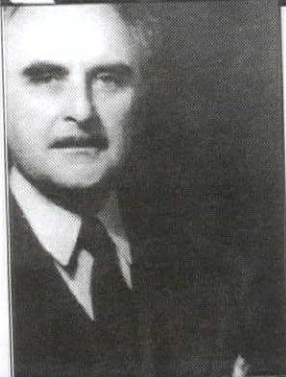


## NEWS

2004

july | august



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

## Authors on Architecture:

Sunday, August 15th, at  
2:30PM, the SAH/SCC  
Authors on Architecture  
program and Hennessey +  
Ingalls bookstore will  
present a lecture by  
Barbara Lamprecht on her  
new book Richard Neutra,  
followed by a book signing.  
The event is free and open  
to all SAH/SCC members.

## Lamprecht on Neutra

SAH/SCC Lecture and Book Signing  
Sunday, August 15th, 2:30 PM

The noted author, Neutra expert, and former SAH/SCC Executive Board member Barbara Lamprecht will be present at Hennessey + Ingalls bookstore to speak about and sign copies of her newly published book, *Richard Neutra* (Taschen, 2004).

"I think I am more proud of this second 'little' Neutra book than the first," says Lamprecht, M.Arch., whose second book on Richard Neutra came out in the US in May. "First, it promises no acute bodily injury or suffocation when reading it in bed," she jokes, referring to the jumbo size and weight of her first book, *Richard Neutra—Complete Works*. "After all, Neutra believed in an architecture of well-being."

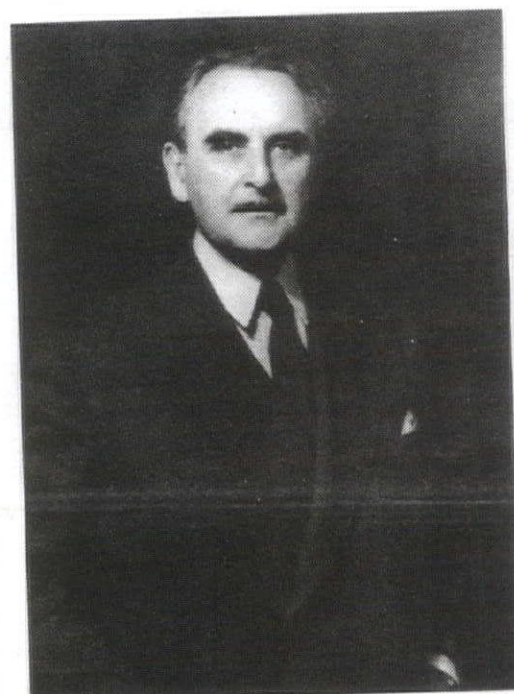
It is notable to mention that her new book was on the May 30th bestseller list of the *Los Angeles Times* for non-fiction paperbacks.

"More seriously," she continues, "initially I expected to just condense parts of the first book, but that didn't feel comfortable to me, and so this little book has 'new researches,' as the Germans say. For example, new research reinforced the importance of the 1933 Mosk House as well as Neutra's stunning and radical approach to schools and education that transformed the architecture of schools as we know them today."

"Second, with only 22 projects, the book challenged me to determine which Neutra, so to speak, should be revealed to people as an introduction to him. Choosing was both maddeningly difficult and the most fun, as it required me to have a thesis, an actual idea."

Lamprecht has written about architecture for two decades for publications, such as *The Architectural Review*, after working as a newspaper journalist for many years. She teaches architectural history in the architecture program at Pasadena City College and practices as an architect. Raised in western Canada, she lived in Boston, New York, and Oxford, England, before moving to Pasadena.

This special SAH/SCC collaboration with Hennessey + Ingalls is a free event and open to the public. Hennessey + Ingalls is located at 214 Wilshire Boulevard, Santa Monica, 310.458.9074.



