

NEWS

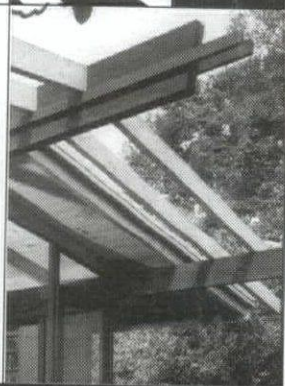
2004
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Photo: Julius Shulman

P.O. Box 56478, Sherman Oaks, CA 91413, 800.9SAHSCC, www.sahscc.org

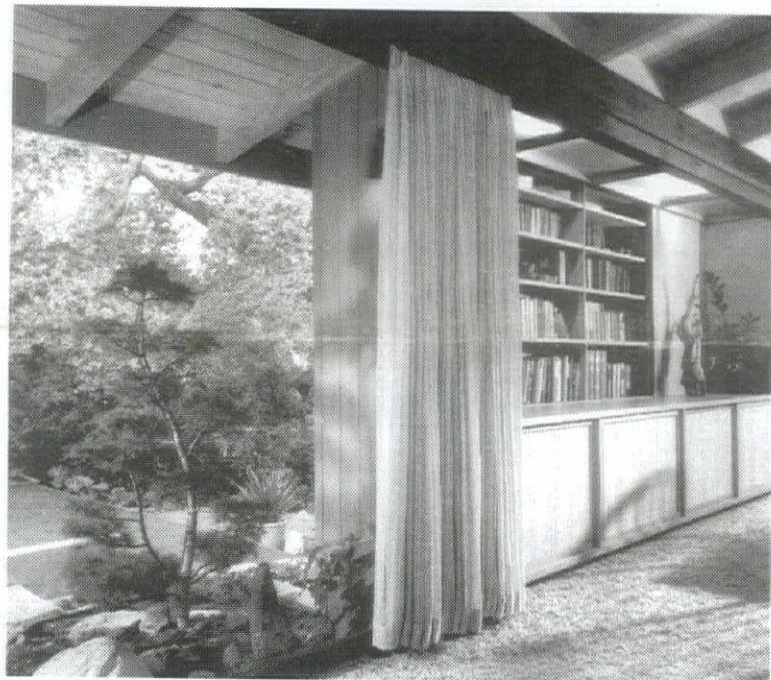
Modern Patrons: Straub in San Marino

SAH/SCC Lecture and Tour:
Saturday, June 12th

Saturday, June 12th, from 2PM to 4PM, the Modern Patrons Program will investigate the work of Case Study House architect Calvin Straub and the 1954 house he designed in San Marino for Mr. & Mrs. George Brandow. The event is \$10 and open to Life- and Patron-level members of SAH/SCC (the program will be open to the general membership in the event there is space available—a waiting list will be created). Reservations are required, as space is limited. Please see order form on back page.

In the book *Modernism Rediscovered* by Pierluigi Serraino and Julius Shulman (Taschen, 2000), the house is described: "as part of an old San Marino estate filled with trees and large plants that were preserved in the project. The relationship between the house and the garden is pivotal in the architecture. Following a pinwheel scheme, four wings extend out into the landscape from a central core, maximizing the exposure of each room to the surrounding garden. The kitchen is in the center of the house. Access to the 2,800-square-foot house is from the garden, without a formal entry hall. Living, dining and family rooms occupy two wings, while the remaining two accommodate the sleeping section for the owners and their children. Extensive glass walls afford garden vistas throughout. Paving around the house perimeter provides each room with an outdoor extension. The living room is reminiscent of the California ranch houses designed by Cliff May, the slab floor paved with river washed pebbles and the structural skeleton of the roof stretch out beyond the glass line to mediate the transition between the interior and the adjacent landscape."

