

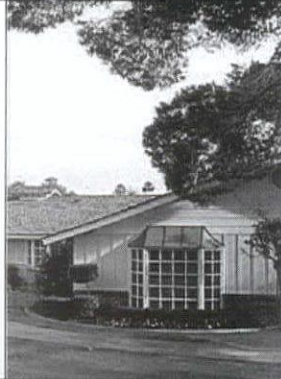


SOCIETY OF ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIANS
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAPTER

NEWS

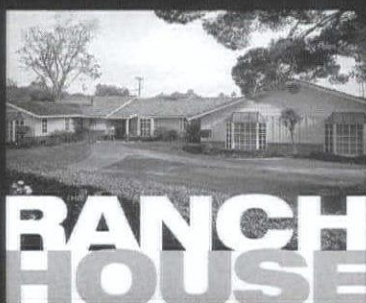
2005
march | april

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Authors on Architecture: Hess on the Ranch



SAH/SCC
Lecture and
Book Signing

Saturday,
March 19th,
2-4 PM

Authors on Architecture celebrates the return to Southern California of author Alan Hess with a discussion of his latest book, The Ranch House (Harry N. Abrams, 2004, \$45). Join Hess at Hennessey & Ingalls in Santa Monica on Saturday, March 19th, 2-4PM, for a talk and book signing. The event is free, and open to SAH/SCC members and the public.

Alan Hess is well known for his explorations of quintessentially Californian architecture idioms in such books as *Googie: Fifties Coffee Shop Architecture* (Chronicle Books, 1986), *Hyperwest: American Residential Architecture on the Edge* (Whitney Library of Design, 1996), *Rancho California: Rustic Dreams and Real Western Living* (Chronicle, 2000), *Palm Springs Weekend: The Architecture and Design of a Midcentury Oasis* (Chronicle, 2001), *The Architecture of John Lautner* (Universe, 2003), and *Googie Redux: Ultramodern Roadside Architecture* (Chronicle, 2004).

In *The Ranch House*, he and photographer Noah Sheldon have tapped into both nostalgia and the current trend. Although acknowledging that this suburban archetype can be found across America, the author concentrates on specimens in California, Arizona, and Texas. As well, several architects, such as Cliff May, Ed Fickett, Luth Maria Riggs, and Harwell Hamilton Harris, will be familiar to SAH/SCC tour-goers.

Before a color-photographic tour of current ranch houses, Hess weaves the story of what he calls "realistic modernism" through history and archival photographs and documents. A chapter on the Ranch House's antecedents looks at actual working ranches, the Prairie and Craftsman movements, and R.M. Schindler's iconic Kings Road House. "Before the Boom" chapter investigates the invention of the suburban home and the acceptance of the Western vernacular. A discussion of the post-war building boom shows that Ranch was not just a style, but a lifestyle disseminated in women's magazines and on television. It was a time when developers were on the rise and tract houses spread across the land.

Join us for an in-depth discussion of this housing phenomenon, and of Hess's book, which completes the story of post-war housing. Hennessey & Ingalls is located at 214 Wilshire Boulevard in Santa Monica; 310.458.9074.

2005

march | april

There are two great pleasures that come with being involved in this organization. The first, of course, is learning about architecture, being exposed to ideas and experiences that are not typically accessible in our everyday lives. The second is making new friends with others who share our enthusiasms. During our February Killingsworth tour, both of these great pleasures dovetailed, making for an exceptionally educational and delightful afternoon.

I should begin by thanking Cara Mullio for her hard work in organizing the tour. It was very well done. We are all constantly grateful for the volunteer efforts of our executive board members. They are the gas in the SAH/SCC engine. Also Sian Winship and John Berley went beyond the call of duty, as usual, so thank you to them for their help as well.

The tour was a real eye-opener. Killingsworth is one of those figures who, although we recognize his talents and contributions, is just slightly off the radar screen and treated as a minor figure or historical footnote. But spending the day with his buildings, I really did develop a new appreciation for him and his work. We hope that the tour raised some new awareness and I'm anticipating that Cara's forthcoming book on Killingsworth will help give him the credit that is due. (In the meantime, you can get Cara's excellent book *Long Beach Architecture: The Unexpected Metropolis*, with co-author Jennifer M. Volland, Hennessey & Ingalls, 2004.)

One of the highlights of the day was the visit to Killingsworth's office. You begin by walking across a series of concrete stepping stones set in a reflecting pool. This was one of Killingsworth's common devices, and it remains tremendously effective. You leave the chaos of the world behind and enter a different realm.

