designers. Rather than speaking of his own achievements, he preferred to recall his period teaching (at USC, 1952-63) and the continuing importance of education.

Although his own design philosophy remained rooted in the values of the postwar period, he admired progressive new architecture as well. He liked to meet for lunch at Saladang Song in Pasadena, where he was excited by the laser-cut ornamental designs. Likewise, he was astonished by the work of Frank Gehry and Jon Jerde, who had been students at USC.

Don Hensman was an architect's architect. He took technical competence seriously; he did not have a manifesto or a scandal. Because of his modest personality, he did not attract much attention, and his passing will escape notice. It shouldn't. He was a lovely man, and a great architect.

Tony Denzer

Another Sad Farewell

Long-time SAH/SCC life member Astrid Ellersieck died in early December of respiratory failure. She was 74. Astrid was a strong supporter of the chapter and the SAH/SCC News.

From an obituary written by Becky Oskin:

"A spitfire preservationist who helped protect many of Pasadena and Altadena's architectural gems, Ellersieck lived in Altadena for more than 30 years and was active in Altadena and Pasadena government and community and preservation groups. She served on the board of Pasadena Heritage, Friends of the Gamble House, and helped found Altadena Heritage, among numerous other commitments.

"She wanted to be an architect, but because she was poor and a woman, she couldn't get into architectural schools in big universities in the East," [husband] Heinz Ellersieck said. But Ellersieck taught herself architecture and became an expert on Craftsman and modern architects while living in California. After college, Ellersieck worked as a writer for the first television station in Washington, DC, then moved on to write for advertising companies.

"She came to Southern California in 1961 with her first husband, but the family soon left for Massachusetts, where she first worked as a real-estate agent, which became her longtime career. She returned to Altadena in 1968 after a divorce and found a job as assistant to the city of Pasadena's Human Relations Committee. Ellersieck met Heinz on the committee, and the couple became dedicated to community activism.

"Ellersieck's car was recognized throughout the Pasadena area because of her personalized license plate 2MTLOWE2. The Ellersiecks lived at the base of the Mt. Lowe Incline, and Astrid Ellersieck helped organize a centennial celebration for the historic railway."

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 of exclusive SAH/SCC architectural events and tours.

Editor: Julie D. Taylor

Assistant Editor: Jennifer Moizel

Internet Editor: Brent Eckerman

Art Director: Svetlana Petrovic

Administration: Arline Chambers

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

Issue Deadline: March/April 2003 February 10, 2003

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

Julie D. Taylor, Editor

SAH/SCC News
P.O. Box 56478
Sherman Oaks,
CA 91413

Newsletter telephone: 310.247.1099

Newsletter fax: 310.247.8147

Newsletter e-mail: jtaylorpr@usa.net

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8, 15, 22, 29,
Wednesday

ity Observed.
Commentary by author of *LA Lost and Found: An Architectural History of Los Angeles* and Emmy Award-winning reporter and producer at Fox Television News Sam Hall Kaplan on architecture, planning, and design. KCRW 89.9 FM, 5:55PM.

3, Saturday

Village Walking Tour.
Tour of downtown Village area of Claremont with Claremont Village Guide. Claremont Heritage; Historic Claremont Metrolink Depot, 200 West First St., Claremont; 10AM; \$5; res. req. 909.621.0848.

4, Saturday

Long Beach Downtown Tour.
Walking tour highlighting the rich history and architectural landmarks of Long Beach and the downtown area. Long Beach Heritage; Willmore Hotel Building on 3rd St. just west of Cedar Ave., LB; 10AM; \$5; res. req. 562.493.7019.

4, Saturday

SOMA-Yerba Buena Gardens.
Walking tour with the Foundation for San Francisco's Architectural Heritage. California Historical Society, 678 Mission St., SF; 10-11AM; \$3-5; res. req. 415.441.3004.

4, Saturday

Van Tour of Fillmore, Moorpark, Piru, and Bardsdale.
Van tour of towns in the Santa Clara River Valley. Neighborhood Place Project; San Fernando Valley; 10AM-8PM; \$25; res. req. 626.967.3332.

4, 11, Saturday

Historic Downtown Walking Tour.
Tour of downtown Santa Barbara. Architectural Foundation of Santa Barbara; City Hall, De La Guerra Plaza, Santa Barbara; 10AM; \$5; res. req. 805.965.6307.