Calvin C. Straub was born in 1920 in Macon, Georgia, and studied at Texas A&M and Pasadena City College before receiving his degree in architecture at the University of Southern California in 1945. After serving in the Navy, Straub lectured at USC from 1946 to 1961. From then until 1988 he held a professorship of design at Arizona State University in Tempe. He worked for the firm of A.B. Gallion before entering into a partnership with Conrad Buff and Donald Hensman (1956-61), and was a member of Schoneburger, Straub, Florence & Associates (1972-75). He also ran his own office in Arizona. Together with Buff and Hensman, Straub designed Case Study House #20 (1958), and the Bass House in Altadena (1958). He also built the



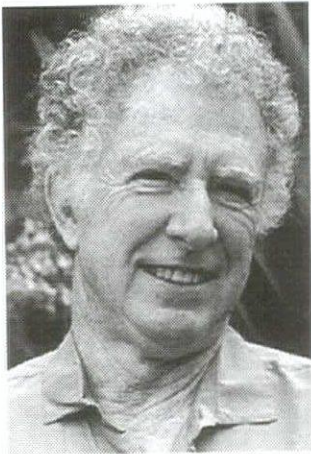
Calvin Straub Brandow Residence, 1954
Photo: Julius Shulman

Lawry Foods Administrative Center in Los Angeles (1960) and the Frank Hall Student Dining Facilities at Pomona College (1982). Straub was elected Fellow of the American Institute of Architects in 1969. Apart from his work as an architect and lecturer, he also published *Design Process and Communications* (1978) and *The Man-Made Environment: An Introduction to World Architecture and Design* (1983). He retired in 1988 and passed away in 1998.

Our afternoon at the Brandow residence will be an opportunity to experience the house, learn a great deal more about Calvin Straub firsthand, and share the perspective of the owner who commissioned the architect.

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Our community lost one of its giants in April when Pierre Koenig, one of the few surviving Case Study architects, died of leukemia at the age of 78.

He was an innovator, particularly in steel construction. Having trained at USC and in the office of Raphael Soriano, Koenig came to love the material steel, and he remained convinced for the rest of his life that steel was the best material for residential construction. Could anyone, in more than 50 years of practice, convince Koenig otherwise? No. It was a matter of ideology.

In 1950, when he designed and built his first exposed-steel house, the material still carried with it the wartime aesthetic of tanks and guns. But here was Koenig's aesthetic genius: he took a brutal material, saw the simple beauty in the logic of its industrial application, and rendered it with such refinement and elegance. In Koenig's hands, steel became a luxury material.

Look, for example, at Case Study House #22. Look at Julius Shulman's photos. Forget the glamorous atmosphere, the furnishings, the young models. Look at the architecture. God is in the details, Mies van der Rohe said frequently. Koenig was listening. He designed the corrugated-steel roof deck in a custom shape deep enough to send it out eight feet into space without perimeter support. The underside of the roof deck is exposed as the ceilings of the interiors. This detail, so expressive, would seem like simplicity itself, but in fact is very difficult to accomplish because the insulation and the electrical wiring are normally contained in the ceiling. Visual simplicity often requires tremendous technical dexterity to achieve.

He was an innovator, too, in environmental controls. He used passive cooling and solar heating techniques to create energy efficient buildings—in the 1950s! These are issues barely entering the collective architectural consciousness in the 21st century. He had mastered the principles two generations ago.

In fact, a typical steel-and-glass box is about as environmentally inefficient as you can imagine. In glass skyscrapers, mechanical air conditioning runs all day long, even in winter. Workers draw the blinds to reduce glare, then turn on the overhead fluorescent lights to compensate. Koenig understood that steel-and-glass construction required special attention.

His steel houses were simple in terms of their shape, but they were not glass boxes. As in CSH #22, many included wide overhanging roofs in order to shade the interior from direct sunlight. CSH #22's sliding-glass walls can be opened to catch prevailing breezes, and those breezes move across the large swimming pool for additional cooling. Scientific studies recently conducted by Pablo La Roche at UCLA have confirmed what Buck and Carlotta Stahl—the clients—have known for more than 40 years: that the house is a remarkable work of environmental engineering. It has never had, or needed, mechanical air conditioning.

Similarly, Case Study House #21 was surrounded by reflecting pools, with "bridges" at every doorway. Again, water is at the heart of Koenig's innovative environmental control system. A circulation system pumps water up to the roof gutters, from where it falls back through the scuppers into the pools.

To look at Shulman's period photos of CSH #21 (some including Koenig and his wife Gloria) is to be reminded of the great romance of this period and its emphasis on "lifestyle" and leisure time. The way you are meant to sit at the breakfast table and admire the Chevrolet. Many of us know Koenig's work through these photos. However it is easy to be seduced by these images and to miss the larger and more significant point of Koenig's work: that he saw architecture as an instrument of social change and responsibility. Which makes him, simply, a great modernist.