As Cara explained to us, the office is truly in a state of suspension. It closed in 2001, and hasn't changed a bit. Stepping into the extraordinary drafting room was like walking into a modernist time warp. The files of drawings are still in place and the library is still full of vintage issues of *Arts & Architecture*. Perhaps the site will be donated to Cal State-Long Beach, but perhaps the gods of architectural history are waiting for the right benefactor to emerge.

I mentioned that the second great pleasure of the afternoon was meeting new people. It was a real treat that some of Killingsworth's associates could join us and share their stories. They were obviously and justifiably proud to have their work showcased for an afternoon. I hope we can encourage them to write down some of their memories and publish them in these pages in the coming months.

And many of us were thrilled to meet Andreas Stevens, the young owner who is restoring the Opdahl House in Naples. What energy! And what a sensitive job he is doing there, even scouring period photographs in order to re-acquire the original pieces of furniture.

It occurred to me that we're in the midst of a fascinating cultural moment, when a new generation is awakening to the treasures of mid-century, and in turn the buildings are experiencing a re-awakening. They are being treated with a reverence they haven't been shown since they were first built. It's due in no small part to the enthusiasm of these young homeowners that a renaissance is coming for the man Andreas calls "Mr. K."

Tony Denzer

Letter to the Editor

I enjoy receiving the SAH/SCC News, but in reading the January/February 2005 issue I noticed something that needs correcting! In his "President's Letter," Tony Denzer claims "Los Angeles is a desert." This is a pervasive and harmful myth. Los Angeles is not a desert, and in making such an assertion, Mr. Denzer does harm, in the context of his remarks, to the perception of the city and its architectural history. Our average annual rainfall of between 12 and 20 inches immediately disqualifies the city as a desert, as does our ecosystem. Los Angeles is part of a coastal chaparral and scrub ecosystem, which is typically described as a "Mediterranean Climate," not a desert one. Furthermore, Mr. Denzer's claim that in 1922 "the climate was fairly severe" is also false. The rainfall total for 1921-22 was 19.66 inches, and the months of January, February, and March of 1922 saw temperatures ranging from lows in the 30s to highs in the 80s, much like today. The city is not "20 degrees cooler than it used to be." A booklet on Los Angeles issued in 1928 by the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce states "only one-tenth of the time is the temperature at Los Angeles above 80 degrees or below 40 degrees," hardly "severe." So, in understanding the true history of Los Angeles' climate, Mr. Denzer might want to reassess his interpretation of the Schindler House. By telling his students that to appreciate its significance, one would "have to imagine taking it out to the Mojave" misinforms the students not only about the origins of the Schindler House, but also about Los Angeles itself.

Victoria Daley

EDITOR'S NOTE: Victoria Daley is the co-author of *LA's Early Moderns: Art, Architecture, Photography* (Balcony Press, 2004).

President's Response

To accurately compare the region's climate between 1922 and today, one would want to not only analyze the temperature, but the relative humidity and the availability of shade as well. Of course 80 years of widespread planting and watering and shading the ground will make a region feel cooler. This is what Esther McCoy meant when she wrote: "The cooling of the climate throughout Southern California has made the sleeping porch obsolete."

Still, the issue at hand is not the weather itself, but Schindler's perception of it. Perhaps I should have clarified that I used terms such as "desert" and "severe" not for their meteorological accuracy, but to convey the architect's impressions. After living in Vienna and Chicago, Schindler justifiably understood the climate as desert-like, and the sunshine severe. His architecture responded to that perception. Students visiting today (particularly in the winter) find it difficult to see the house as it was: a celebration of hot weather and an attempt to provide some relief.

Tony Denzer



Tour and Event Information: 1.800.9SAHSCC; info@sahscc.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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1, Tuesday**Hospitality Lighting and the Design Environment.**

Presentation on lighting for mood and ambiance with lighting designer Babu Shankar, IALD. Designers Lighting Forum; 6PM; 310.535.0105. dlfla.org.

2, Wednesday**SCI-Arc and Downtown Los Angeles Arts District.**

Walking tour. Neighborhood Place Project; SCI-Arc, 350 Merrick St., LA; 1-4PM; \$10. 626.967.3332.

2, Wednesday**Urban Redevelopment and Micro Sociologies in Downtown LA.**

Lecture with Gilmore Associates principal Tom Gilmore. SCI-Arc, 350 Merrick St., LA; 7PM. 213.613.2200. sciarc.edu.

3, Thursday**Hani Rashid.**

Lecture with Asymptote principal Hani Rashid. AIA/SF and SFMOMA; SFMOMA, 151 Third St., San Francisco; 6:30PM; \$15-20. 866.468.3399. sfmoma.org.

4, Friday**Pardee House.**

Tour of 1868 Italian Villa. Berkeley Architectural Heritage Association; Oakland City Center, Oakland; 11AM; \$15; res. req. 510.841.2242. berkeleyheritage.com.