4, 11, Saturday

Downtown LA.
Walking tours of various downtown landmarks. L.A. Conservancy; 10AM-Noon; \$8; res. req. 213.623.2489.

4, 11, Saturday

Turistorica.
Walking tours with Architectural Foundation of Santa Barbara and Citizens Planning Foundation of Santa Barbara. City Hall Steps, De La Guerra Plaza, SB; 10AM-Noon; \$5. 805.965.3021 or 805.965.6307.

5, Sunday

The Moveable Music Feast: Pacifica String Quartet.
CMHS at the Doheny Mansion, (Hunt and Eisen, 1899). The Da Camera Society; 2PM and 3:30PM; \$51-74; res. req. 213.477.2929.

5, 12, Sunday

Pacific Heights Walking Tour.
The Foundation for San Francisco's Architectural Heritage; 12:30PM; \$5. 415.441.3004.

7, Tuesday

Collector Homes: Living With Antiques.
Tour with antique dealers Anne and Edward Carty. Garden Lane; 9:30AM-12:30PM; \$60; res. req. 805.965.0922.

7, Tuesday

Best in Show: Fall '02.
UCLA architecture student work. UCLA Department of Architecture and Urban Design, 1318 Perloff Gallery, UCLA; 5-7PM. 310.825.7857. aud.ucla.edu.

7, Tuesday

British Arts and Crafts.
Lecture with British Arts and Crafts authority Alan Crawford. LACMA Decorative Arts Council; LACMA, 5905 Wilshire Blvd., LA; 7PM; \$15. res. req. 323.857.6528. lacma.org.

10, Friday

American Folk Art.
Lecture with folk art collector and member of the Mingei International Museum's Board of Trustees Dr. Jeffery Pressman. San Diego Museum of Art, 1450 El Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego; 10AM; \$10. 619.696.1953. sdma.org.

11, Saturday

Old Pasadena.
Walking tour. Pasadena Heritage; 9AM; \$5; res. req. 626.441.6333.

11, Saturday

Claremont Colleges Walking Tour.
Tour of the six Claremont Colleges. Claremont Heritage; Seaver House, 305 N. College Ave., Claremont; 9:30AM; \$8; res. req. 909.621.0848.

11, Saturday

Century City: Urbanity in Excelsis Deo.
Walking tour of Century City. Neighborhood Place Project; Century City Shopping Center; 1-4PM; \$10; res. req. 626.967.3332.

11, 25, Saturday

Long Beach East Village Arts District Tour.
Walking tour introduces guests to the community's spirit of creativity. Long Beach Heritage; in front of the WPA Mural, LB; 10AM; \$5; res. req. 562.493.7019.

12, Sunday

The Moveable Music Feast: Otmaro Ruiz Quartet.
CMHS at the Tamayo Restaurant (1928). The Da Camera Society; 5:30PM; \$38; res. req. 213.477.2929.

13, Monday

Spectacular Event Lighting.
Program on lighting for special events. Designers Lighting Forum, Pasadena; 7PM. 310.535.0105. dlfla.org.

14, 15, 16, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday

Presenting Data and Information.
One-day course featuring strategies of information design with author Edward Tufte. Graphics Press; Los Angeles Marriott Downtown; 10AM-4:30PM; \$320; res. req. 800.822.2454. edwardtufte.com.

17, Friday

Downtown Long Beach Architectural Tour.
Walking tour focusing on examples of various architectural styles. Neighborhood Place Project; Southeast corner of 1st and Pine Ave., Long Beach; 1-4PM; \$10; res. req. 626.967.3332.

18, Saturday

The Miracle Mile: A Walking Tour.
Two-hour tour of the Wilshire district with stories behind its development and Art Deco buildings. The Art Deco Society of Los Angeles; 10AM; \$5-10; res. req. 310.659.3326.

18, Saturday

Long Beach Downtown Tour.
Walking tour highlighting the rich history and architectural landmarks of Long Beach and the downtown area. Long Beach Heritage; Willmore Hotel Building on 3rd St. just west of Cedar Ave., LB; 10AM; \$5; res. req. 562.493.7019.

18, 25, Saturday

Historic Downtown Walking Tour.
Tour of downtown Santa Barbara. Architectural Foundation of Santa Barbara; City Hall, De La Guerra Plaza, Santa Barbara; 10AM; \$5; res. req. 805.965.6307.