(Donations may be made to the Pierre Koenig Endowment at USC School of Architecture, Watt Hall, Room 204, University Park, Los Angeles, CA 90089.)

Tony Denzer

Tour and Event Information: 1.800.9SAHSCC; info@sahscc.org

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

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April 28, 29, 30-May 1,
Wednesday-Saturday

California Preservation Conference.
Tours, lectures, and workshops on architecture, cultural landscapes, and heritage tourism with keynote speaker Heyday Books founder and publisher Malcom Margolin. California Preservation Foundation; Presidio of San Francisco and Golden Gate National Recreation Area, San Francisco; \$100-275; res. req. 415.495.0349. californiapreservation.org.

1, Saturday

A Day in Egypt.
Illustrated lecture on Egyptian architecture and arts with Orange Coast College art gallery director Irini Vallera-Rickerson, PhD. UCLA Extension; Westwood; 9AM-3PM; \$60-75; res. req. 310.825.9971. uclaextension.org.

1, Saturday

Village Walking Tour.
Tour of Claremont's downtown Village area, including historic Victorians, and college and commercial buildings. Claremont Heritage; 200 W. First St., Claremont; 10-11:45AM; \$5; res. req. 909.621.0848.

1, Saturday

Venice Garden Tour.
Self-guided walking tour of 25 gardens created by Venice gardeners and landscape professionals. Neighborhood Youth Association; Las Doradas Children's Center, 804 Broadway Ave., Venice; 10AM-5PM; \$50; res. req. 310.577.6668. venicegardentour.org.

1, Saturday

Old Ridge Route.
Van tour of the Ridge Route, Fort Tejon State Historical Park, and Pyramid Lake Visitors Center. Neighborhood Place Project; Covina; 10AM-8:30PM; \$28; res. req. 626.967.3332.

1, Saturday

Research: Architecture's Media, Messages, and Modes.
Conference examining how current design practices are creating new modes of scholarship. UCLA School of the Arts and Architecture; Decafe, Perloff Hall, LA; 11AM-6PM. 310.267.4704. aud.ucla.edu.

1, Saturday

Tangible Memories, Californians and Their Gardens 1850-1950.
Discussion and book signing with author Judith M. Taylor. Dawson's Book Shop, 535 N. Larchmont Blvd., LA; 2:30PM; res. req. 323.469.2186.

2, Sunday

The Moveable Musical Feast: Anonymous 4.
CMHS at Westminster Presbyterian Church (Marsten, Van Pelt and Mayberry, 1927-28). The Da Camera Society; Pasadena; lecture-3:15PM, concert-4PM; \$32-38; res. req. 213.477.2929. dacamera.org.

3, Monday

The Lesley Wheel Scholarship Competition.
Competition for the Lesley Wheel Scholarship. Designers Lighting Forum; 6PM. 310.535.0105. dlfla.org.

2004

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4, Tuesday

DnA: Design and Architecture.
Radio program for design and architecture in Los Angeles with Frances Anderton. 89.9 FM KCRW; 2:30-3PM. kcrw.com.

7, Friday

La Cañada Flintridge.
Self-driving tour of five homes in La Cañada Flintridge. 10AM-2PM, 4-8PM; \$30-35. 818.790.0419.

7, Friday

Inscribed Spaces: Defining Function in the Forbidden City.
Lecture with UCSB professor Patricia Berger. Santa Barbara Museum of Art, Santa Barbara; 5:30PM. 805.893.7564. uam.ucsb.edu.

7-9, Friday-Sunday

Los Angeles Modernism.
Convention celebrating modernism in Los Angeles with opening night gala benefit hosts Courteney Cox and David Arquette. Santa Monica Civic Auditorium, 1855 Main St., SM; 6-9PM Friday, 10AM-7PM Saturday, 11AM-5PM Sunday; \$10-60; res. req. 818.244.1126. lamodernism.com.

8, Saturday

Masters of California Architecture.
Lecture with art historian and SAH/SCC Lifetime Member Eleanor Schrader Schapa on the works of John Lautner, Wallace Neff, Richard Neutra, and Paul Williams. UCLA Extension; Westwood; 10AM-2PM; \$50-65; res. req. 310.825.9971. uclaextension.org.

