The SAH/SCC has organized an architectural tour celebrating the architectural legacy of Rodney Walker, featuring five of his later designs, all in the Ojai Valley. Much has already been written about Walker’s Case Study houses and his pioneering architecture in the Los Angeles area; this event will showcase his later residential work, designed during the years he lived in Ojai.

Walker’s Homes in Ojai will be an exciting one-day tour to be held on Saturday, May 22nd. This exclusive house tour is $55 for members; $70 for non-members, and will include lunch. Space is limited to the first 40 paid reservations; see form on the back page. If you have any questions or would like additional information, please call tour organizer, SAH/SCC Board Member John Berley at 310.587.1577.

Our intent is to open a dialogue about Walker’s structural expressiveness, spatial ideas, use of materials, and constant search for economy. As with all of our tours, we will provide our members the unique opportunity to experience the spaces firsthand, something we believe is essential to cultivating a deeper and more meaningful understanding of the work.


“Throughout his architectural career, Rodney Walker remained true to the goals of experimenting with new cost-saving materials in aesthetically innovative, modern structures. He was an architect who entered fully into the building process, not only designing and supervising, but actually participating in the construction of most of his buildings with his workmen.

“Walker insisted on calling himself a ‘designer’ rather than an architect (even after the AIA offered to confer this latter title on him without the fulfillment of the usual requirements) because he refused to give up the building process that he felt was crucial to the perfection of the final architectural product.”

Walker’s eldest son Bruce put it this way, "I think he was one of the few Case Study designers who really tried to take the program’s objectives seriously. His places were usually artistic in a practical way rather than exotic for its own sake. He latched on to excellent products like Weldwood, Weldtex, and Novoply from U.S. Plywood and used them to excellent advantage. He did a lot of his own structural engineering and kept a Marks Handbook on his desk. He would then take the plans to a PE (engineer) to have them signed off." Additionally, Bruce’s brother (and SAH/SCC Board Member) Craig remembers, “My father liked to explore novel structural details and material usage, which often triggered heated debates at the Building Department!”

On the day of the event, tour goers will be asked to drive to a staging area in Ojai where we will start the day at 10AM with a brief slide presentation that will set the stage for and provide context about the work. Afterward, shuttle busses will take participants to the various houses and return to the event staging area by 5PM.

Come join us for a comprehensive regional study of the work of architect Rodney Walker and spend the afternoon experiencing springtime in the delightful Ojai valley.
After great anticipation, I finally found the time to enjoy "My Architect: A Son's Journey," the film about Louis Kahn, which has been nominated for an Academy Award in the category of Best Documentary Feature (at press time, "Journey" the film about Louis Kahn, which has been nominated for an Academy Award in the category of Best Documentary Feature).

As you surely know, it is more than a simple documentary about the architect; it is an intensely personal process of discovery by Kahn's son Nathaniel, who knew his father only fleetingly. When Kahn died at New York's Penn Station in 1974, Nathaniel was only 11 years old.

Moreover, Nathaniel rarely saw his father because the architect secretly harbored three families while maintaining a grueling work schedule and frequent international travel. Kahn visited Nathaniel and his mother just once a week, often arriving after dark and stealing away before dawn.

Of course the built-in dramatic tension is enormous: Kahn, whom we know as a philosopher, an idealist, and a perfectionist, somehow managed to lead a messy personal life of entanglements and deceits.

During the course of the film, Nathaniel assembles the full dimension of his father's character from fragments: pictures, film clips, family members, colleagues, cab drivers. (Kahn never drove, and he was compulsively social, so he obtained a special license from the city of Philadelphia to ride in the front seat of taxicabs, in order to talk with the drivers.)

Interviews with family members and colleagues are quite naturally full of sentiment. It is a testament to Kahn's personal charm and the power of his vision that his employees, who were sometimes treated quite poorly, adored him. Three decades after his death, the women he betrayed remain curiously reverent and perhaps even moonstruck. In a heart-wrenching moment, Nathaniel and his two half-sisters nervously discuss whether they are, in fact, a family.

