Back by popular demand, SAH/SCC brings you another tour of residential architecture in Palm Springs. Shelter Under the Sun will feature an outstanding selection of various architectural styles highlighting the range of responses architects provided for their clients in this beautiful and daunting landscape. The all-day home tour in Palm Springs will be offered on Saturday, April 5th. The cost will be $125 for SAH/SCC members, and $150 for non-members. Participants will transport themselves to the desert where bus transfer will be provided for the entire day upon arrival.

Among the homes to be visited this year will be the Eye of the Desert House, a Colonial Monterey-style home built up on the hillside above the Desert Museum. After coffee, the bus will make its way to the Movie Colony where we'll see William Cody's Abernathy House, a pavilion-style home that is perhaps the most influential early example of the Mausoleum style. Before lunch, participants will have the pleasure of seeing a Wexler Steel Frame House that has been brought back to its original condition with great care and style.

An elegant three-course luncheon at LeVallauris, a French restaurant in an historic setting, will offer guests a specially selected gourmet meal on the tree-covered patio. After leisurely dining, we will proceed to visit three more impressive homes. The Ship of the Desert, one of the only Art Deco residences in the desert with a somewhat maritime overtone, will be the first afternoon stop before proceeding down valley to Thunderbird Country Club to view the Firestone Residence designed by William Pereira. An elaborate compound with an extraordinary roofline, this grand house is rarely open to the public. Concluding our day of touring will be the privilege of experiencing the incomparable Elrod House, one of John Lautner's more elaborate schemes.

The day promises to be exciting, fun, informative, and inspiring, as we once again welcome the opportunity for interested members and participants to access some of the more significant examples of early- to mid-20th-century residential architecture in Palm Springs.

As space is extremely limited, those interested in participating should respond immediately by sending in the order form on the back page.
Greetings from Helsinki!

I should confess that this letter comes to you from Washington, DC, but you'll find me for being in a Finnish state of mind, as an exciting exhibition on the architecture of Helsinki is the talk of the town here in our nation's capital.

The exhibition is titled “Helsinki—Contemporary Urban Architecture” and it showcases the city’s recent transformation, as seen through the lens of architectural photographer Jussi Taininen. Anyone interested in architecture and urbanism should be interested in Helsinki. After all, it is the second fastest growing city in Europe, and it is growing with an intelligent plan and a sense of momentum. The scope of this show, illustrating 40 buildings completed in just a three-year period, certainly attests to the impressive amount of creative work and collective ambition that the city has witnessed.

I was immediately struck with a general impression of quality; Finland’s architecture seems to have that Swiss character of precision craftsmanship that always seems to convey a sense of camaraderie between the buildings and the builders. Whether that’s actually true or not, I do not know. Still, I am left with the impression that even in humble structures, such as cafes and neighbors, such as ElielSaarinen’s Central Station and Alvar Aalto’s Finlandia Hall.

Kiasma is a particularly difficult building to portray in photographs because Holl’s philosophy of architecture places little emphasis on the static visual image. Instead, Holl believes that we experience architecture with our bodies, not just our eyes. Buildings must be experienced in person, in time, in the changing sunlight and temperature, with all of the senses. Architecture, according to Holl, is felt rather than seen.

Although Holl’s approach—known as phenomenology—is perhaps more popular in Scandinavia than here, this exhibition does not suggest that there is a uniform Finnish “school” or “style.” In fact there is great variety. It should be mentioned, too, that as there are no floor plans or any other drawings displayed, and very little text, it is difficult to make any kind of serious architectural evaluation.

The exhibit was mounted at the Finnish Embassy, one of Washington’s best buildings. Completed in 1994 by the architects Heikkinen + Komonen, the Finnish building stands out prominently among its conservative neighbors on Embassy Row. What appears from the exterior to be an elegant but muscular steel-and-glass block is revealed on the inside to be a dynamic spatial experience, centered around a bold, curving staircase with thrilling lines. So often great architecture depends on a great client, and such was certainly the case here. The Finnish government smartly understood that a new embassy was an opportunity to convey their cultural identity in a meaningful way. Ambassador Jukka Valtaasai says: “Embassies need to be able to open windows on the life and culture of the countries they represent, not only for the select few, but for all Washingtonians and visitors to the capital who want to know. Many do, because Americans are curious by nature.”