4, Friday**Lane Barden.**

Talk with SCI-Arc exhibition "The Los Angeles River: Fifty-Two Miles Downstream" photographer Lane Barden. SCI-Arc, Kappe Library, 350 Merrick St., LA; 1PM. 213.613.2200 ext. 328. sciarc.edu.

5, Saturday**2x8:Motion.**

Opening reception for exhibition "2x8:Motion" of student work. AIA/LA; A+D Museum, 8560 Sunset Blvd., West Hollywood; 6-9PM. 310.659.2445. aplusd.org.

5, 6, 12, 13, Saturday, Sunday**'Theme Park' Tour of Downtown Los Angeles.**

Driving and walking tour comparing downtown LA to Disneyland with Charles Phoenix. Union Station, 800 N. Alameda St., LA; 12-6PM; \$69.50; res. req. 323.669.9876. godblessamericana.com.

7, Monday**Michael Maltzan.**

Lecture with LA-based Michael Maltzan Architecture principal Michael Maltzan. UCLA Department of Architecture and Urban Design; 1302 Perloff Hall, Los Angeles; 6:30PM. 310.825.7857. aud.ucla.edu.

8, Tuesday**Dress and Identity in Asia.**

Lecture with LACMA costume and textiles curator Dale Carolyn Gluckman. San Diego Museum of Art, 1450 El Prado, Balboa Park; 11AM and 6PM; \$10-20. 619.696.1969. sdma.org.

9, Wednesday**High Performance Interiors.**

Lecture with industrial designer Niels Diffrient. NeoCon West; LA Mart, 1933 S. Broadway, LA; 12-1PM. 800.677.6278. merchandisemart.com.

9, Wednesday**Where Are We on the Road to Sustainability?**

Lecture on green strategies with Gensler architects Douglas Zucker and Melissa Mizell. NeoCon West; LA Mart, 1933 S. Broadway, LA; 1:30-2:30PM; \$30-40. 800.677.6278. merchandisemart.com.

9, Wednesday**Fine Living: Creating the Loft Life.**

Panel presentation with LA Architect/LA Inside editor Jesse Brink. NeoCon West; LA Mart, 1933 S. Broadway, LA; 3-4PM; \$30-40. 800.677.6278. merchandisemart.com.

9, Wednesday**Catalytic Formation.**

Lecture with New York-based Contemporary Architecture Practice director Ali Rahim. SCI-Arc, 350 Merrick St., LA; 7PM. 213.613.2200. sciarc.edu.

9-10, Wednesday-Thursday**NeoCon West.**

Design event showcasing commercial and residential innovations on the West Coast. NeoCon West; LA Mart, 1933 S. Broadway, LA. 800.677.6278. merchandisemart.com.

10, Thursday**An LA Story.**

Lecture with *Metropolis* editor-in-chief Susan Szenasy and designers Greg Lynn and Alex McDowell. NeoCon West; LA Mart, 1933 S. Broadway, LA; 12-1PM. 800.677.6278. merchandisemart.com.

10, Thursday**California Institute of the Arts in Valencia.**

Walking tour of CalArts. Neighborhood Place Project; CalArts, 274 McBean, Valencia; 1-4PM; \$10. 626.967.3332.

10, Thursday**Prefab Green.**

Lecture with MKArchitecture founder Michelle Kaufmann. NeoCon West; LA Mart, 1933 S. Broadway, LA; 1:30-2:30PM; \$30-40. 800.677.6278. merchandisemart.com.

10, Thursday**Santa Monica Design District Spring Event.**

Reception in showrooms of the Santa Monica Design District. NeoCon West; Santa Monica; 7-10PM. 800.667.6278. merchandisemart.com.

10, Thursday**Michiel Riedijk.**

Lecture with Rotterdam-based Neutelings Riedijk Architecten principal Michiel Riedijk. Otis College of Art + Design, 9045 Lincoln Blvd., LA; 7PM. 310.665.6867. otis.edu.

10, Thursday**Lodges.**

Lecture on Berkeley clubhouses by architects John Galen Howard and Julia Morgan with Harvey Helfand. Berkeley Architectural Heritage Association, Berkeley; 7:30PM; \$10. 510.841.2242. berkeleyheritage.com.

11-13, Friday-Sunday**Craftsman-Spanish Revival Weekend.**

Historic home celebration with tours, lectures, and vendors. Save Our Heritage Organization; Coronado. 619.297.7511. sohosandiego.org.

12, Saturday**University of Southern California.**

Walking tour of USC's University Park campus. Los Angeles Conservancy; 10AM; \$5-10; res. req. 213.623.2489. laconservancy.org.