NEUTRA

BARBARA LAMPRECHT

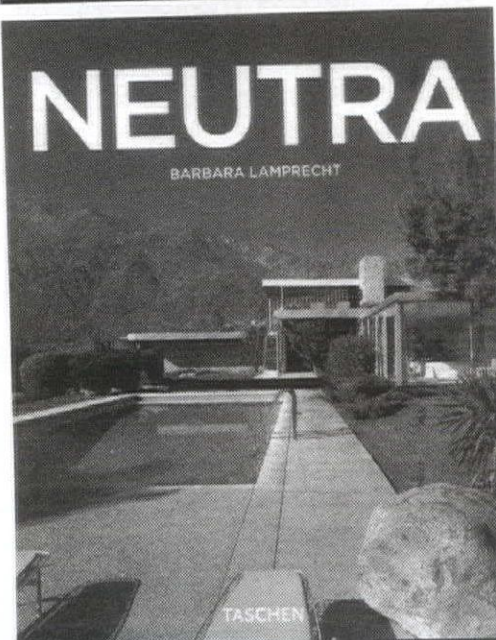


Photo: Julius Shulman

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## President's Letter

Irrespective of taste or style, it is always gratifying to see the press and the public respond with enthusiasm to a new work of architecture, especially if the building is trying something new, and so I've been eagerly watching the reaction to Seattle's new public library by Rem Koolhaas, which opened in May to great acclaim.

In fact, "great acclaim" may be an understatement; the building has attracted a surprising amount of praise and little negative reaction. In its infancy, the Seattle Public Library has become, like its creator, a media darling. Among the effusive coverage, Herbert Muschamp's breathless column in the New York Times stood out. "In more than 30 years of writing about architecture," Muschamp wrote, "this is the most exciting new building it has been my honor to review."

I haven't visited the new Seattle Library, and my point here is not to discuss that building in particular (although I am amused by its imagery—it looks like a pile of books that has been draped by cobwebs). Instead, this episode is for me throwing new light on the role of the architectural critic.

In short, I don't think we are very well-served by today's brand of architectural criticism, and this problem has pronounced consequences for the profession. It may not seem, intuitively, that the critic should play such an important role. After all, architects design buildings, builders complete them, and then critics simply describe their strengths and weaknesses to the small fraction of the public who happens to be interested.

But the architectural media could, and should, play a much more important role in public education. The practice of architecture is obscure to the common person. Buildings are difficult, too; many people don't know how to take them. Some architects benefit from this elitist arrangement, I suppose, but it is not tenable. For our environment, the mathematics is simple: design quality is in direct proportion to the level of public education.

Most of today's criticism only serves to make architecture more obscure, by focusing on its abstract meanings, rather than tangible issues of technique and practice. For example, in the Los Angeles Times' review of the Walt Disney Concert Hall last October, Nicolai Ouroussoff wrote: "what makes the building so moving as a work of architecture is its ability to express a deeper creative conflict: the recognition that ideal beauty rarely exists in an imperfect world."

This inquiry is not directed at Ouroussoff personally—after all, he was a finalist for a Pulitzer Prize and deserves congratulations—but I think his quotation is illustrative of the gap that exists between the discourse and ordinary people. Is the deep theoretical position of the Disney Hall actually the central question, relative to miles of tacky tracts and Home Depots? No, but people like Disney Hall and they would appreciate having a window into its unique character.

If our architectural writers understood their role more like that of investigative journalists, and truly made it their mission to explain buildings in all their complexity, we would be miles ahead.

Think of our architectural critics, for a moment, in relationship to our food critics. Many of our best food critics actually understand food science and explain it to the readers. Even restaurant reviewers, for the most part, understand how the average person "uses" a restaurant and a restaurant review. People want to know what's on the menu, how the food is prepared, what the atmosphere and service are like, and how much things cost. You never see a review in which an Italian restaurant is criticized for not being French; the question of genre is simply accepted as a matter of taste.

At its best, such as in the work of writers like Russ Parsons or Jeffrey Steingarten, food writing is a branch of investigative journalism. When Steingarten, writing for Vogue magazine, wanted to explain the proper French baguette, he went to Paris. But he didn't simply consume bread. He participated in the official awards for the city's best loaf, where the criteria for excellence were clearly stated. Then he visited the top 10 winning bakers, interviewed them, watched them work. He checked the temperatures of their ovens. He wrote down their recipes and tested them himself at home, experimenting with different water temperatures and types of flour (certain French flours, he found, contain unique properties that contribute to the best dough). He named the best bakeries, their addresses and hours, and printed a recipe for the perfect baguette. He's given similar treatment to dishes ranging from coq au vin, to tacos, to dog food.

Can you imagine an architectural writer operating at this level of specificity and sophistication while still speaking to the ordinary reader? What would be the equivalent, in architecture, of a recipe approved in a test kitchen? Can you imagine it printed in the newspaper?

Tony Denzer

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Administration: Arline Chambers

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

Issue Deadline: September/October 2004 August 10, 2004

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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**1, Thursday****San Pedro ART Walk.**

Evening of open galleries, studios, street vendors, and live entertainment in the downtown San Pedro Arts District. San Pedro Peninsula Chamber of Commerce; 5-9PM. 310.832.7272. 1stthursday.com.