8, Saturday

Home Tour.
Tour of prestigious Huntington Beach homes and lunch at the Huntington Beach Art Center. Huntington Beach Art Center, 538 Main St., Huntington Beach; 10AM-3PM; res. req. 714.374.1650.

8, Saturday

Sam Maloof Compound.
Tour of the transplanted historic home and museum of woodworker Sam Maloof. Neighborhood Place Project; Covina; 1:45-4:45PM; \$20; res. req. 626.967.3332.

8, Saturday

Old Pasadena Walking Tour.
Guided tour of Old Pasadena buildings. Pasadena Heritage; \$10; res. req. 626.441.6333. pasadenaheritage.org.

8, 22, Saturday

The Neon Cruise.
Guided tour of contemporary neon art in Los Angeles. Museum of Neon Art, 501 W. Olympic Blvd., LA; 7PM; \$35-45; res. req. 213.489.9918. neonmona.org.

9, Sunday

Berkeley 1890.
Tour of Berkeley's 19th-century Victorian houses. Berkeley Architectural Heritage Association; Berkeley. 510.841.2242. berkeleyheritage.com.

13, Thursday

Anniversary Gala.
Anniversary Gala for the Historical Society of Southern California with presentation of the Denise and Jack Smith Community Enrichment Awards. Historical Society of Southern California; City Club on Bunker Hill, 333 S. Grand Ave., LA; 6-9PM; \$75; res. req. 323.222.0546. socalhistory.org.

14, Friday

Decorative Arts From the Vatican.
Lecture on the history of liturgical and decorative arts with University of San Diego professor emerita Terry Whitcomb, Ph.D. San Diego Museum of Art, James S. Copley Auditorium, 1450 El Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego; 10AM; \$10. 619.696.1966. sdmart.org.

14, Friday

New Audubon Center.
Tour of green architecture at the Audubon Urban Center and the gardens of Eugene E. Debs Regional County Park. Neighborhood Place Project; 4700 Griffin Ave., Highland Park; 1:45-5PM; \$15; res. req. 626.967.3332.

15, Saturday

Monumental History: Photography and the Making of National Memory in India.
Symposium with "Traces of India: Photography, Architecture, and the Politics of Presentation" exhibition curator Antonella Pelizzari. Fowler Museum of Cultural History, UCLA, Westwood; 9AM-5PM. 310.825.4361.

15-16, Saturday-Sunday

Celebration Weekend.
Sunset's sprawling headquarters opens to the public with home and garden demos and tour of Glidehouse modular home. Sunset magazine, 80 Willow Rd., Menlo Park; 10AM-5PM; \$8-10. 800.786.7375. sunset.com/cw.

SAH/SCC EVENT

22, Saturday

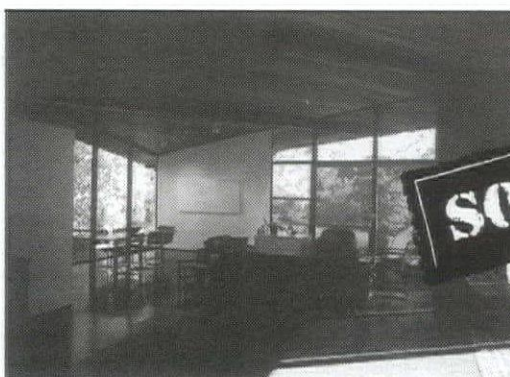


Photo: John Berley

Walker's
Homes in Ojai

Day-long tour celebrating the architectural legacy of Rodney Walker, featuring his later residential works.

16, Sunday

AIA/Los Angeles Home Tour.
Self-driven tour of residential architecture with docents and members of the design teams. AIA/LA; 11AM-4PM; res. req. 213.639.0777. aialosangeles.org.

16, Sunday

Literary Los Angeles.
Festival celebrating the art, architecture, and history of the Arroyo Seco area with free admission to museums located along the Arroyo Seco. Museums of the Arroyo, Los Angeles; 11AM-5PM. 213.740.8687. museumsofthearroyo.com.

17, Monday

Petra Blaisse.
Lecture with Inside/Outside principal Petra Blaisse. UCLA School of the Arts and Architecture; Decafe, Perloff Hall, LA; 6:30PM. 310.267.4704. aud.ucla.edu.

18, Tuesday

El Pueblo de Los Angeles.
Tour of restored historic buildings and museums in Chinatown and Olvera Street. Neighborhood Place Project; LA; 2-5PM; \$10; res. req. 626.967.3332.