12, Saturday**The Viennese Avant-Garde: 1900-1940.**

Class with SAH/SCC Life Member Eleanor Schrader Schapa. UCLA Extension, Westwood; 10AM-1PM; \$60-75; res. req. 310.825.9971. uclaextension.org.

12, Saturday**Greene and Greene:****The Art of Architecture.**

Screening of a film about the lives and careers of Charles and Henry Greene. LACMA, 5905 Wilshire Blvd., LA; 2PM. 323.857.6287. lacma.org.

12, Saturday**Joseph Rosa.**

Lecture with author and SFMOMA architecture curator Joseph Rosa. Palm Springs Desert Museum, 101 Museum Dr., Palm Springs; 6PM; \$5-10; res. req. 760.325.4490. psmuseum.org.

14, Monday**Yloc (Heterotopic Fragments).**

Lecture with Paris-based R & Sie principals Francois Roche and Stephanie Lavaux. SCI-Arc, 350 Merrick St., LA; 7PM. 213.613.2200. sciarc.edu.

15, Tuesday**Covina Town Center.**

Tour of Covina, including the city's history museum. Neighborhood Place Project; Heritage House, 300 N. Valencia Place, Covina; 1-4PM; \$10. 626.967.3332.

15, Tuesday**Steve Chase's Legacy.**

Lecture with Palm Springs Desert Museum chief curator Katherine Hough. Palm Springs Desert Museum, 101 Museum Dr., Palm Springs; 1:30PM. 760.325.4490. psmuseum.org.

16, Wednesday**Lawsuits of the Future.**

Panel discussion with Cohen & Lord attorneys Bruce Cohen and Scott Lord. Building Coalitions; A+D Museum, 8560 W. Sunset Blvd., West Hollywood; \$10-15. 310.659.2445. aplusd.org.

16, Wednesday**Pasadena Modern.**

Lecture with author and scholar Alan Hess. Pasadena Heritage; Art Center College of Design, Pasadena; 7PM; \$10. 626.441.6333. pasadenaheritage.org.

18, Friday**Doheny Soiree.**

Verdi Quartet plays at the Doheny Mansion (Hunt Eisen, 1899). The Da Camera Society; Los Angeles; lecture-7:45PM, concert-8PM; \$56-79; res. req. 213.477.2929. dacamera.org.

19, Saturday**Claremont Colleges Walking Tour.**

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

19, Saturday**East Arroyo Neighborhood.**

Tour of Pasadena's East Arroyo neighborhood. Neighborhood Place Project; Prospect Blvd. and La Mesa Ave., Pasadena; 1-4PM; \$10. 828.242.3847.

19-20, Saturday-Sunday**Modern Times.**

Show and sale with work from the 1920s to 1950s. Modern Times; Glendale Civic Auditorium, 1401 N. Verdugo Rd., Glendale; 11AM-6PM Saturday, 11AM-4PM Sunday; \$8. 310.455.2894. moderntimesla.com.

20, Sunday**Pasadena Modern Home Tour.**

Tour of six homes. Pasadena Heritage; Pasadena; 9AM-4PM; \$30-40; res. req. 626.441.6333. pasadenaheritage.org.

20, Sunday**Emily Zaiden.**

Lecture on Arts and Crafts movement with LACMA Decorative Arts Department member Emily Zaiden. LACMA, 5905 Wilshire Blvd., LA; 2PM. 323.857.6287. lacma.org.

23, Wednesday**The City of Normality: Untimely Considerations on Urban Planning and Three Projects.**

Lecture with Swiss Federal Institute of Technology, Zurich, professor Vittorio Magnago Lampugnani. SCI-Arc, 350 Merrick St., LA; 7PM. 213.613.2200. sciarc.edu.

29, Tuesday**Architecture and Identity in the Southern Pacific.**

Lecture with art history professor Ian Lochhead. The Gamble House; Neighborhood Church, 2 Westmoreland Place, Pasadena; 7:30PM; \$15-20. 626.793.3334. gamblehouse.org.

30, Wednesday**Eats Meets Wets.**

Lecture with Tokyo-based Klein Dytham Architecture's Mark Dytham. SCI-Arc, 350 Merrick St., LA; 7PM. 213.613.2200. sciarc.edu.

30-31, Wednesday-Thursday**Celebrating 30 Years of Design Excellence.**

Annual Westweek event with lectures and exhibitions. Pacific Design Center, 8687 Melrose Ave., West Hollywood. 310.360.6419. pacificdesigncenter.com.

SAH/SCC EVENT**19, Saturday****RANCH HOUSE****Authors on Architecture.**

Lecture and book signing with author Alan Hess. See Page 1 for details.

1, Friday

Cohen-Bray House.

Tour of an 1884 Stick-Eastlake Villa. Berkeley Architectural Heritage Association; Fruitvale District, Oakland; 11AM; \$15; res. req. 510.841.2242. berkeleyheritage.com.