**1, Thursday****On the Map: Barbara Bestor.**

Lecture at the Bestor House with architect and founder of Bestor Architecture Barbara Bestor. The Los Angeles Forum for Architecture & Urban Design; 1946 Cerro Gordo St., Echo Park; 7:30PM; \$15. res. req. 323.852.7145. laforum.org.

**1, Thursday****The Films of Yves Klein.**

Screening of films of ephemeral performance pieces by French conceptualist and "air architect" Yves Klein. MAK Center; Egyptian Theater, 6712 Hollywood Blvd., Hollywood; 7:30PM; \$9. 323.466.FILM. makcenter.org.

**3, 10, 17, 24, 31, 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.

**7, Wednesday****Cadillac Ranch, Media Burn, and the Eternal Frame.**

Screening and conversation with Ant Farm members Hudson Marquez and Curtis Schreier. Santa Monica Museum of Art, 2525 Michigan Ave., Santa Monica; 6:30PM; res. req. 310.586.6488. smmoa.org.

**8, Thursday****On the Map: Heyday Partnership.**

Lecture about the design-development-build practice at the recently completed Habitat development with architects and Heyday Partnership principals Kevin and Hardy Wronske. The Los Angeles Forum for Architecture & Urban Design; 348 Patton St., Echo Park; 7:30PM; \$15; res. req. 323.852.7145. laforum.org.

**10, Saturday****Montrose ArtWalk.**

Art walk with artist demonstrations, a fine art sale, and sidewalk chalk painting. Montrose Verdugo City Chamber of Commerce; 2300-2400 Honolulu Ave., Montrose. 9AM-4PM. 818.249.7171. montrosechamber.org.

**10, Saturday****Classical Forms: The Art of Raphael.**

Course on the drawings, paintings, and architectural projects of Raphael with French art historian Karen Meyer-Roux. UCLA Extension, 1010 Westwood Blvd., LA; 9:30AM-12:30PM; \$55; res. req. 310.825.9971. uclaextension.org.

**10, Saturday****Marble Masterpieces.**

Walking tour exploring the uses of marble in the buildings of downtown's financial district. Los Angeles Conservancy; LA; 1PM; \$8; res. req. 213.623.2489. laconservancy.org.

**12, Monday****DnA: Design and Architecture.**

Radio program for design and architecture in Los Angeles with Frances Anderton. 89.9 FM KCRW; 2:30-3PM. 310.450.5183. kcrw.com.

**14, Wednesday****Site(ing) Yves Klein.**

Panel discussion on conceptual architect Yves Klein with art historians Sylvere Lotringer and Juli Carson, art critic Rachel Kushner, architect and exhibition curator Francois Perrin, and MAK Center assistant director Lauri Firstenberg. MAK Center; Schindler House, 835 N. Kings Rd., West Hollywood; 7PM; \$5. 323.651.1510. makcenter.org.

**15, Thursday****New Beginnings.**

Panel presented by the Young Architects Forum at the notNeutral home accessory store with architects from Rios Clementi Hale Studios. AIA/LA; 6824 Melrose Ave., LA; 6-8PM; res. req. 213.639.0777. aialosangeles.org.

**15, Thursday****Art Talk.**

Discussion on Erwan and Ronan Bouroullec modern furniture exhibit with curator Michael Darling. MOCA; Pacific Design Center, 8687 Melrose Ave., West Hollywood; 6:30PM. 213.621.2766. moca-la.org.

**15, Thursday****Public Works: Architectural Designs for the City of Los Angeles.**

Opening reception for A+D Architecture and Design Museum exhibit with 23 projects by LA architects that reflect the scope of public investment in the improving the city. A+D Architecture and Design Museum, 8560 Sunset Boulevard, LA; 7-9PM. 310.659.2445. aplusd.org.

**15, Thursday****On the Map: Wes Jones.**

Lecture with Hyperion Apartments & Office architect and founder of Jones, Partners: Architects Wes Jones. The Los Angeles Forum for Architecture & Urban Design. 2235 and 2225 Hyperion Ave., Silver Lake; 7:30PM; \$15; res. req. 323.852.7145. laforum.org.

**17, Saturday****Minimal Art and the Los Angeles Connection.**

A class on artists in MOCA's *A Minimal Future?* exhibition exploring minimal art, light and space, and LA Cool movements with exhibition researcher Susan Jenkins. MOCA, 250 S. Grand Ave., LA; 10AM-2PM; \$50-60; res. req. 213.621.1745. moca.org.