18, Tuesday

DnA: Design and Architecture.
Radio program for design and architecture in Los Angeles with Frances Anderton. 89.9 FM KCRW; 2:30-3PM. kcrw.com.

18-19, Tuesday-Wednesday

Integrating Cultural Resources in NEPA Compliance.
Seminar exploring environmental assessment, cultural resource management, and historic preservation responsibilities relating to the National Environmental Protection Act with writer Thomas F. King. National Preservation Institute; San Diego; 9AM-5PM; \$375; res. req. 703.765.0100. npi.org.

22, Saturday

Spanish Colonial Revival Architecture.
Lecture on the cultural heritage of the Spanish Colonial Revival style with art historian and SAH/SCC Lifetime Member Eleanor Schrader Schapa including tour of the Adamson House in Malibu. UCLA Extension; Westwood; 9AM-3PM; \$35-50; res. req. 310.825.9971. uclaextension.org.

22, Saturday

Victor Valley.
Van tour of Victor Valley and Apple Valley sites with local historian Larry Reese. Neighborhood Place Project; Covina; 9AM-9PM; \$25; res. req. 626.967.3332.

22, Saturday

ArtsDay, LA.
Series of lectures and panels on architecture, art history, interior design, and landscape design. UCLA Extension; Westwood. 310.267.4888. uclaextension.edu/artsdlayla.

25, Tuesday

Paramount Ranch.
Tour of stage sets and historic Western facades at Paramount Ranch and the house and grounds of Peter Strauss Ranch. Neighborhood Place Project; Covina; 2-5PM; \$10; res. req. 626.967.3332.

may continues

may continued

27, Thursday

BAHA Annual Meeting.

Membership meeting and Preservation Awards at the restored Westminster House (Walter H. Ratcliff, Jr., 1927). Berkeley Architectural-Heritage Association; Berkeley; res. req. 510.841.2242. berkeleyheritage.com.

29, Saturday

Studio City.

Walking tour of California suburban living, featuring 1920s and '30s revivals and post-WWII houses. Neighborhood Place Project; Studio City; 2-5PM; \$10; res. req. 626.967.3332.

30, Sunday

Historic Highlands Home Tour.

Tour of six Pasadena houses from the early 20th century. The Historic Highlands; Pasadena; 12-4PM; \$12.50-15. 626.797.1910. historichighlands.com.

june calendar

1, Tuesday

DnA: Design and Architecture.

Radio program for design and architecture in Los Angeles with Frances Anderton. 89.9 FM KCRW; 2:30-3PM. kcrw.com.

4, Friday

Building Coalitions.

Seminars and panel discussions on the environment, preservation, and public/private work. LA Architect magazine and AIA/Los Angeles; ARCO Plaza, 515 S. Flower St., LA; res. req. 213.639.0777. aialosangeles.org.

5, Saturday

The Value of Architecture: Buying and Selling Real Estate When a House Is More Than Just a Home.

Lecture and tour investigating the relationship between architectural design and real property value with real estate architects Brian Linder and Erik Lerner. UCLA Extension, Westwood; 9AM-4PM; \$225; res. req. 310.825.9971. uclaextension.org.

5, Saturday

Exploring the Heights.

Tour of homes constructed between 1905 and 1915 for Los Angeles's growing middle class in Arlington Heights, Angelus Vista, and West End Heights. West Adams Heritage Association; LA; 10AM-4PM; \$15-25. 323.737.6146.

5, 12, 19, 26, Saturday

The Neon Cruise.

Guided tour of contemporary neon art in Los Angeles. Museum of Neon Art, 501 W. Olympic Blvd., LA; 7PM; \$35-45; res. req. 213.489.9918. neonmona.org.

6, Sunday

Castle Green, Pasadena.

Tour of Castle Green, built in 1899 as a hotel, serving now as apartments and condominiums. Castle Green, 99 S. Raymond St., Old Pasadena; 1-5PM; \$20; res. req. 626.577.6765. castlegreen.com.

7, Monday

Raising the Roof.

Program on lighting for restaurants and nightclubs. Designers Lighting Forum; 6PM. 310.535.0105. dlfla.org.

12, Saturday

Arts and Crafts Movement.