But the film's unique strength is that the buildings share center stage. Nathaniel, quite bravely, decides to pull out the information that understanding a (private) behavior of his father should be balanced by an understanding of his (public) architectural ideas. And so we are treated to a tour of his most important works, an illustrated primer, seen through the eyes of the abandoned child.

Though educated in art history at Yale, Nathaniel takes an innovative approach to these buildings; he is searching. And surprising truths emerge. The workers at the Richards Medical Laboratories, for example, find their figures all over the central plaza as if he is reliving a lost childhood, or taking a haunting sequence.

But perhaps the most moving passages were filmed in Bangladesh, where Kahn designed the nation's capital building shortly before his death. In the poor Asian country, Nathaniel finds ordinary workers whose lives are clearly enriched by his father's work; upon discovering they are speaking with the architect's son, they instantly become animated with joy. After a week, often arriving after dark and stealing away before dawn. (At press time, "Journey" the film about Louis Kahn, which has been nominated for an Academy Award in the category of Best Documentary Feature).

The middle-aged Nathaniel, with rollerblades, skates around the city of Dhaka, often arriving after dark and stealing away before dawn. (At press time, "Journey" the film about Louis Kahn, which has been nominated for an Academy Award in the category of Best Documentary Feature).

The middle-aged Nathaniel, with rollerblades, skates around the city of Dhaka, often arriving after dark and stealing away before dawn. (At press time, "Journey" the film about Louis Kahn, which has been nominated for an Academy Award in the category of Best Documentary Feature).
1, Monday
Real Estate 2004
Real estate conference with Trammell Crow Company CEO Robert Solentic and Morgan Stanley managing director Owen Thomas as keynote speakers.
Real Estate Conference Group; Century Plaza Hotel, 2025 Avenue of the Stars, LA; 7AM-6:30PM; $295-335; res. req. 310.271.1276; realestateforumbook.com.

1, Monday
The Aging Eye.
Program on lighting and the design environment. Designers Lighting Forum; 6PM; 310.535.0105; designlightingforum.org.

6, Saturday
Hidden in Plain Sight: LA History Through the Built Environment. Conference examining LA history through its buildings. Historical Society of Southern California; Autry National Center, 4700 Western Heritage Way, LA; 8:30AM-5PM; $25-45; res. req. 323.222.5954; socialhistory.org.

6, Saturday
Reque Walking Tour.

6, Saturday
Bungalow Court Tour.

6, Saturday
Tapestry Through the Ages.
Class on tapestries with art historian and education specialist Constantin Androutsou. UCLA Extension, 1010 Westwood Center, Westwood; 9AM-4PM; $70-85; res. req. 310.825.9971. uclaextension.org.

6, Saturday
The Bungalow Court.
Lecture with period-style interior designer and author Paul Dachslinger. SOHO Craftsman-Spanish Revival Weekend, San Diego; 2PM-2:45PM; $5-10; res. req. 619.297.7511.

6, Saturday
The Wider Impact of Spanish Revival Architecture.
Lecture on San Diego architecture's early suburban neighborhood of Miramar, Hillcrest, and La Jolla. SOHO Craftsman-Spanish Revival Weekend; 8PM-9PM; $30-45; res. req. 619.297.7511. sohosandiego.org.

6, Saturday
Crafternoon.
Lecture on bungalow bathroom design and renovation with author and House Dressing principal Jane Powell. SOHO Craftsman-Spanish Revival Weekend, San Diego; 4PM-4:45PM; $5-10; res. req. 619.297.7511.

6, Saturday
bamboo style.

18, Thursday
The Moveable Musical Feast: Brettano String Quartet.
DMH at Southwestern University Law/Bullocks Wilshire (John and Donald Parkinson, 1929). The Da Camera Society; Los Angeles; lecture-7:15PM, concert-8PM; $39-42; res. req. 213.477.2929; dacamera.com.

18-21, Thursday-Sunday
Stories From the Source: Design Excursions Out of the Ordinary.
Conference on the cross-disciplinary process of invention with keynote speaker and 1975 Nobel Prize winner David Baltimore, and leading design professionals. Art Center College of Design, 950 S. Raymond Ave., Pasadena; $570-1,000; res. req. 626.396.4229; artcenter.edu/designconference.