2, Saturday

Village Walking Tour.

Tour of downtown Village area of Claremont. Claremont Heritage; Metrolink Depot, 200 W. First St., Claremont; 10AM; \$5; res. req. 909.621.0848.

2, Saturday

Art Deco in America.

Lecture with SAH/SCC Life Member Eleanor Schrader Schapa. UCLA Extension, Westwood; 10AM-1PM; \$60-75; res. req. 310.825.9971. uclaextension.org.

2, Saturday

Cocktail Reception.

Fundraiser for the Palm Springs Desert Museum Architecture and Design Council in an architectural property. Palm Springs Desert Museum; 6-8PM; \$150. 760.325.7186, ext. 118. psmuseum.org.

3, Sunday

Moveable Musical Feast.

Performance at Le Petit Trianon with Capriccio Stravagante. The Da Camera Society; Pasadena; 2PM and 3:30PM; \$66-86; res. req. 213.477.2929. dacamera.org.

3, Sunday

Spring on Spring.

Walking tour of downtown's Spring Street. Los Angeles Conservancy; 4PM; \$25-30; res. req. 213.623.2489. laconservancy.org.

5, Tuesday

California's New Outdoor Lighting Standards.

Presentation with Cooper Lighting's Greg Widman. Designers Lighting Forum; 6PM; 310.535.0105. dlfla.org.

5, Tuesday

Donald Hensman.

Symposium with author James Steele. AIA/Foothill, USC, Friends of the Gamble House; Neighborhood Church, 301 N. Orange Grove Blvd., Pasadena; 7:30PM; \$15; res. req. 626.793.3334, ext. 52. gamblehouse.org.

6, Wednesday

An Architectural Stylist:

W. Horace Austin and Eclecticism in Southern California.

Opening reception for exhibition curated by CSUDH art professor and SAH/SCC Member Louise Ivers. CSU Dominguez Hills, 1000 E. Victoria St., Carson; 6-8PM. 310.243.3334. csudh.edu.

6-8, Wednesday-Friday

Decision Making for Cultural and Natural Resources in a Legal Environment.

Professional seminar with lawyer Sherry Hutt. National Preservation Institute; Sacramento; res. req. 703.765.0100. npi.org.

9, Saturday

Open Days: Valley Center.

Tour of three gardens in the San Diego area. The Garden Conservancy; San Diego; \$5-15; res. req. 888.842.2442. gardenconservancy.org.

9, Saturday

Little Tokyo.

Walking tour of the historic heart of LA's Japanese community. Los Angeles Conservancy; 10AM; \$5-10; res. req. 213.623.2489. laconservancy.org.

9-10, Saturday-Sunday

Los Angeles Tour of Architects' Homes and Studios.

Tour of homes and studios designed by architects with architectural historian Tony Merchell. Palm Springs Desert Museum. 760.325.4490. psmuseum.org.

10, Sunday

Hampton Fundraiser Event.

Tour of the University Art Museum Hampton Collection with lecture by photographer Tina Barney. CSULB University Art Museum, 1250 Bellflower Blvd., Long Beach. 562.985.5761. csulb.edu/uam.

11, Monday

Dan Neil.

Lecture with *Los Angeles Times* auto critic Dan Neil. UCLA Department of Architecture and Urban Design; 1302 Perloff Hall, Los Angeles; 6:30PM. 310.825.7857. aud.ucla.edu.

12, Tuesday

Moveable Musical Feast.

Performance at Hollywood's Roosevelt Hotel (Fisher, Lake and Traver, 1927). The Da Camera Society; LA; lecture-7:15PM, concert-8PM; \$39-44; res. req. 213.477.2929. dacamera.org.

12, Tuesday

What Did They Hear?

The Musical Landscape of the Early 20th Century.

Lecture with University of North Carolina music professor Charles McKnight. The Gamble House; Neighborhood Church, 2 Westmoreland Place, Pasadena; 7:30PM; \$15-20. 626.793.3334. gamblehouse.org.

14, Thursday

House Tour Lecture.

Lecture in conjunction with the house tour "Panoramic Hill—Living With Nature." Berkeley Architectural Heritage Association, Berkeley; 7:30PM; \$10. 510.841.2242. berkeleyheritage.com.

15, Friday

Simons Brick Company.

Discussion with authors Alejandro Morales and William Deverell, and historian Raymond Ramirez. City of Commerce Public Library; 6-8PM. 323.722.6660, ext. 2204. ci.commerce.ca.us/library.asp.

15, Friday

Hensman Reception.

Opening night reception in a Hensman-designed home. AIA/Foothill, USC, Friends of the Gamble House; 7:30PM; \$35; res. req. 626.793.3334, ext. 52. gamblehouse.org.