18, 25, Saturday

Downtown LA.
Walking tours of various downtown landmarks. L.A. Conservancy; 10AM-Noon; \$8; res. req. 213.623.2489.

FEATURED EVENT

Architectural Tour

Architectural Tour with Shubin + Donaldson. Tour of innovative homes in Santa Barbara. Garden Lane. 805.965.0922. See listing for more info.

31, Friday

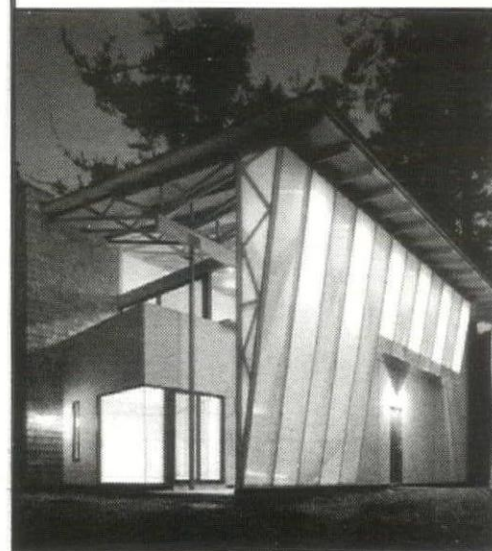


Photo: Ciro Coelho

18, 25, Saturday

Turistorica.
Walking tours with Architectural Foundation of Santa Barbara and Citizens Planning Foundation of Santa Barbara. City Hall Steps, De La Guerra Plaza, SB; 10AM-Noon; \$5. 805.965.3021 or 805.965.6307.

19, Sunday

Jews in Hollywood: A Guided Tour of the City of LA.
Bus tour exploring Southern California's Jewish history. Autry Museum of Western Heritage, 4700 Western Heritage Way, LA; 9AM-4PM; \$30; res. req. 323.761.8950.

19, 26, Sunday

Pacific Heights Walking Tour.
The Foundation for San Francisco's Architectural Heritage; 12:30PM; \$5. 415.441.3004.

21, Tuesday

Sylvanus Marston: The Man and His Place in the Arts and Crafts Movement.
Lecture on the Pasadena architect with author Kathleen Tuttle. Friends of the Gamble House, 4 Westmoreland Pl., Pasadena; 7:30PM; \$10-15; res. req. 626.793.3334. gamblehouse.usc.edu.

23, Thursday

Temples of Convenience.
Lecture on historic architecture and interiors with British author Lady Lucinda Lambton. LACMA Decorative Arts Council; LACMA, 5905 Wilshire Blvd., LA; 7PM; \$15. res. req. 323.857.6528. lacma.org.

24, Friday

Environmental Design Lecture Series.
Lecture with architect Neil Denari. Otis College of Art and Design; Otis Forum Ahmanson Building, 9045 Lincoln Blvd., LA; 7PM. 310.665.6800. otis.edu.

25, Saturday

'Village Green' Historic Planned Community Tour.
Walking tour of National Historic Landmark. Neighborhood Place Project; Village Green Clubhouse, 5300 Rodeo Rd., between La Cienega and La Brea; 1-4PM; \$10; res. req. 626.967.3332.

26, Sunday

Art Talks: Retrofuturism.
Discussion on the car design of J Mays with UCSB art history and architecture professor C. Edson Armi. MOCA at The Geffen Contemporary, 152 North Central Ave., Little Tokyo, LA; 3PM. 213.633.5326. moca-la.org.

31, Friday

Architectural Tour with Shubin + Donaldson.
Tour of innovative homes designed by award-winning architectural firm Shubin + Donaldson with architect Robin Donaldson. Garden Lane; Santa Barbara; 9:30AM-12:30PM; \$60; res. req. 805.965.0922.

31, Friday

Work Project Administration (WPA) Art.
Lecture with associate professor of art history Orville O. Clarke. San Diego Museum of Art, 1450 El Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego; 10AM; \$10. 619.696.1953. sdma.org.

31, Friday

Doheny Soiree: Ida Levin and Delores Stevens.
CMHS at the Doheny Mansion (Hunt and Eisen, 1899). The Da Camera Society; 8PM; \$51-74; res. req. 213.477.2929.

2003

february

1, Saturday**Cemetery Tours.**

Historical tours conducted by period costumed docents. Old City Cemetery, Sacramento; 916.448.0811. californiahistoricalsociety.org.