**17, Saturday****Color for the Home.**

Seminar on making practical color choices for the home environment with Alvalyn Creative principal Alvalyn Lundgren. UCLA Extension, 1010 Westwood Blvd., LA; 10AM-4PM; \$80-95; res. req. 310.825.9971. uclaextension.org.

**17, Saturday****California Outdoor Paintings.**

Exhibition by The Artists' Gallery art association in conjunction with the California Heritage Museum's Everyday Life in California watercolor exhibit. California Heritage Museum, 2612 Main St., Santa Monica; 11AM-4PM; \$2-3; 310.392.8537.

**18, Sunday****Art Talk.**

Lecture on MOCA's *A Minimal Future?* exhibit with artist Liz Lerner. MOCA, 250 S. Grand Ave., LA; 3PM; res. req. 213.626.6222. moca.org.

**21-23, Wednesday-Friday****Nobody Does It Better:****California Success Stories.**

Conference for the California Association of Museums. California Council for the Promotion of History; Napa Valley; res. req. calmuseums.net.

**22, Thursday****On the Map: Lorcan O'Herlihy.**

Lecture with Vertical House architect and founder of Lorcan O'Herlihy Architects Lorcan O'Herlihy. The Los Angeles Forum for Architecture & Urban Design; 116 Pacific Ave., Venice; 7:30PM; \$15; res. req. 323.852.7145. laforum.org.

**24, Saturday****Little Tokyo.**

Tour of Little Tokyo. Los Angeles Conservancy; LA; 1PM; \$8; res. req. 213.623.2489. laconservancy.org.

**24, Saturday****Excursion to Ventura.**

Amtrak and walking tour of landmarks and museums in Ventura. Highland Park Heritage Trust; Glendale Amtrak Station; res. req. 323.222.8327.

**24, Saturday****Architectural History of Los Angeles.**

Illustrated course on building and interior styles, followed by a tour of significant buildings in Pershing

Square, with Santa Monica College professor and SAH/SCC Lifetime Member Eleanor Schrader Schapa. UCLA Extension, 1010 Westwood Blvd., LA; 9AM-3PM; \$60-75; res. req. 310.825.9971. uclaextension.org.

**24 and 31, Saturday****Islamic Art.**

Class on the visual culture of the Islamic world during the Medieval and Renaissance periods, including a trip to the Getty Center, with art historian Justine Andrews, PhD. UCLA Extension, 1010 Westwood Blvd., LA; 9:30AM-12:30PM; 10AM-1PM; \$95; res. req. 310.825.9971. uclaextension.org.

**26, Monday****DnA: Design and Architecture.**

Radio program for design and architecture in Los Angeles with Frances Anderton. 89.9 FM KCRW; 2:30-3PM. 310.450.5183. kcrw.com.

**29, Thursday****On the Map: Neil Denari.**

Lecture at the offices for Endeavor Talent Agency with architect and NMDA principal Neil Denari. The Los Angeles Forum for Architecture & Urban Design; 9610 Wilshire Blvd., 3rd Floor, Beverly Hills; 7:30PM; \$15; res. req. 323.852.7145. laforum.org.

**31, Saturday****Landscape Architecture Student Show.**

Student show, reception, and awards highlighting thesis projects from the UCLA Extension Landscape Architecture Program. UCLA Extension, 1010 Westwood Blvd., LA; 5-10PM; res. req. 310.825.9414. uclaextension.edu.

**FEATURED EVENT****15, Thursday**

Photo: Tam Bonner

**New Beginnings**

Panel presented by the Young Architects Forum at the notNeutral home accessory store with architects from Rios Clementi Hale Studios. See listing for details.



**SOCIETY OF ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIANS  
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAPTER**



2004

august

**5, Thursday****San Pedro ART Walk.**

Evening of open galleries, studios, street vendors, and live entertainment in the downtown San Pedro Arts District. San Pedro Peninsula Chamber of Commerce; 5-9PM. 310.832.7272. 1stthursday.com.

**5-8, Thursday-Sunday****American Historical Association.**

Meeting of the Pacific Coast Branch of the American Historical Association. Fairmont Hotel, San Jose; res. req. ebarkan@csusb.edu; pseleski@csum.edu.

**7, Saturday****Old Pasadena Walking Tour.**

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

**7, 14, 21, 28, 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, Monday****DnA: Design and Architecture.**

Radio program for design and architecture in Los Angeles with Frances Anderton. 89.9 FM KCRW; 2:30-3PM. 310.450.5183. kcrw.com.