20, Saturday
William Morris Festival.
Celebration of the arts and crafts of William Morris with demonstrations by local artisans. The Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens, 1151 Oxford Rd, San Marino; 10:30AM-4:30PM; $5-12.50; 626.405.2100; huntington.org.

20-21, Saturday-Sunday
Modern Times.
Show and sale with furniture and accessories in Art Deco, '50s, and Moderner styles. Glendale Civic Auditorium, 1401 N. Verdugo Rd, Glendale: 11AM-6PM Sat.; 11AM-4PM Sun.; $1-3; 310.455.2994; modernismillesa.com.

21, Sunday
William Morris:

22-24, Monday-Wednesday
Understanding and Preserving Historic Buildings.
Seminar examining the effects of major and minor maintenance on historic buildings with architectural conservator Alfonso A. Narvaez. National Preservation Institute, San Simon; 9AM-5PM; $525; res. req. 703.785.0100; npi.org.
24, Wednesday
Examining the Museum’s Role. Conversation with SCI-Arc Faculty
SCAI: Art Kappe Library, 660 East Third St., LA; 7:00PM. 213.613.2200.
sciar.edu.

24-25, Wednesday-Thursday
Westweek 2004: LA Style
Speakers, programs, and exhibitions at PDC celebrate the future of design.
Pacific Design Center, 8888 Melrose Ave., West Hollywood; 9AM-6PM. res. req. 310.360.6419.
pacificdesigncenter.com.

25, Thursday
Housing, Housing, Housing!
Tour of three new housing properties in Downtown LA. Downtown Center
Business Improvement District; NeoCon West; LA Mart, 1933 S. Broadway, LA; 12PM; 800.677.6278.
merchandisemart.com.

25, Thursday
Downtown Revitalized: LA’s Hope for the Future.
Tour highlighting the revitalization of Downtown LA, including the Disney Concert Hall, Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels, and other developments along Grand Avenue.
LA Architects; NeoCon West; LA Mart, 1933 S. Broadway, LA; 1:30-3:30PM; $40; res. req. 800.677.6278. merchandisemart.com.

25-26, Thursday-Friday
NeoCon West.
Exposition and conference for commercial interiors and the built environment.
NeoCon West; LA Mart, 1933 S. Broadway, LA; 10AM-PM Fri; 10AM-5PM Sat; 800.677.6278. merchandisemart.com.

25-28, Thursday-Sunday
CA Boom: A Festival of Contemporary Residential Design.
Exhibition featuring the work of LA furniture manufacturers, designers, architects, and interior designers.
CA Boom; Santa Monica Civic Center, 1955 Main St., Santa Monica; 310.366.6677. caboomfest.com.

26, Friday
Architecture of the Belle Epoch.
Lecture with architect Marc Tascaus.

26, Friday
The Architecture of Brands.
Lecture on how companies are using buildings as a marketing resource.
Corporate Design Foundation. President chairman Peter Lawrence. NeoCon West; LA Mart, Outdoor Pavilion, 1933 S. Broadway, LA; 1PM; 800.677.6278. merchandisemart.com.

26, Friday
Oviatt Penthouse Sorens and Downtown Discovery.
Four downtown tours, followed by a party in the Art Deco penthouse of the Oviatt Building. ASID and the Los Angeles Conservancy; NeoCon West; 5PM-6PM; res. req. 800.677.6278.
asida.org.

26, Friday
Downtown Tours, followed by a merchant.com.
Mart, Outdoor Pavilion, 1933 S. Peter Lawrence. NeoCon West; LA 26, Friday
Broadway, LA; 12PM; 800.677.6278.
merchandisemart.com.

27, Saturday
Porcelain Through the Ages.
Lecture tracing the historic use of porcelain by Far East and European potters with an art historian and education specialist Constantin Androuucu.
UCLA Extension, 1010 Westwood Center, Westwood; 9AM-4PM; $70-85; res. req. 310.825.9971. uclaextension.org.

27, Thursday
Los Angeles Metro Art Tour.
Tour of the Metro Red Line and its stations with members of the Metro Art Discret Council. American Society of Interior Designers; NeoCon West; 10AM-2PM; $40; res. req. 800.677.6278. asida.org.