1, Saturday**SOMA-Yerba Buena Gardens.**

Walking tour with the Foundation for San Francisco's Architectural Heritage. California Historical Society, 678 Mission St., SF; 10-11AM; \$3-5; res. req. 415.441.3004.

1, Saturday**Long Beach Downtown Tour.**

Walking tour highlighting the rich history and architectural landmarks of Long Beach and the downtown area. Long Beach Heritage; Willmore Hotel Building on 3rd St. just west of Cedar Ave., LB; 10AM; \$5; res. req. 562.493.7019.

1, Saturday**El Segundo's Downtown and the Old Town Music Hall.**

Walking tour exploring historic homes and shops. Neighborhood Place Project; Old Town Music Hall, 140 Richmond Ave., El Segundo; 3-6PM; \$10; res. req. 626.967.3332.

1, Saturday**Orlando Consort.**

CMHS at the Ebell of Los Angeles (Silas Burns and Sumner P. Hunt, 1927). The Da Camera Society; lecture-6:45PM, concert-7:30PM; \$35-40; res. req. 213.477.2929.

1, 8, Saturday**Historic Downtown Walking Tour.**

Tour of downtown Santa Barbara. Architectural Foundation of Santa Barbara; City Hall, De La Guerra Plaza, Santa Barbara; 10AM; \$5; res. req. 805.965.6307.

1, 8, Saturday**Downtown LA.**

Walking tours of various downtown landmarks. L.A. Conservancy; 10AM-Noon; \$8; res. req. 213.623.2489.

1, 8, Saturday**Turistorica.**

Walking tours with Architectural Foundation of Santa Barbara and Citizens Planning Foundation of Santa Barbara. City Hall Steps, De La Guerra Plaza, SB; 10AM-Noon; \$5. 805.965.3021 or 805.965.6307.

2, Sunday**Art Talks: Retrofuturism.**

Discussion on the car design of J Mays with UCSB art history and architecture professor C. Edson Armi. MOCA at The Geffen Contemporary, 152 North Central Ave., LA; 3PM. 213.621.1745. moca.org.

2, 9, Sunday**Pacific Heights Walking Tour.**

The Foundation for San Francisco's Architectural Heritage; 12:30PM; \$5. 415.441.3004.

3, Monday**Hot Hollywood Nights.**

Program on lighting for Hollywood. Designers Lighting Forum, Pasadena; 7PM. 310.535.0105. dlffa.org.

5, 12, 19, 26, Wednesday**City Observed.**

Commentary by author of *LA Lost and Found: An Architectural History of Los Angeles* and Emmy Award-winning reporter and producer at Fox Television News Sam Hall Kaplan on architecture, planning, and design. KCRW 89.9 FM. 3:55PM.

8, Saturday**Old Pasadena.**

Walking tour. Pasadena Heritage; 9AM; \$5; res. req. 626.441.6333.

8, Saturday**Brea Public Art Collection Van Tour.**

Driving tour of one of the first California communities to adopt the "Percent for Art" plan. Neighborhood Place Project; San Gabriel Valley; 10AM-8PM; \$25; res. req. 626.967.3332.

8, 22, Saturday**Long Beach East Village Arts District Tour.**

Walking tour introduces guests to the community's spirit of creativity. Long Beach Heritage; in front of the WPA Mural, LB; 10AM; \$5; res. req. 562.493.7019.

9, Sunday**The Moveable Music Feast: Tanya Tomkins.**

CMHS at the Doheny Mansion (Hunt and Eisen, 1899). The Da Camera Society; lecture-1:15PM, concert-2PM and lecture-2:15PM, concert-3:30PM; \$51-74; res. req. 213.477.2929.

11, Tuesday**2003 Annual Real Estate Forecast Conference.**

Conference focusing on the future of commercial real estate and the changing economy in Southern California with Randall W. Black, JD. UCLA Extension; Beverly Hills Hotel, 9641 Sunset Blvd.; 8:30AM-5PM; \$150; res. req. 310.206.1409. uclaextension.org.

11, Tuesday**Candace Wheeler: Influence, Innovation and Opportunity in American Design.**

Lecture on the textile and interior designer with Charlene G. Garfinkle. Friends of the Gamble House, 4 Westmoreland Pl., Pasadena; 7:30PM; \$10-15; res. req. 626.793.3334. gamblehouse.usc.edu.