If you’re a curious American, you’ll want to hear from Mikko Heikkinen of Heikkinen + Komonen Architects, who will lecture at SCI-Arc on March 26th. The exhibition “Helsinki—Contemporary Urban Architecture” will travel to Los Angeles later this spring as well.

Tour and Event Information: 1.800.9SAHSCC: info@sahtsc.org

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.

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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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SAH/SCC members
1. Saturday
Early 20th-Century Women Designers. Course with art historian Eleanor Schneider Schapa. UCLA Extension. 1101 Westwood Center, Westwood; 10AM-2PM; $75; res. req. 310.825.9971. uclaextension.org.

2. Sunday

3. Monday
Missoula Kansas.
Lecture with UCLA Art History assistant professor and author. UCLA Department of Architecture and Urban Design. 1302 Perillo Hall, UIC; 6:30PM; 312.825.7857. aud.ucla.edu.

3. Monday
Residential Lighting.

4 and 8, Tuesday and Saturday

4. Tuesday
Olmedo: A Legacy of Landscape Design.

4-5, Tuesday-Wednesday
Integrating Cultural Resources in NEPA Compliance. Seminar on National Environmental Protection Act with Thomas F. King. National Preservation Institute; San Diego, 8AM-5PM; $225; res. req. 703.765.0100. npi.org.

5-6, Wednesday-Thursday
NeoCon West.
Exposition offering trade professionals commercial and residential products and educational seminars. Merchandise Mart Properties (MMP); LA Convention Center; res. req. 312.527.4141. merchandisemart.com.

5, Wednesday
Celebrate NeoCon West Breakfast.
Breakfast and tour with the architects of the Downtown Standard Hotel. Architectural Foundation of LA; NeoCon West; 8:30AM; res. req. 312.527.4141.

5, Wednesday
Seminar with interior designer Elizabeth MacPherson. NeoCon West; MMP; LA Convention Center; 10:30-11:30AM; res. req. 312.527.4141.

5, Wednesday
Ray C. Anderson Lecture.
Interface chairman and founder discusses sustainable development in design. NeoCon West, MMP; LA Convention Center; 11:30AM-12:30PM; res. req. 312.527.4141.

5, Wednesday
Up Viet Art.
Architectural tour highlighting projects that ushered in the glamour of LA's past. NeoCon West; MMP; LA Convention Center; 1-4PM; res. req. 312.527.4141.

5, Wednesday
Morality and the Movies.
Architecture tour of the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels and LA Center Studios. NeoCon West; MMP; LA Convention Center; 2-9PM; res. req. 312.527.4141.

5, Wednesday
Michael Webb.
Lecture with the architecture critic and author. California State University, Long Beach, University Art Museum, 5-7PM; $1-3; 562.985.5761. csulb.edu/aurm.

5, Wednesday
Democracy and Design: Public Architecture in LA.
Lecture with Urban Partners principal Dan Rosenfeld. LA; 7:00PM. 213.613.2000. sciarcedu.

5, Thursday
Design for Businesses.
Presentation by interior designer Jordan Mozart. NeoCon West; MMP; LA Convention Center; 10:30-11:30AM; res. req. 312.527.4141.

6, Thursday
Renovation and Reuse.
Architecture tour of adaptive reuse projects in downtown LA. NeoCon West; MMP; LA Convention Center; 1-4PM; res. req. 312.527.4141.

6, Thursday
Leaders' Forum on Green Design.
Seminar: with four leading green design professionals. NeoCon West; MMP; LA Convention Center; 3:30-4:30PM; res. req. 312.527.4141.