**10, Tuesday****Yves Klein: Architecture and the Future.**

Panel discussion on conceptual architect Yves Klein with MAK Center director Kimberli Meyer, SCI-Arc Metropolitan Research + Design head Michael Speaks, urban theorist and critic Norman Klein, UCLA Department of Architecture and Urban Design chair Sylvia Lavin, and exhibition curator Francois Perrin. MAK Center; Schindler House, 835 N. Kings Rd., West Hollywood; 7PM; \$5. 323.651.1510. makcenter.org.

**13-15, Friday-Sunday****Watts Summer Festival.**

Cultural festival around the Watts Towers with exhibitions of arts, crafts, and theater, and music, food, and fashion. Watts Summer Festival Inc., 10950 South Central Ave., Watts; 12-8PM. 323.789.7304. wattsfestival.org.

**14, Saturday****Mexican Muralist:****David Alfaro Siqueiros.**

Class examining the artwork of 20th century muralist David Alfaro Siqueiros in Mexico and Los Angeles with art historian and director of LatinArt.com, Bill Kelley. UCLA Extension, 1010 Westwood Blvd., LA; 9:30AM-12:30PM; \$55; res. req. 310.825.9971. uclaextension.org.

**14, Saturday****San Pedro.**

Walking tour of San Pedro architecture. Los Angeles Conservancy; LA; 1PM; \$8; res. req. 213.623.2489. laconservancy.org.

**15, Sunday****Mud Mania: A Celebration of Adobe.**

Interactive activities focusing on adobe construction, archaeology, pottery and gardening, plus games, food and music. Rancho Los Cerritos Historic Site, 4600 \$3-5. 562.570.1755. rancholoscerritos.org.

**21, Saturday****A Day in the Greek Islands.**

Illustrated lecture on vernacular architecture, Byzantine churches, and preserved houses in the Greek islands with Orange Coast College art gallery director Irini Vallera Rickerson, Ph.D. UCLA Extension, 1010 Westwood Blvd., LA; 9AM-3PM; \$60-75; res. req. 310.825.9971. uclaextension.org.

**21, Saturday****California Outdoor Paintings.**

Exhibition by the Malibu Art Association and Topanga Art Gallery in conjunction with the California Heritage Museum's Everyday Life in

California watercolor exhibit. California Heritage Museum, 2612 Main St., Santa Monica; 11AM-4PM; \$2-3. 310.392.8537.

**23, Monday****DnA: Design and Architecture.**

Radio program for design and architecture in Los Angeles with Frances Anderton. 89.9 FM KCRW; 2:30-3PM. 310.450.5183. kcrw.com.

**28, Saturday****A Love Story in Design.**

Illustrated lecture on the innovative architecture, interiors, and decorative arts of Charles Rennie Mackintosh and

Margaret MacDonald Mackintosh with Santa Monica College professor and SAH/SCC Lifetime Member Eleanor Schrader Schapa. UCLA Extension, 1010 Westwood Blvd., LA; 10AM-1PM; \$35-50; res. req. 310.825.9971. uclaextension.org.

**28, Saturday****Terra Cotta.**

Walking tour of terra cotta buildings in LA. Los Angeles Conservancy; LA; 1PM; \$8; res. req. 213.623.2489. laconservancy.org.

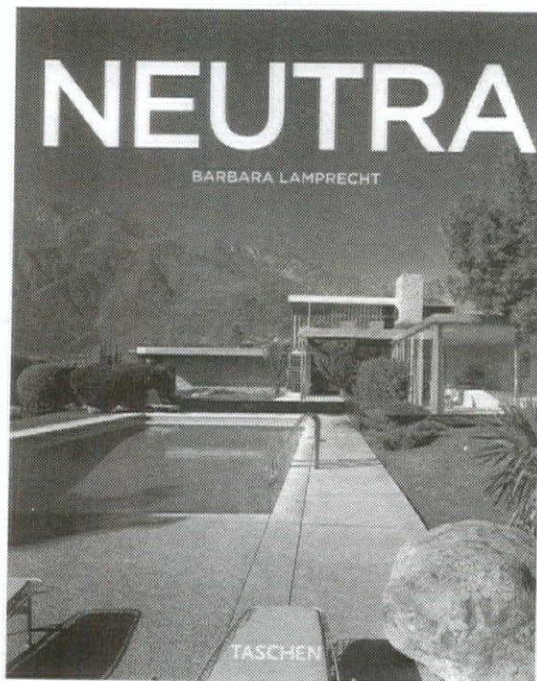
**29, Sunday****Garfield Heights, Pasadena.**

Tour of historic district of Craftsman-style, Mission Revival, and Victorian homes. Garfield Heights; 3-7PM; \$12-15. 626.797.3110. garfieldheights.org.