14, Friday**San Diego Muralists.**

Lecture with muralist and co-founder of Centro Cultural de la Raza and of the Chicano Park Monumental Public Mural Program Salvador Torres. San Diego Museum of Art, 1450 El Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego; 10AM; \$10. 619.696.1953. sdmart.org.

14-15, Friday-Saturday**The Architect's House: An On-Site Study Tour.**

A behind-the-scenes study tour to see how architects use their own homes for experimentation and exploration with architect Michael Hricak. UCLA Extension, Westwood; Pre-Tour Lecture, Friday 7-9PM; Tour, Saturday 8:30AM-6PM; \$225; res. req. 310.825.9971. uclaextension.org.

15, Saturday**A Day in Florence.**

Seminar on Florentine architecture and arts during the Italian Renaissance with gallery director Irini Vallera-Rickerson. UCLA Extension, 1010 Westwood Center, Westwood; 9AM-4PM; \$75; res. req. 310.825.9971. uclaextension.org.

15, Saturday**The Miracle Mile: A Walking Tour.**

Two-hour tour of the Wilshire district with stories behind its development and Art Deco buildings. The Art Deco Society of Los Angeles; 10AM; \$5-10; res. req. 310.659.3326.

15, Saturday**Long Beach Downtown Tour.**

Walking tour highlighting the rich history and architectural landmarks of Long Beach and the downtown area. Long Beach Heritage; Willmore Hotel Building on 3rd St. just west of Cedar Ave., LB; 10AM; \$5; res. req. 562.493.7019.

15, 22, Saturday**Turistorica.**

Walking tours with Architectural Foundation of Santa Barbara and Citizens Planning Foundation of Santa Barbara. City Hall Steps, De La Guerra Plaza, SB; 10AM-Noon; \$5. 805.965.3021 or 805.965.6307.

16, 23, Sunday**Pacific Heights Walking Tour.**

The Foundation for San Francisco's Architectural Heritage; 12:30PM; \$5. 415.441.3004.

20, Thursday**Design Program Open House.**

Evening including presentation of curriculum and discussion of careers in the field. UCLA Extension, 204 Extension Lindbrook Center, Westwood; 7-8:30PM; res. req. 310.794.3747. uclaextension.org.

SAH/SCC EVENT**9, Sunday****Kesling Modern Structures Tour**

Lecture and tour of Streamline Moderne homes in LA. res. req. 800.9SAH.SCC. See page 1 for more info.

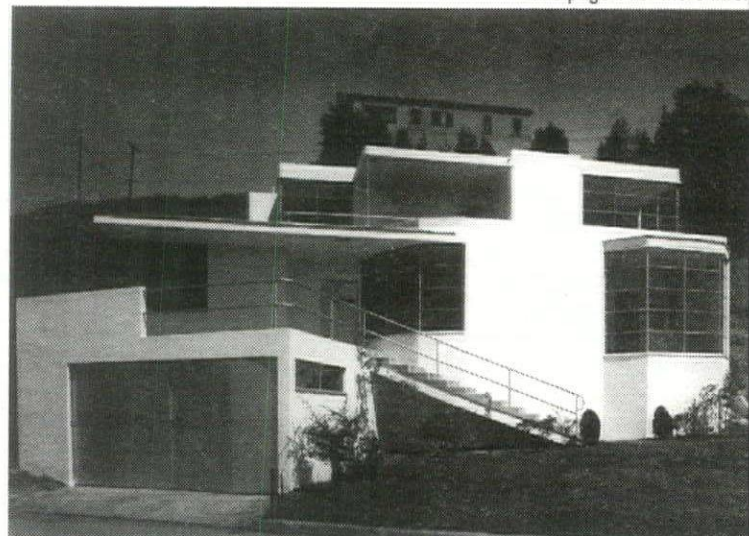


Photo: Julius Shulman

15, Saturday**Ocean View: The Depiction of Southern California Coastal Lifestyle.**

Panel discussion exploring Southern California beach culture with Surfers Journal editor Steve Pezman, surf and skate culture historian Craig Stecyk, and photographer Anthony Friedkin. Autry Museum of Western Heritage; Wells Fargo Theater; 2PM; \$5. 323.667.2000.

15, 22, Saturday**Historic Downtown Walking Tour.**

Tour of downtown Santa Barbara. Architectural Foundation of Santa Barbara; City Hall, De La Guerra Plaza, Santa Barbara; 10AM; \$5; res. req. 805.965.6307.