27, Thursday
Pasadena: Then and Now.
Walking tour of the historic Arroyo Terrace neighborhood, South Campus of the Art Center, and Pasadena Museum of California Art. Architectures; NeoCon West; 10AM-4PM; $75; res. req. 323.294.0621. architect.com.

1, Thursday
Inaki Abalos.

5, Monday
Oliver Lang.
Lecture with University of British Columbia assistant professor of architecture and UAPAC principal. Oliver Lang. SCI-Arc, 960 East Third St., LA; 7:00PM. 213.613.2200. sciar.edu.

7, Wednesday
Josep Lluis Mateo.
Lecture with chair of architecture and design for the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology, Zurich. Josep Lluis Mateo. SCI-Arc, 960 East Third St., LA; 7:00PM. 213.613.2200. sciar.edu.

8, Sunday
The Moveable Musical Feast: East Meets West.
CMHS at Silver Lake Society of Ancient Arts. The Da Camera Society; Los Angeles; 4PM; $30-39; res. req. 310.440.7300. getty.edu.

12, Monday
Beyond the Bulb.

12, Monday
Michael Horsham.

18, Sunday
At Home With History.
Self-driving tour of five Los Angeles Historic Preservation Overlay Zones, including one house in each zone. Los Angeles Conservancy and HPD Alliance; 10AM-4PM; $25-30; res. req. 213.430.4219. lacconservancy.org.

18, Sunday
Eclectic LA: Our Polices.
Lecture on LA politics with councilman Tom LaBonge. The Los Angeles City Historical Society; Central Library. Taper Auditorium, 630 West Fifth Street, LA. 213.220.7000. lap.org.

24, Saturday
The Neon Cruise.

25, Sunday
Art and Architecture Tour. Tour of Contemporary, Mediterranean, and Italianate homes in Brentwood and West LA. LACMA, 5905 Wilshire Blvd., LA; 10AM-4:30PM; $125; res. req. 323.857.6278. lacma.org.

25, Sunday
The Moveable Musical Feast: Violin and Piano.
CMHS at Sadowsky House (Margaret Griffin, 2001). The Da Camera Society; Pacific Palisades; 7PM and 3:30PM; $88; res. req. 213.477.2929. dacamera.org.

15, Thursday
The Preservation Follies: Inventing the Near Distant Past.
Critique of the historic preservation movement with architecture critic and historian Ada Louise Huxtable. The Getty Center, 1260 Getty Center Dr., LA; 7PM; res. req. 310.440.7300. getty.edu.

28, May-L, Wednesday-Saturday
California Preservation Conference: Building Bridges.
Educational sessions on architecture, cultural landscapes, law and planning, and heritage tourism. California Preservation Foundation; Presidio of San Francisco and Golden Gate National Recreation Area, San Francisco; $200-250; res. req. 415.495.0349. californiapreservation.org.

30, Friday
Dohrey Soares; San Andreas Players.
CMHS at the Doheny Mansion (Hunt and Eisen, 1899). The Da Camera Society. Lecture-7:45PM, concert-6PM; $56-79; res. req. 213.477.2929. dacamera.org.
Palm Springs Weekend

SAH/SCC Tour Saturday, April 3rd, 10AM

It's time to venture to the desert again! Join us for SAH/SCC's third tour of residential architecture in Palm Springs, scheduled for Saturday, April 3rd, starting at 10AM. Cost per person is $150 for members; $165 for non-members. This day-long tour traditionally fills up fast, so send in the form on the back page to reserve your spot.

Organized by SAH/SCC Board Member and former Chairman of the City of Palm Springs Historic Site Preservation Board Hal Meltzer, the day promises to be one of fun in the sun along with truly inspired and inspiring architecture. Most of the homes have not been included on our previous tours for those of you have participated before. On this year's impressive list of residences welcoming our small group are examples by such varied architects as William Cody, Stewart Williams, Don Wexler, Buff & Hensman, and John Lautner. There's also a stunning example of a fairway home at Canyon Country Club, as well as a rare example of the work of Grenzbach and Associates in Thunderbird Cove.