**15, Sunday****Authors on Architecture**

Lecture and book signing with author Barbara Lamprecht. See Page 1 for details.

SAH/SCC EVENT

**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****The Doctor's House Museum**

1601 W. Mountain, Brand Park, Glendale. 818.242.4290.

A restored Queen Anne Eastlake-style home built in 1889. Tours: Sundays, 2-4PM.

**Grier Musser Museum**

403 S. Bonnie Brae St., LA. 213.413.1814.

Queen Anne style Victorian house from 1898. Tours: Wednesday-Saturday, 12-4PM by appointment.

**Heritage Walk Museum**

321 N. Broadway, Escondido. 760.743.8207.

Museum includes the 1888 Santa Fe train depot and blacksmith shop in historic Grape Day Park. Tours: Thursday-Saturday, 1-4PM.

**Hollyhock House**

4800 Hollywood Blvd., Los Feliz. 323.644.6269. hollyhockhouse.net.

Designed by Frank Lloyd Wright in 1921 for eccentric heiress Aline Barnsdall. Tours: Saturday-Sunday, 12:30-3:30PM hourly; Wednesday-Friday 12:30-3:30PM by appointment.

**Lasky-DeMille Barn**

2100 N. Highland Ave., Hollywood. 323.874.4405.

Now Hollywood Heritage Museum, this structure was the studio for the first feature-length motion picture made in

Hollywood—The Squaw Man in 1913 by Cecil B. DeMille—and the birthplace of Paramount Pictures. Saturday and Sunday, 11AM-4PM.

**Lummis House**

200 E. Ave. 43, LA. 323.222.0546.

The arroyo stone-clad home built by architects Sumner Hunt and Theodore Eisen, as well as the founder of Southwest Museum Charles Fletcher Lummis (1895-1910). Tours: Friday-Sunday, 12-4PM.

**Mission Inn Museum**

3649 Mission Inn Ave., Riverside. 909.788.9556.

Historic museum. Tours: Daily, 9:30AM-4PM. Rancho Los Alamitos 6400 Bixby Hill Rd., Long Beach. 562.431.3541.

Historic site including an adobe house and barns. Tours: Wednesday-Sunday, 1-5PM.

**Rancho Los Cerritos**

4600 Virginia Rd., Long Beach. 562.570.1755.

Built in 1844, the Rancho is now a National and State Historic Landmark with a research library. Tours: Wednesday-Sunday, 1-5PM.

**San Fernando Mission**

15151 San Fernando Mission Blvd., San Fernando. 818.361.0186.

Mission founded in 1797. Tours: Daily, 9AM-4:30PM.

**San Gabriel Mission**

537 W. Mission Dr., San Gabriel. 626.282.5191.

Fourth oldest mission in California. Tours: Daily, 9:00AM-5PM.

**Sepulveda House**

622 N. Main St., LA. 213.628.1274.

An 1887 furnished bedroom and kitchen modeled after the original El Pueblo de Los Angeles, plus a film of L.A. history. Tours: Monday-Saturday, 10AM-3PM.

**Villa Montezuma, Jesse Shepard House**

1925 K St., San Diego. 619.239.2211.

An 1887 Queen Anne style house designed by Comstock and Trotsche for the author Jesse Shepard. Tours: Friday-Sunday, 10AM-4:30PM.

**Workman and Temple Family Homestead Museum**

15415 E. Don Julian Rd., City of Industry. 626.968.8492. homesteadmuseum.org.

An 1870s country home constructed around an 1840s adobe built by William and Nicolasa Workman, and La Casa Nueva, a 1920s Spanish Colonial Revival mansion built by the Workmans' grandson Walter Temple. Tours: Wednesday-Sunday, 1-4PM.