15, 22, Saturday**Downtown LA.**

Walking tours of various downtown landmarks. L.A. Conservancy; 10AM-Noon; \$8; res. req. 213.623.2489.

22, Saturday**Paul Williams: Architect to the Stars.**

Course exploring the architectural legacy of Paul Williams with art historian Eleanor Schrader Schapa. UCLA Extension, 1010 Westwood Center, Westwood; 10AM-2PM; \$75; res. req. 310.825.9971. uclaextension.org.

22, Saturday**Portfolio Preparation Workshop.**

Course providing students with knowledge of portfolio design and composition with Nicola Woellhaf. UCLA Extension, 1010 Westwood Center, Westwood; 10AM-2PM; \$50; res. req. 310.825.9971. uclaextension.org.

23, Sunday**The Moveable Music Feast: The King's Noyse.**

CMHS at the Hollywood Roosevelt (Fisher, Lake, and Traver, 1927). The Da Camera Society; lecture-2:15PM, concert-3PM; \$36-40; res. req. 213.477.2929.

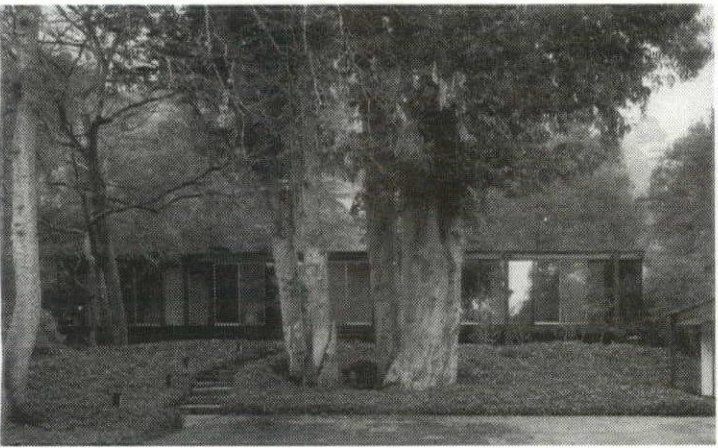
SAH

SOCIETY OF ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIANS
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAPTER

January

Ellwood in Pasadena

The year started with a Modern Patrons event at the Kubly residence in Pasadena, designed by Craig Ellwood. 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. The house was sited on the upper level at the edge of the transitional slope. It was not the central element in the 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." Ellwood was born in Texas as John Burke in 1922 and first came to California at the age of 5, later arriving in Los Angeles at age 17. Writes Perez-Mendez, "The effect of *Arts and Architecture* magazine and Ellwood's friendship with John Entenza cannot be underestimated."



(Photo: Grant Mudford)

February

Davidson in Bel Air

Modern Patrons went to Bel Air to visit a home by J.R. Davidson. 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 side setbacks, forming a rectangle with two projections; one is the family room, which separates children's play yard from adult's outdoor living." Born Julius Ralph Davidson in 1889 in Berlin, the architect lived in London and Paris before arriving in Los Angeles in 1924. According to McCoy, "He said that to succeed as an architect in America one had to be aggressive, which he was not."

March

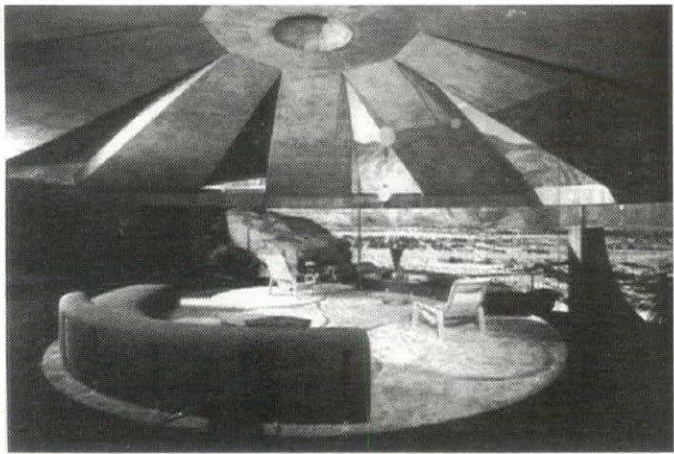
An Afternoon With Michael Webb

The noted architecture writer Michael Webb was the guest at the Authors on Architecture series held at Form Zero bookstore. His recent book, *Modernism Reborn: Mid-Century Modern American Houses* (Universe Publishing/Rizzoli, 2002) was the occasion for him to expound upon a great many homes that had been lovingly restored throughout the years. His other recent books include *Beach Houses*, *Architecture + Design LA*, *It's a Great Wall!*, and *Through the Windows of Paris*.