Illustrated lecture tracing the development of the Arts and Crafts movement with art historian and SAH/SCC Lifetime Member Eleanor Schrader Schapa including tour of the Gamble House (Charles and Henry Greene, 1908). UCLA Extension; Westwood; 9:30AM-3PM; \$60-75; res. req. 310.825.9971. uclaextension.org.

SAH/SCC EVENT



Photo: Julius Shulman

Modern Patrons: Calvin Straub.

Tour and talk at Straub-designed home in San Marino. See page 1 for details.

Ongoing

Architecture Tours LA.

Tours of Hollywood, Silver Lake, Hancock Park, West Hollywood, Beverly Hills, Pasadena, and Downtown, as well as of Frank Gehry's work, guided by SAH/SCC Member Laura Massino. Architecture Tours LA; \$60-70; res. req. 323.464.7868.

Historic Houses

Adamson Home

23200 Pacific Coast Highway, Malibu. 310.456.8432. adamsonhouse.org.

A 1928 two-story Andalusian farmhouse, now the Malibu Lagoon Museum, designed by Morgan, Walls, and Clements that exhibits metalwork and decorative glazed tiles produced by Malibu Tile Company. Tours: Wednesday-Saturday, 11AM-3PM.

Andres Pico Adobe

10940 Sepulveda Blvd., Mission Hills. 818.365.7810.

An 1834 historic home in San Fernando Valley. Tours: Third Sunday, 1-4PM.

Banning House

401 E. Main St., Wilmington. 310.548.7777.

An 1864 fully restored Victorian-era mansion. Tours: Tuesday-Thursday, hourly 12:30-2:30PM; Saturday-Sunday, hourly 12:30-3:30PM.

Dominguez Ranch House

18127 S. Alameda St., Compton. 310.631.5981.

Fully restored 1826 adobe with original documents, authentic family furnishings and historic memorabilia. Tours: Tuesday-Wednesday, 1-4PM.

Eames House

203/205 Chautauqua Blvd., Pacific Palisades. 310.459.9663. eamesoffice.com.

House designed by Charles and Ray Eames in 1949 as part of Art & Architecture magazine's Case Study housing experiment. Tours: Monday-Friday, 10AM-4PM by appointment.

12, Saturday

Sycamore Grove.

Tour of Highland Park's Sycamore Grove area, including the Victorian home formerly known as the Ziegler Estate. Los Angeles Conservancy; Highland Park; 1PM; \$5-10; res. req. 213.623.2489. laconservancy.org.

15, Tuesday

DnA: Design and Architecture.

Radio program for design and architecture in Los Angeles with Frances Anderton. 89.9 FM KCRW; 2:30-3PM. kcrw.com.

12, Saturday

17, Thursday

Cambridge Project.

Lecture on the environmental design strategies applied in Cambridge's new Genzyme building with award-winning architects Behnisch, Behnisch & Partner. AIA/LA Committee on the Environment (COTE); 6:30PM; res. req. 213.639.0777. aialosangeles.org.

20, Sunday

Indomitable LA.

Lecture with guest speaker Abe Hoffman. The Los Angeles City Historical Society; Central Library, Mark Taper Auditorium, 630 West Fifth Street, LA. 213.228.7000. lapl.org.

21, Monday

Pro Lights and Staging News Golf Classic.

Tournament to benefit the DLF Lesley Wheel Scholarship fund. Designers Lighting Forum; res. req. 310.535.0105. dlfla.org.

27, Sunday

AIA/Los Angeles Home Tour.

Self-driven tour of residential architecture with docents and members of the design teams. AIA/LA; 11AM-4PM; res. req. 213.639.0777. aialosangeles.org.

27, Sunday

Art Talk.

Discussion on modern furniture exhibit with designers Erwan and Ronan Bouroullec. MOCA; Pacific Design Center, 8687 Melrose Ave., West Hollywood; 3PM. 213.621.2766. moca-la.org.

10:15AM-2:15PM hourly; Wednesday-Saturday, 10AM-4:30PM; Sunday 12-4:30PM.

Heritage House

Fullerton Arboretum, Cal State Fullerton.

714.773.3579. Historic site home. Tours: Saturday, 11AM-1PM; Sunday, 2-4PM.

Lanterman House

4420 Encinas Dr., La Cañada Flintridge. 818.790.1421.

A historic 1914 Craftsman House, formerly home to the Lanterman family and other local civic leaders, with newly opened archive reading room. Tuesday and Thursday, 1-4PM; first and third Sunday of each month, 1-4PM.