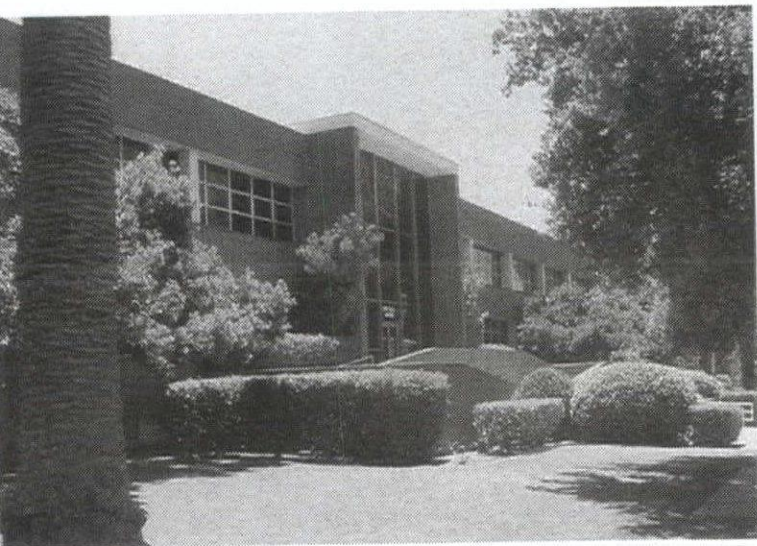
SOCIETY OF ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIANS  
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAPTER



# Historic Fresno Celebration

SAH/NCC and SAH/SCC  
Lectures and Tours

Saturday-Sunday, October 22nd-23rd



*Fresno City Hall Annex (1939, Franklin and Kump, Jr.)*

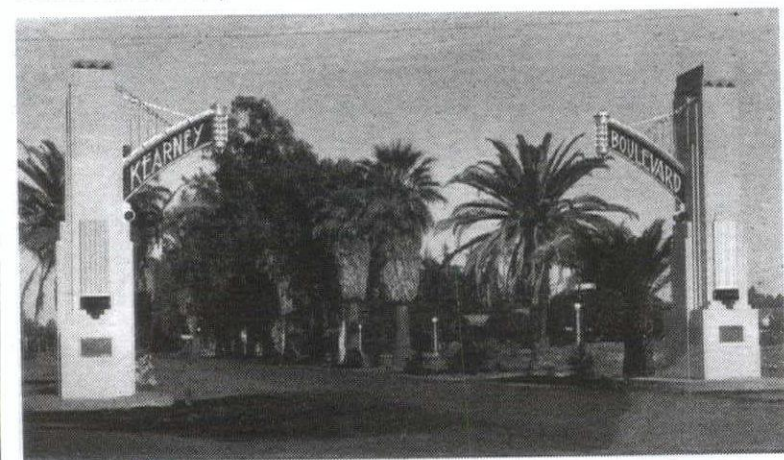
Mark your October calendars: The City of Fresno, in cooperation with the Fresno City & County Historical Society, has invited the Northern California Chapter and our Southern California Chapter of the Society of Architectural Historians to meet for a conference with tours on Fresno's architectural heritage the fourth weekend of October. The conference celebrates the 25th anniversary of Fresno's Historic Preservation Ordinance and Laura Bush's designation of Fresno as a Preserve America Community.

The tentative schedule calls for a reception and exhibit, "Art of Historic Preservation," at City Hall the evening of Friday, October 22nd, followed by dinner in the historic Santa Fe Depot (under restoration), and a candlelight tour of the surrounding historic neighborhood.

Saturday morning, October 23rd, will be devoted to presentations on regional architectural history. Among those tentatively scheduled to speak are Karana Hattersley-Drayton (Fresno's Historic Preservation Project Manager) on pre- and post-stabilized adobe structures, Marianne Hurley (California Department of Parks & Recreation) on architect Edward T. Foulkes, and SAH/SCC members John English and Peter Moruzzi on Central Valley modernism and roadside vernacular.

In the afternoon, a bus tour will visit eight or more historic sites, including several historic and restored adobe works (garden offices, the adobe Chateausque Kearney Mansion, and modern homes), ending with a reception in the well-known Forestiere Underground Garden.

There may be additional walking tours on Sunday for anyone wishing to stay over. Details, hotel arrangements, and registration information will appear in the September/October *SAH/SCC News*. Consider going by train; the conference hotel is half a block from the Amtrak station, in the historic St. John's Neighborhood. Thanks to Karana Hattersley-Drayton and Fresno for hosting this opportunity to meet our Northern California counterparts and to explore this Central California city.



*Kearney Boulevard Gateway  
(Boulevard designed by Rudolph Ulrich; Gateway designed by Charles H. Franklin, 1933.)*



## Postcard from Ojai

A few weekends ago, a fortunate group of tour-goers, including myself, enjoyed a great day visiting the Ojai homes of architect and builder Rodney Walker. We started the day with coffee and pastries, and a lecture and slide presentation on the work of Walker and his connections to other prominent mid-century modern architects of the time. The buses were loaded and we were off to see the first house of the day.