15, Friday

Doheny Soiree.

Concert at the Doheny Mansion (Hunt and Eisen, 1899). The Da Camera Society; Los Angeles; 8PM; \$58-82; res. req. 213.477.2929. dacamera.org.

16, Saturday

Open Days.

Tours of gardens on the San Francisco Peninsula. The Garden Conservancy; San Francisco; \$5-25; res. req. 888.842.2442. gardenconservancy.org.

16, Saturday

Hensman Tour.

Tour of six Donald Hensman homes in Pasadena, Altadena, and Linda Vista. AIA/Foothill, USC, Friends of the Gamble House; 10AM-4PM; \$75; res. req. 626.793.3334, ext. 52. gamblehouse.org.

17, Sunday

Moveable Musical Feast.

Performance at the First Congregational Church of Los Angeles (Allison and Allison, 1932). The Da Camera Society; LA; lecture-3:15PM, concert-4PM; \$35-45; res. req. 213.477.2929. dacamera.org.

19, Tuesday

Olvera Street Anniversary.

Celebration of the 75th anniversary of Olvera Street. El Pueblo Historic Monument; 424 N. Main St., LA; 10AM-9PM. 213.485.9769.

21-24, Thursday-Sunday

Society for California Archaeology.

Annual meeting. Society for California Archaeology; Hyatt Regency, Sacramento; res. req. 530.898.5733. scahome.org.

23, Saturday

Michael Maltzan.

Lecture with Los Angeles-based architect Michael Maltzan. Palm Springs Desert Museum, 101 Museum Dr., Palm Springs; 6PM; \$5-10; res. req. 760.325.4490. psmuseum.org.

23-24, Saturday-Sunday

Blooming of the Roses Festival.

Re-opening of the Exposition Park Rose Garden. LA Department of Recreation and Parks; Exposition Park Rose Garden, Exposition Blvd. and Figueroa St., LA; 10AM-3PM. 888.527.2757. laparks.org.

24, Sunday

Moveable Musical Feast.

Performance at the Museum of Latin American Art (Maneul Rosen, 2000). The Da Camera Society; Long Beach; 4PM; \$35-42; res. req. 213.477.2929. dacamera.org.

24, Sunday

Open Days.

Tours of seven private Pasadena gardens. The Garden Conservancy; Los Angeles County Arboretum & Botanic Garden, 301 North Baldwin Ave., Arcadia; 9:30AM-3:30PM; \$5-35; res. req. 888.842.2442. gardenconservancy.org.

24, Sunday

Springtime in the Garden.

Spring festival with demonstrations. The Japanese Garden, 6100 Woodley Ave., Van Nuys; 10AM-3PM; \$5. 818.756.8166. thejapanesegarden.com.

24, Sunday

Heritage Day Celebration.

Self-guided tours of Banning. LA Department of Recreation and Parks; Banning Residence Museum, 401 E. M St., Wilmington; 11AM-4PM. 888.527.2757. laparks.org.

24, Sunday-May 3, Tuesday

Frank Lloyd Wright Tour.

Ten-day tour through the Midwest. LACMA Decorative Arts Council, 5905 Wilshire Blvd.; \$2950; res. req. 310.271.9566. lacma.org.

26, Tuesday

Isabelle Greene: Shaping Place in the Landscape.

Conversation with landscape architect Isabelle Greene and landscape historian David Streatfield. University Art Museum, UC Santa Barbara; 6PM. 805.893.5354. uam.ucsb.edu.

27, Wednesday

Designer Lecture Series.

Lecture and tabletop exhibits. ASID; Pacific Design Center, 8687 Melrose Ave., West Hollywood; 10AM. 310.657.0800. asidla.org.

28, Thursday

Masters of Architecture: Richard Meier.

Lecture with architect Richard Meier. AIA/LA; LACMA, Bing Auditorium, 5905 Wilshire Blvd., LA; 6:30PM; \$5-12. 323.857.6287. lacma.org.

30, Saturday

San Pedro.