The Marston House

3525 7th Ave., SD. 619.298.3142.

A 1905 home designed by Irving Gill and William Hebbard sits upon an almost five-acre estate, including historic gardens. Tours: Friday-Sunday, 10AM-4:30PM.

Schindler House

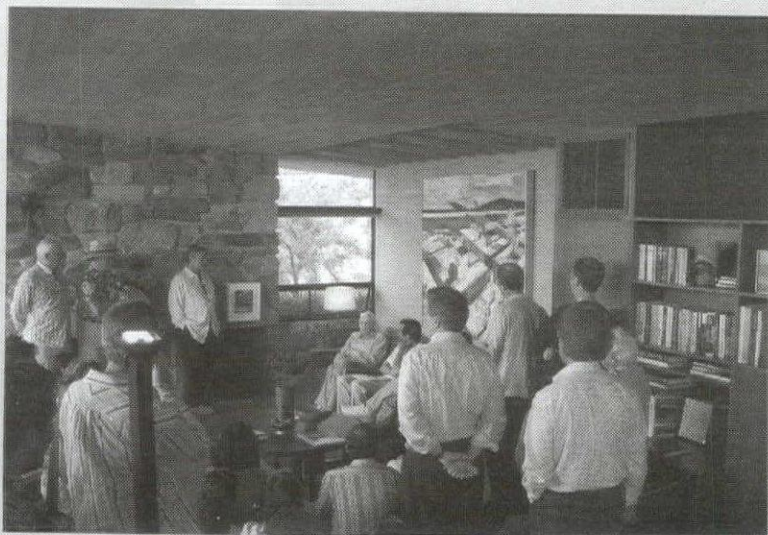
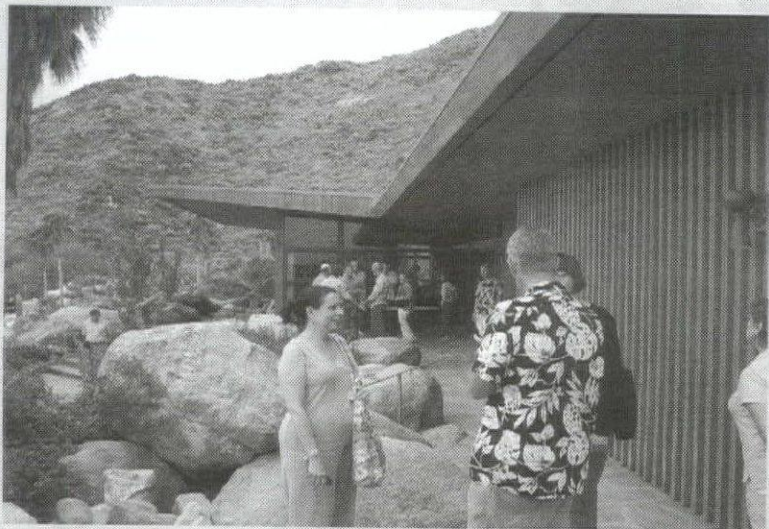
835 N. Kings Rd., West Hollywood. 323.651.1510.

This former home and studio of architect Rudolf Schindler now houses the MAK Center for Art and Architecture. Tours: Saturday-Sunday, 11:30AM-2:30PM.



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SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAPTER

Postcard from Palm Springs



Photos: John Berley

Rain or shine, Palm Springs was the place to be for the third SAH/SCC Palm Springs tour on April 3rd. As always, board member Hal Meltzer pulled out all the stops for a fantastic day of architecture, design, fantasy, and sensuality. Having attended numerous Palm Springs architecture tours, this one in particular loaded a full day of special offerings along the way. Themes included first-hand accounts by architects sharing their histories, houses once owned by celebrities, restored-to-perfection houses, and voyeuristic bathrooms.

A few of the highlights:

Special guest appearances by luminaries Don Wexler and Stewart Williams in the context of their designs, and furniture designer Charles Hollis Jones added to Hal's intimate knowledge of space, time, and architecture in Palm Springs. We were mesmerized by Williams' erudite perspective on past and present "isms" in architecture. He so simply stated, "I didn't believe in isms, what we practiced was contemporary architecture."