6, Thursday
Interpreting Anthropogeomorphology.
Lecture with Center for Land Use Interpretation director Matthew Coolidge. UCLA Architecture, Urban Design, and Art; Hammer Museum, LA; 7PM. 310.825.7857. aud.ucla.edu.

7, Friday
Preview Gala.

7-9, Friday-Sunday
Arts & Crafts Weekend.

8, Saturday

8, Saturday
Inside the Bungalow.

9, Saturday
The Moveable Music Feast: Rebel, Curtis Streetman.
CMHS at the Second Church of Christ, Scientist (Alfred P. Rosenheim, 1910). The Da Camera Society; lecture-2:15PM, concert-3PM; $30-35; res. req. 213.477.2929.

9, Saturday
The Moveable Music Feast: Rebel, Curtis Streetman.
CMHS at the Second Church of Christ, Scientist (Alfred P. Rosenheim, 1910). The Da Camera Society; lecture-2:15PM, concert-3PM; $30-35; res. req. 213.477.2929.

10, Monday
Propellor Z.
Lecture by Austrian-based design collective. UCLA Department of Architecture and Urban Design; 1302 Perillo Hall, LA; 6:30PM. 310.825.7857. aud.ucla.edu.

10-12, Monday-Wednesday
Stewardship of Historic House Museums and Collections.
Seminar on managing historic collections with Leni Preston and Brian Ramer. National Preservation Institute; San Simone; 9AM-5PM; $410; res. req. 703.765.0100. npi.org.

13, Thursday
Masters of Architecture.
Lecture by Barton Myers, FAIA, sponsored by AIA/LA and LACMA. Los Angeles County Museum of Art, 900 Wilshire Blvd., LA; 6:30PM; $5-12; res. req. 323.957.6010.

13, Thursday
John Stamos Photography.
Slide lecture with photographer of landmark buildings during construction. AIA San Diego Chapter and MOCA San Diego; MOCA San Diego, 700 Prospect St., La Jolla; 7PM. 858.454.3541. mosad.org.

15 and 16, Saturday and Sunday
Modern Times.
Show and sale featuring Art Deco, 1920s, Moderne and 20th-century design. Glendale Civic Auditorium, 1401 N. Verdugo Rd, Glendale; 11AM-6PM; $6. 310.455.2894. modernmesta.com.

16, Saturday
Gil Garcetti's Iron.
Booksigning with author and photographer. West LA; 2-4PM; res. req. 800.654.0033. See Page 3 for details.

16, Saturday
The Moveable Music Feast: Rebel, Curtis Streetman.
CMHS at the Second Church of Christ, Scientist (Alfred P. Rosenheim, 1910). The Da Camera Society; lecture-2:15PM, concert-3PM; $30-35; res. req. 213.477.2929.

19, Wednesday
An Architecture of People Not Machines.
Lecture with Phoenix-based architect Will Bruder. SCI-Arc, 960 East Third St., LA; 7PM. 213.613.2200. sciarcedu.

20, Thursday
Issues in Conservation.
Lecture about conservation issues in China by architect Donald Hankey. The Getty Center, 1200 Getty Center Dr., LA; res. req. 310.446.7300. getty.edu.
21. Friday
Dohnr-Schalmei Series: Belcina Quartet.
CMHS at the Doheny Mansion (Hunt and Eisen, 1899).
The Da Camera Society; lecture-7:45PM, concert-8PM.
213.477.2929.

22, Saturday
Public Musical Tour of LA.
Day-long bus tour led by WPA expert and designer Deiville Clarke.
San Diego Museum of Art, 1450 El Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego; $45-55;
res. req. 818.696.1802.

23, Sunday
Roy McEmin.
Discussion with artist and designer Roy McEmin.
MCA at the Pacific Design Center, 8667 Melrose Ave.,
West Hollywood; 3PM.
213.626.6222. moca.org.