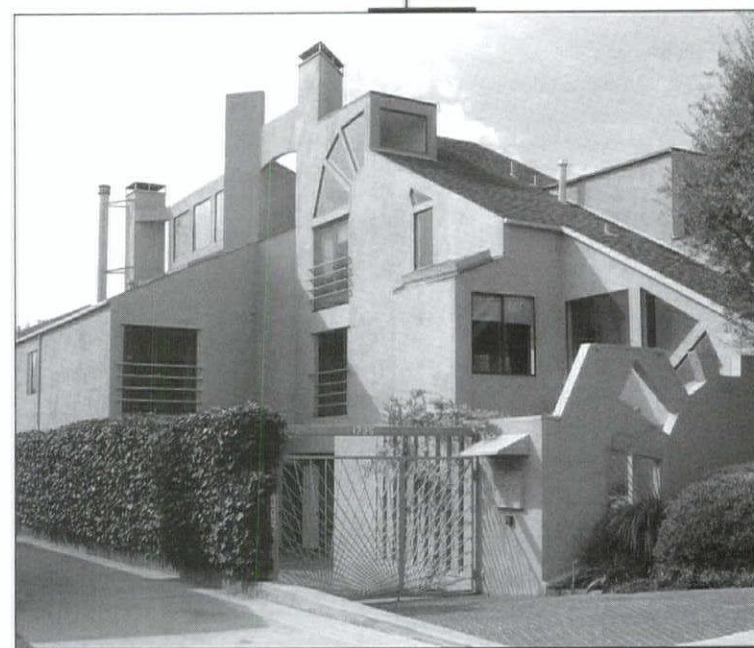
Walking tour of San Pedro architecture. Los Angeles Conservancy; 1PM; \$5-10; res. req. 213.623.2489. laconservancy.org.

SAH/SCC EVENT

30, Sunday

Modern Patrons.

Lecture and tour of Charles Moore townhouse. See Page 3 for details.



SOCIETY OF ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIANS
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAPTER

Modern Patrons: Moore in Los Angeles

SAH/SCC Lecture and Tour:
Saturday, April 30th

Saturday, April 30th, from 2PM to 4PM, Modern Patrons visits the 1977 Charles Moore Triplex in West Los Angeles. This is home to SAH/SCC Advisory Board Member Claire Rogger. Tickets for this event are \$10 and are reserved for SAH/SCC Patron and Life members. The event will be made available to regular membership on a first-come, first-served basis, should space become available. See back page for order form.

Below, architect Michael Franklin Ross gives a brief history of the home. A version of this article first appeared in the November/December 2004 issue of *LA Architect*.)

Charles Moore's Townhouses

In 1976, three UCLA professors were renting apartments in Westwood and wondering how they could afford to buy a house near campus in a booming real estate market on a meager professor's salary. Sadly, they could not.

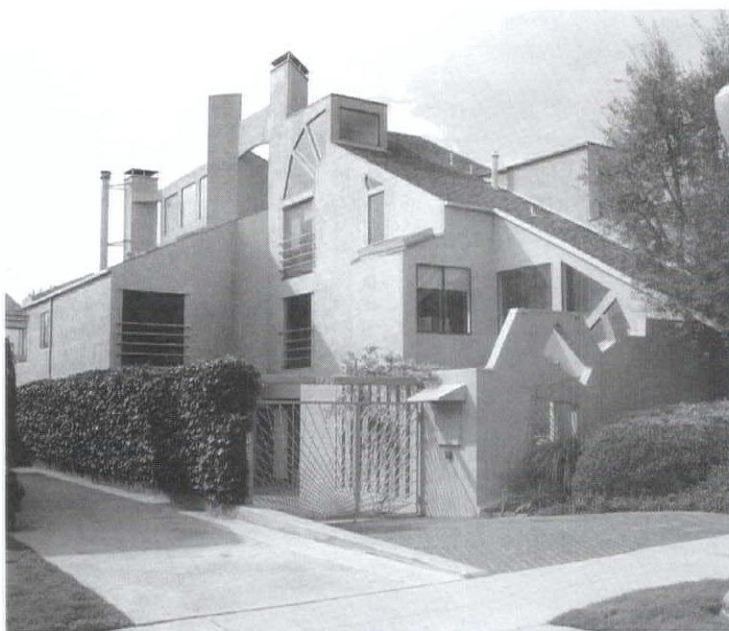
Then Claire Rogger and her husband Hans (Professor of Russian History) met Charles W. Moore, FAIA, Chair of the UCLA Department of Architecture and a recent transplant to UCLA from Yale. Charles was already famous for creating homes for himself with limited funds in Orinda, CA, and at Sea Ranch while teaching at Berkeley, as well as two remodeled residences in New Haven while Dean at Yale. Why would Westwood be any different?

The fact is, real estate costs made building a custom home in West Los Angeles prohibitive. Claire and Hans couldn't afford it, and neither could Charles. Then, Claire found a site zoned R-3 in West LA, opposite the Mormon Temple. She suggested to Charles that they "do" something together. Hans invited his friends, Al Hofflander (UCLA professor of Economics) and his wife Betty, to join Claire and himself, with Charles as the architect, to create three custom townhouses on one lot.