On the same note of language, a new architectural terminology emerged for many of us: "hush and flush" seen in the Abernathy House (1962) by architect William F. Cody. It conjures up a visual that is quite different from what these three words actually define. It is where a window frame is recessed into the ceiling, creating a disappearing act. It's a window detail expression surprisingly not used today. It seems much of what is innovative about Palm Springs design has stayed and played in the town, or has been copied with an obnoxious rigor elsewhere.

We were the first—and only—group so far to visit the slick remodel of Wexler's Dinah Shore House. Wexler and the homeowner discussed the changes that have occurred throughout the years and showed that the house, with its modern and contemporary detailing, could meld without revealing its seams. It is a rarity for a new owner to take an already exceptional house and enhance its materiality to create an equally stunning environment. This house reaches beyond the imaginable restoration.

Charles Hollis Jones joined the entire tour and pointed out his acrylic furniture and accessories provoking a timeless clarity. We experienced a quintessential 1970 Palm Springs residence sited on the golf course in Canyon Country. This house had stood still, and has now fast forwarded to 2004 with the original mirrors and patterned wallpapers of cub scout browns and lime greens; it transcends us back to a time of dream escapades and cocktailing on the 18th hole.

For those who like to eat, the day was augmented with delectable delights at almost every stop. The day ended with a cocktail reception and a strange exhausted desire of wanting to continue gazing through the tennis court of the Kirk Douglas Estate on into the night.

—Cara Mullio

Palm Springs Moderns on the Rise



Courtesy OJMR Architects

Model of 2801 South Palm Canyon designed by OJMR Architects.

The success of SAH/SCC's Palm Springs tours speaks to the desire for a piece of the Modernist desert lifestyle. In the past several years Palm Springs has grown in popularity as a location for both weekend and primary residences. Certainly, many architecturally inclined homebuyers dream of owning an original Mid-Century Modern home (obviously there is limited stock), or building a single-family residence from the ground up. For most, those are impossible dreams.

Recently, a third alternative has arrived on the scene: Modernist-inspired town home developments, such as 2801 South Palm Canyon, which has recently broken ground. 2801 South Palm Canyon comprises 16 new homes on a 2.2-acre hillside site in South Palm Springs. This joint project of OJMR Architects and Symphony Development aims to combine classic Modern style with contemporary sensibilities. "These homes exemplify our commitment to what we're calling New-Century Modernism," explains Jay M. Reynolds, AIA, principal of LA-based OJMR Architects. "The design adapts the Southern California Modern style to fit the needs of an area that is becoming increasingly urban."

OJMR designed the distinctive homes as light-filled, open spaces in the tradition of Albert Frey, Richard Neutra, John Lautner, and the other Mid-Century architects who defined the Palm Springs Modern style. Orthogonal volumes, flat roofs, clean lines, deep overhangs, and open plans recall the simple forms of this California architectural tradition. OJMR's design adds a 21st-century sensibility to this tradition with luxurious light-filled bathrooms, energy-efficient elements, and a contemporary use of materials, including exposed block and concrete floors. Each unit has sliding-glass doors leading onto private pools. The two-bedroom, two-bath residences will range in size from 1,700 to 2,600 square feet and feature six different floor plans, each with an office/den, garage, and private outdoor space.

—Julie D. Taylor

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.

Beyond the Bauhaus: 32-page illustrated booklet with plans, photos, and essays based on Boston tour _____ at \$10 each

Soriano: Man of Steel: 12-page illustrated booklet with article by Neil Jackson _____ at \$10 each

Palm Springs Postcards: seven postcards of homes visited on "Shelter Under the Sun" Tour, photographed by John Ellis _____ at \$10

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

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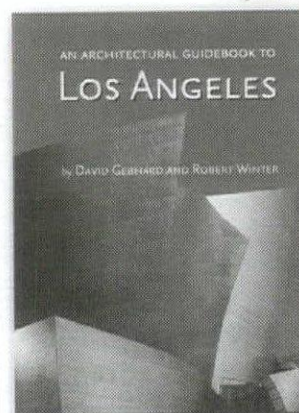
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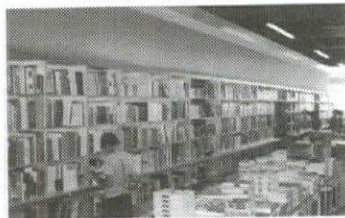
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