25-26, Tuesday-Wednesday
Identification and Management of Traditional Cultural Places.
Seminar on government policies with Thomas F. King, National Preserveion Institute;
Sacramento; 10AM-4PM; res. req. 510.748.0796.

27, Thursday
A.W. Smith: Architect.
Lecture by Oakland Heritage Alliance member Betty Marvin.
The Alameda Museum, 2324 Alameda Ave.,
Alameda; 7PM.$5. 510.760.0796.

28, Friday
Dohnr Soiree.
Quartet DI Venezia.
CMHS at the Doheny Mansion (Hunt and Eisen, 1899).
The Da Camera Society, 8PM.
213.477.2929.

29, Saturday
Marmal Radziner + Associates Tour.
Day-long tour of the firm's LA area projects led by the principal architects.
California State University, Long Beach. 562.985.5761. csulb.edu/uam.

30, Sunday
Masterpieces of Mediterranean Style.
Guided tour of private homes and gardens.
Pasadena Heritage, 605 S. Irving Blvd.,
Pasadena; 10AM-4PM; res. req. 888.842.2442.

2, Wednesday
Sulen Kolanian and William J. Mac Donald.
Lecture with the principals of New York-based architecture firm
Kolanian/Mac Donald Studio.
SCI-Arc; 960 East Third St., LA; 7:00PM.
213.613.2200. sciarc.edu.

4-6, Friday-Sunday
Lee Miller: The Angel and the Fiend.
Dramatized reading about the artist presented by the Chance Theatre Company. The Getty Center, 1200 Getty Center Dr., LA; 3PM and 8PM.
res. req. 310.440.7300. getty.edu.

5, Saturday
Doheny Mansion.
Mount St. Mary's College, 10 Chester Pl., LA; 9AM-12PM.$25;
res. req. 213.477.2768.

6, Sunday
At Home With History.
Self-driving neighborhood and house tour exploring LA's historic preservation overlay zones.
LA Conservancy and the HPZ Alliance; 10AM-4PM; $25-30.
213.400.4219. laconservancy.org.

8, Tuesday
Lecture with author Bruce Smith.
Friends of the Gamble House, 4 Westmoreland Pl., Pasadena; 7:30PM.
$10-15, res. req. 626.793.3334.
gamblehouse.usc.edu.

9, Wednesday
Chris Burden.
Lecture with LA-based artist Chris Burden.
SCI-Arc; 960 East Third St., LA; 7:00PM.
213.613.2200. sciarc.edu.

13, Sunday
The Moveable Music Feast: Dorowany Akademia.
CMHS at St. Sophia Cathedral (G. Kalonizes, C. Klingerman, A. Walker, and W.F. Chavalas, 1948).
The Da Camera Society, 4PM; $31-38;
res. req. 213.477.2929.

15, Tuesday
Downtown and the Emerging City of LA.
Lecture with author D.J. Wildiche.
The Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens, 1315 Oxford Rd., San Marino; 7:30PM.
626.405.7100. huntington.org.

16, Wednesday
Martha Schwartz.
Lecture Cambridge-based landscape architect Martha Schwartz.
SCI-Arc; 960 East Third St., LA; 7:00PM.
213.613.2200. sciarc.edu.

21, Monday
Craig Hodgetts.
Lecture with Hodgetts + Fung principal Craig Hodgetts.
UCLA Department of Architecture and Urban Design, 1302 Perrioff Hall, LA; 6:30PM.
310.207.7857. aucl.edu.

24, Thursday
Red Tile Style.
Lecture and slide presentation by architect and syndicated columnist Amol Golfer.
The Alameda Museum, 2324 Alameda Ave., Alameda; 7PM.$5. 510.748.0796.