April

Desert Dreams: The Modern Residences of Palm Springs

The very popular Modern architecture of Palm Springs was explored on this day-long bus tour. Several homes by architects Richard Neutra, Albert Frey, John Lautner, William Cody, Stewart Williams, William Pereira, and Don Wexler were on the agenda. Tour-goers saw the Grace Lewis Miller Residence by Neutra from 1937, a "brilliant Modernist pueblo," according to *Neutra: Complete Works* (Taschen) author and SAH/SCC member Barbara Lamprecht. The Raymond Loewy Residence by Albert Frey in 1946 was a rare treat for its merging of outdoor and indoor space. Lautner's Elrod house of 1968, Pereira's Firestone Residence, Cody's Rubenstein Residence, and Williams' Sinatra Residence of 1947, were among the other blooms in the desert.



May

Walker in Ojai

Modern Patrons took a visit to Ojai, where Case Study architect Rodney Walker created a home for his family in 1958. Attendees were treated to insights by Walker's son Craig. Walker's own homes lead to his work on the Case Study pro-

The SAH/SCC Year in Review 2002

You've probably
read all the "Year's
Best" lists of
movies, books, plays,
art exhibitions, and
even new buildings.

We're proud to
present our year in
review of the events
that SAH/SCC has
mounted during the
past 12 months. As
you'll see, there is a
healthy variety of
types of events —
self-guided tours,
docent tours, small
discussions, book-
signings — as well
as locations —
Pasadena,
Downtown LA, Ojai,
Orange, etc. Now
you can relive a great
year of exploring
architecture in
Southern California.

SAH SCC

gram, as explained by Elizabeth A.T. Smith in *Blueprints for Modern Living: History and Legacy of the Case Study Houses* (The MIT Press, 1989): "John Entenza invited Walker to participate in the Case Study program after seeing the architect's 1946 home for himself and his wife in the hills above Beverly Hills, which became Case Study #16. Walker soon completed two more Case Studies, #17 and #18." Born in Salt Lake City, in 1910, Walker attended Pasadena City College and built his first house in 1937 in Los Angeles.

June

Eichler in Orange

Modern Patron Fran Karns opened her 1964 Eichler home to SAH/SCC to gain an interesting perspective of the Eichler lifestyle. Noted Eichler expert Paul Adamson writes: "Eichler homes are a particularly brave attempt to bring architecture of critically pure ideology and good aesthetic taste to the popular marketplace. Contrary to the popular wisdom of the time, Joseph Eichler hired a group of progressive California Architects—A. Quincy Jones, Frederick Emmons, Robert Anshen, Steven Allen, and Claude Oakland—to design house prototypes from which he built nearly twelve thousand unabashedly Modernist homes and several boldly progressive apartment buildings."