The tour will be broken up midday by a relaxing three-course gourmet luncheon on the patio at LeValluris, itself an historic site. Tour price includes morning coffee, tour, bus transportation within Palm Springs, as well as the luncheon. A packet of souvenir postcards of various Palm Springs homes will also be included for tour goers. Transportation to Palm Springs is not included. Details of meeting point will be forthcoming upon confirmed participation.

So please take this opportunity to see some very impressive homes that are rarely open for public viewing, and enjoy this wonderful day with the SAH/SCC in Palm Springs!

THE SEA RANCH

The Sea Ranch

Donlyn Lyndon and Jim Alinder

The first photos in this grand, pictorial book are of the shore and out to the sea—perfect views of the Pacific, and exactly what one savors at The Sea Ranch. They immediately put you there if you've never been, and bring you right back if you've been lucky enough to experience this special speck of the planet. Texts by Lyndon, Donald Canty, and original planner Lawrence Halprin delve into the history of The Sea Ranch, from its founding vision in the 1960s, through some controversial times, to the example of harmonious planning that it continues to be today. Charles Moore, William Turnbull, Lawrence Halprin, and Joseph Esherick are synonymous with The Sea Ranch, and are beautifully represented here. Some 50 structures are described in text and original plan sketches, early photos, and recent color and black-and-white photos by Alinder. The buildings date mostly from the mid '60s to the mid '90s, with the last project a 2001 rebuilding of Halprin's own home (after the original one perished in fire) designed by Moore Ruble Yudell, bringing The Sea Ranch story full circle.

LA's Early Moderns:

LA's Early Moderns: Art/Architecture/Photography

by Victoria Dailey, Natalie Shivers, and Michael Dawson.

This is an impressively presented book that finally puts an end to anyone's East Coast or Parisian insecurities so far as LA's Modernist cred is concerned. We've got it. We've earned it. Read it here. In three distinct sections (whose spirits are obviously related), LA's Early Moderns looks at the conditions that shaped the worlds of art, architecture, and photography in the early 20th century. The architecture section is by Natalie Shivers, an architect and architectural historian who directs campus planning at UCLA. The section is an excellent primer on the context, the history, and personalities that produced the residential (and for a welcomed addition, the commercial) architecture we've come to appreciate.

The emphasis on personality throughout the essays is noted as particularly apt for Los Angeles, the land where personalities are created and re-created.

SAH/SCC never gives e-mail information to a third party.

Palm Springs Weekend: April 3rd
— member ticket(s) at $150 each $—
— non-member ticket(s) at $165 each $—

Walker’s Homes in Ojai: May 22nd
— member ticket(s) at $55 each $—
— non-member ticket(s) at $70 each $—

SAH/SCC Event:

Palm Springs Weekend - April 3rd
Member prices for SAH/SCC events
Free Members Celebration

Membership Categories:

$35 Member (individual - $15 additional name, same address as member)
$20 Student (with copy of current I.D.)
$100 Patron (up to 2 names at same address)
$500 Life Member (one time contribution)
$750 Friend of SAH/SCC (one time contribution, one name)
$1500 Corporate Sponsor (annual contribution; call 800.9SAHSCC for specific sponsorship opportunities)

SAH/SCC Membership:

Subscription to bi-monthly SAH/SCC News
Member prices for SAH/SCC events
Free Members Celebration

Membership Benefits:

Free Members Celebration

Send to: SAH/SCC, P.O. Box 56478 Sherman Oaks, CA 91413

CENTRAL LOS ANGELES AREA NEW LEARNING CENTER NO. 1
REQUEST FOR LETTERS OF INTEREST

The Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) will be requesting letters of interest from individuals or entities desiring to relocate and preserve the six freestanding bungalows located on the former Ambassador Hotel site. These bungalows have potential for adaptive preservation and the LAUSD hopes that an appropriate relocation site and use can be identified. Interested entities will be required to submit information regarding the individual or organization requesting the bungalows, information on the moving company, and be prepared to relocate the bungalows according to the standards outlined in John Obed Curtis’ Moving Historic Buildings and the Secretary of the Interior’s Standard for the Treatment of Historic Properties.

The Letters of Interest must be addressed and submitted to the Los Angeles Unified School District, Special Projects Division, 355 S. Grand Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90071, attention Mr. Keith Packey, kpackey@laschool.org.