24-27, Thursday-Sunday
California Preservation Conference.
Statewide conference. California Preservation Foundation and Pearl Chase Society; Santa Barbara.
At Home With History.
LA Conservancy; Peace Awareness Labyrinth and Gardens at the Guasti Villa; 3500 West Adams, LA; 2-6PM.
5. Saturday
Shelter Under the Sun.
Day-long guided tour of Palm Springs residences.
Res. req. 800.9SAHSSC. For Page 1 details.
Raphael Soriano: Man of Steel
SAH/SCC Tour
Saturday, May 17th

Please join the SAH/SCC and Executive Board Member Sian Winship to explore the architectural legacy of Raphael Soriano. On this residential home tour, we will visit the work of the architect dubbed "a romantic technologist" in Esther McCoy's book The Second Generation. Tickets for this all-day event are $65 for SAH/SCC members and $75 for non-members. The price includes coach transportation and a box lunch. Capacity is limited and orders will be processed on a first-come, first-served basis. See back page for order form. For additional information, please contact info@sahscc.org.

The day-long coach tour will explore Soriano's fascination with Post-War technologies and materials, and their effects on his architecture. A former apprentice of Richard Neutra and a Case Study architect in his own right, Soriano developed an extensive body of work spanning three decades (1936-1965). This event will provide a rare opportunity to tour several extant residential works around Los Angeles and to discuss the houses with both scholars and Soriano's contemporaries.

Tour-goers will be joined by Wolfgang Wegener, author of the recently published monograph Raphael Soriano (Phaidon, 2002), who will share his insights on Soriano's full body of work and discuss the architect's pioneering contributions to mid-century modernization. Hilde Marshall, close friend and personal assistant to Soriano, will also be on hand to share her memories of the man and his work.

Several homes will be on the tour, including the Lipetz Residence (1936), Strauss Residence (1941), Ebert Residence (1942), Krause Residence (1949-51), and Schrage Residence (1952). Visits to additional residences may also be included on the tour.

Throughout his career, Soriano studied technological advances in materials and explored their potential contributions to the built environment. Post-World War II, these explorations came to fruition as he began developing an optimal steel-structural system for residential use. Steel as a structural component offers architects the ability to construct longer spans and thinner floor plates, giving them the opportunity to create more flexible floor plans. In addition to his pioneering use of steel, Soriano developed new uses for many modern materials, including aluminum, plywood, and plastic laminates.

Differentiated from contemporaries Gregory Ain and Harwell Hamilton Harris, Soriano was noted as "the strongest modern purist—the one who worked most faithfully within the stylistic confines of the International Style," according to David Gebhard and Harriette Von Breunin in their book Los Angeles in the Thirties.

Widely hailed by his contemporaries, Soriano's work was included in several national and international architecture exhibitions. The Lipetz Residence (1936) was chosen as one of three buildings to be presented in the American Pavilion at the Paris Exposition in 1937. Over his lifetime, Soriano received three national AIA awards, and seven AIA awards from local chapters.

Gil Garcetti: Man of Iron
SAH/SCC Booksigning
Sunday, March 16th

Gil Garcetti is best known to Angelenos as District Attorney from 1992 to 2000, but his new book Iron: Erecting the Walt Disney Concert Hall (Balcony Press) is something else completely. It's a collection of photographs of the 130 ironworkers who, using tools as ancient as hammers and as sophisticated as lasers, erected the framework for the Frank O. Gehry-designed Walt Disney Concert Hall in Downtown Los Angeles.

Garcetti will expound on his experiences documenting the complicated construction process and sign copies of his new book for SAH/SCC members on March 16th, at 2-4PM. The event will take place at a private home in West LA. There is no charge for members but reservations are required, and will be taken only by calling 800.9SAHSCC. (A limited number of spaces for non-members will be available for $10—a good time to join.)

Garcetti, an SAH/SCC life member, had unparalleled access to the construction site, allowing him to develop personal relationships with the workers over the course of several months. Praised by legendary architectural photographer Julius Shulman and by Gehry himself, the book is a paean to the usually unsung contributions of those who help turn an architect's vision into reality, as well as a chronicle of the creation of a future landmark. Books will be available for purchase at a discount at the signing. The location will be disclosed upon confirmation of your reservation.