August

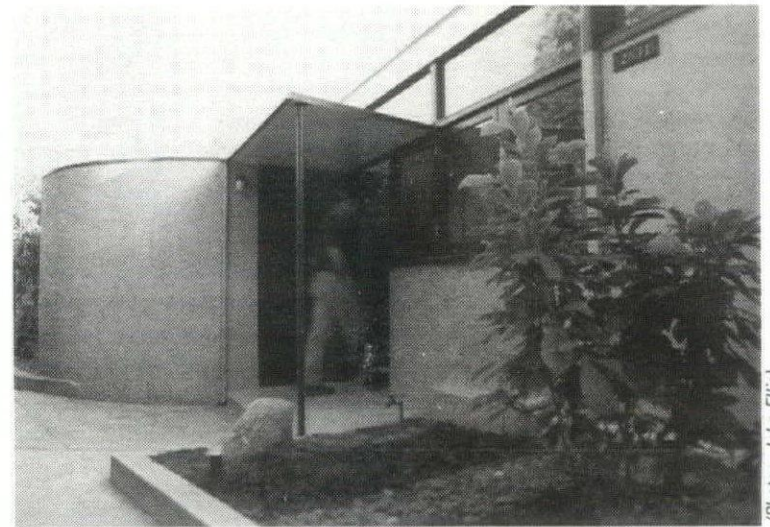
Preservation Summit

In the wake of the shocking destruction of several important historic buildings over the Summer, SAH/SCC hosted a Preservation Summit. The event was held in the lobby of the historic Herald Examiner building in downtown Los Angeles, itself a successful preservation story. The lively discussion was moderated by Larry Mantle, who later aired it on his radio show "Air Talk" on KPCC-FM. Discussing issues of preservation that day were: Ken Bernstein, the Preservation Director for the Los Angeles Conservancy; Alan Lieb, of the LA Conservancy Modern Committee; Christopher C. Martin, FAIA, CEO of AC Martin Partners; Peter Moruzzi, the chair of the Palm Springs Modern Committee; and a representative from Urban Partners.

October

Ain on Avenel

A self-guided tour of Gregory Ain's 1946-47 Avenel Homes began with talks by Richard Corsini, an architect who resides in one of the homes, and Anthony Denzer, SAH/SCC Board President and a Ph.D. candidate on Ain. The Avenel Homes, a 10-unit cooperative housing project intended for World War II veterans, adapted the best features of a hillside commune, garden apartments, and suburban houses. The whole was rendered in International Style modern architecture with radically flexible interiors. Both newly renovated units and those occupied by long-time homeowners were visited. Ain graduated from Lincoln High and attended both USC and UCLA. Ain was among the first modern architects who could call himself a native of Southern California. He lived on a commune for a time as a child, and brought an extraordinary social commitment to the practice of architecture. He sought to solve what he called "the common architectural problems of common people."



(Photos: John Ellis)

December

Atop City Hall

The SAH/SCC Members Celebration took place this year at the Bradley Room high atop City Hall in Downtown LA. The Bradley Room is one of the crowning jewels of the 1928 building, and affords 360-degree views of the city. Los Angeles City Hall, one of downtown's first modern landmarks, has been restored to its original glory by an expert team headed by AC Martin Partners, whose founder, Albert C. Martin, along with John Parkinson and John C. Austin, designed the structure. The iconic tower became Los Angeles' modern image, appearing on letterhead, police badges, and several television series. The historic landmark had endured several earthquakes, and was slated for renovation even prior to the Northridge quake, which then necessitated full renovation. Christopher C. Martin, FAIA (grandson of Albert and CEO of AC Martin Partners), was present to discuss the 10-year, \$273-million seismic and historic design restoration of the building. The tower is the tallest base-isolated building in the United States. Base isolators, an innovative seismic solution that allows buildings to move separately from the ground, have been used mostly in low and mid-rise buildings—until now. To use this system for such a tall building is an historic event in itself. Costs for saving the building were high, and several voices argued for tearing the building down.

2003

january february

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.

Avenel Homes: two-fold, two-color brochure from "Ain on Avenel" Tour
_____ at \$2 each

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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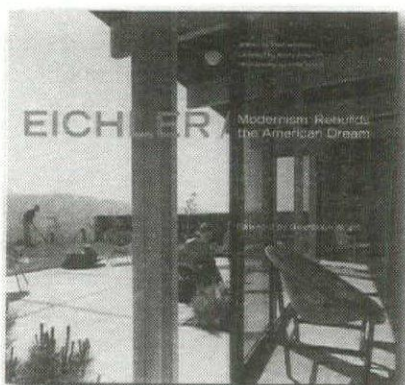
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EICHLER / Modernism Rebuilds the American Dream



text by Paul Adamson,
compiled by Marty Arbunich,
with photography by Ernie Braun
1-58685-184-5, 10.5 x 11.5 in.,
240 pages, \$50.00

Eichler: Modernism Rebuilds the American Dream is a comprehensive volume that captures and illustrates pioneering developer Joseph Eichler's legacy with impressive detail, engaging history, and firsthand recollections about the man and his vision, plus 250 photographs of Eichler homes in their prime.

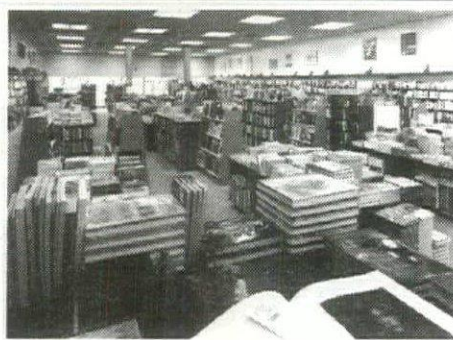
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