We drove up into the southern foothills of the Ojai Valley to the Lloyd residence, which is perched at the top of a slope overlooking the valley to the north. The house was well-integrated into the existing oak trees and had large expanses of floor-to-ceiling glass, bringing the nature and views right into the house. The roof had a distinctive butterfly shape and natural woods were used throughout. This residence was well sited to provide the best views and solar orientation, yet provided privacy to the bedrooms. The house was built of cost-saving materials, a practice that Walker used in many of the homes he built. He developed the innovations needed to use these materials in an elegant and modern way.

Our group then headed back east to have a delicious lunch at a local restaurant, where we broke into groups and discussed what we had just seen. After lunch we headed further east to see the remaining four houses on the tour.

The first I saw was the McCann residence, an early Walker home in the valley, with a great covered porch looking out over orchards and oak trees. This house had an unusual ceiling profile in the main living space, with the ceiling sloping in two directions, like a great tent. The site was unique with large boulders scattered about. There was a separate guest studio and attached carport that was quintessentially modern.

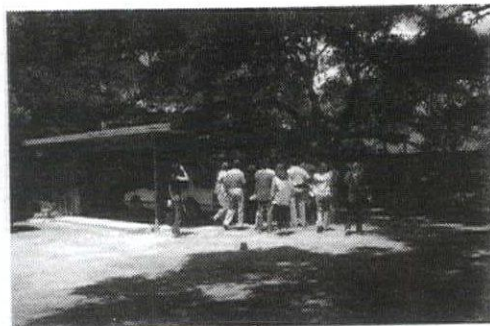
The next house for me was the Pehrson residence. Although it had been substantially remodeled, the home still exuded the clean modernism that Walker imbued in his work. The north façade looked out over a beautiful pool, while the south side of the "L"-shaped home enclosed a beautifully landscaped courtyard. The interiors were sensitively designed to stay in the modern vernacular.

Next on the tour was the Harvey residence, by far the most dramatic of the five homes we saw. The main living space had a huge vaulted ceiling that continued outside of the house and into the landscape. There was even an oak tree that the open-trellis portion of the roof wrapped around, further reinforcing the connection between the building and nature. The main living space was very dramatic and central, with the bedroom wings separated on either side of the main space. Like the others, this home was nestled among the oaks and orchards surrounding the property.

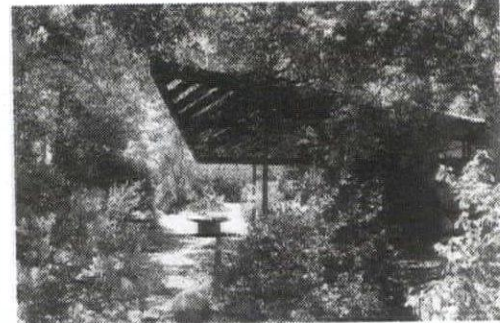
The last house I visited was the Semel residence, which was similar to the previous home in that it had a large, vaulted ceiling in the living room. This room had its ceiling sloping upward with its highest point right above the dramatic fireplace. Floor-to-ceiling glass provided views in several directions, including looking out over a pool. The floor of the main space was polished concrete, which shone like oiled leather. This was probably the best preserved of all of the homes.

Overall it was a great day. The weather was ideal with clear skies and moderate temperatures. It was truly a beautiful location and an enjoyable experience that our fortunate members were able to have. Hats off to board members Sian Winship, John Berley, and especially Rodney's son Craig Walker, for all of their hard work in preparing for the tour, and to the other board members that provided support. Thanks also to the kind owners who allowed us to tramp through their living rooms!

*Brent Eckerman*



*Rodney Walker's youngest son Craig describes the plan organization of the Lloyd residence from 1961.*



*The remarkably expressive roof of the Harvey Residence from 1958.*

Photos: Brent Eckerman



# 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.

**Rodney Walker: The Ojai Years:** trifold black-and-white brochure featuring Walker's important residences in Ojai, with pictures and article by historian David Mason.

\_\_\_\_\_ at \$5 each

**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

**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.

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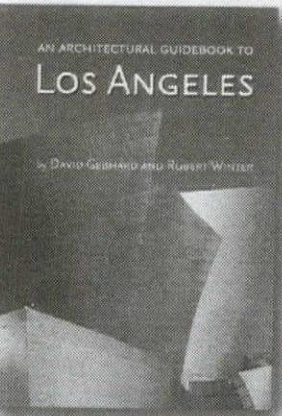
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