It was a bold endeavor. Could Charles create three distinct, individual residences customized to three different clients (one being himself) and bring it together into a single, cohesive architectural statement? He could, and he did. He designed and built the three-townhouse cluster, in association with Richard Chylinski, reaching completion in December 1977. Now, more than 25 years later, the Selby Avenue Townhouses remain post-modern classics rarely equaled in Los Angeles.

The trio of dwellings nestles into a steeply sloping hillside, within walking distance of UCLA. It is an urban oasis, tucked into a row of plain vanilla boxes. If you didn't know where it was, you could drive right by and miss the surprise.

Each house was designed to fit the individual needs of its owners, while coming together to form what appears to be a single large residence. Charles solved the typical multi-family need for off-street parking with a large, semi-covered court-



yard that the building bridges over. But the owners ultimately decided it was a perfect pedestrian piazza, and too charming to park in. It remains a shared entry courtyard with plants and vines framing the entry to each unit. The townhouses themselves are light-filled spatial puzzles that continue to surprise and delight their owners on a daily basis. All three units manage to have exposure on three sides with through-ventilation, private outdoor patios and a complex juxtaposition of spaces that defies description. The quality of light that enters through the three sides and the multi-faceted roof creates patterns that delight and inspire.

Beyond the context of the neighborhood, each design is imbued with Charles' dry wit and coy sense of humor. The curved pediment in his townhouse is an altar, an ecclesiastic reference to the Mormon Temple directly across the street. The fan-shaped fenestration, which he called "Falling Windows," implies movement and was a casual reference to Frank Lloyd Wright's masterpiece.

Claire Rogger wistfully remembers Charles as "charming, witty, and delightful." She and Hans love the home. "It is a magical place, and a blissful place to live."

New Board Member

SAH/SCC welcomes Adam Wheeler as its newest board member. Adam is design principal at AW Arc, a Los Angeles-based design firm that creates residential and commercial environments. Prior to launching AW Arc in 2003, Adam worked with architect Frank Gehry for six years. In 2001, he designed the exhibition installation "The Furniture of R.M. Schindler" for the MAK Center. Educated in Political Science at UCLA for his undergraduate, Adam continued on at UCLA to receive his graduate degree in architecture.

SAVE THE DATE:

Harris in Santa Monica Canyon



Photo: John Ellis

Mark your calendars for Saturday, May 14th, 2-5PM, for a lecture and tour of two houses by Harwell Hamilton Harris. Both houses have been sensitively restored, with minor and appropriate alterations, and show how Harris's houses adapt to contemporary living nearly 70 years after their creation. More detailed information will be in the next issue of *SAH/SCC News*. The cost for this event is \$35 for SAH/SCC members, and \$45 for non-members. Because Harris's houses are best experienced in a small group, ticket availability is very limited. Reserve your space now with the order form on the back page.



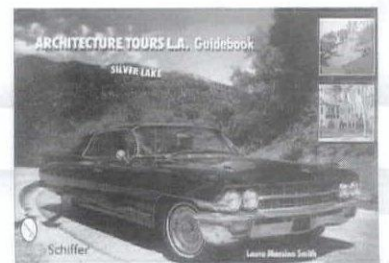
RICHARD NEUTRA'S
MILLER HOUSE
STEPHEN LEET

Richard Neutra's Miller House

by Stephen Leet.

This is a very personal book about a very personal house. Through letters, contracts, drawings, and photos, Leet tells the odyssey of Grace Lewis Miller discovering Palm Springs and asking Richard Neutra to build a winter home for her in 1936. A modern patron, indeed, Miller was a certified instructor in the Mensendieck System of Functional Exercises, and wanted the home to double as a studio so she could teach the well-heeled women of the desert. The owner's and architect's interests in health helped form a bond that was evident in the many letters written during the design and construction (Miller lived in St. Louis) and after the house was finished. Leet takes us through various schemes, construction, and completion (through the photos of Julius Shulman, of course), but doesn't stop there. He engages in discussions of the home's publicity, its relation to photography, and Miller's struggle to retain the home—or at least ensure its integrity when sold (with varying degrees of success)—and on to its decline. Although a winsome air pervades the book, there is a happy ending, as the Miller house is now being restored by a caring owner.

Princeton Architectural Press; soft cover; 176 pages; \$40.



Architecture Tours L.A. Guidebooks

by Laura Massino Smith.

If you haven't taken one of Laura Massino Smith's tours of Los Angeles yet, you can take her with you in the form of this series of guidebooks sized to fit in your car's glove compartment or seat pocket. Smith, an SAH/SCC Patron Member, offers separate 64-page books for areas of Downtown, Silver Lake, Hollywood, and West Hollywood/Beverly Hills. Each book begins with an introduction to the area, then proceeds with several mapped-out, self-guided driving tours. Tours are organized to inform and delight, pointing out architectural spots—historic, contemporary, and kitsch—with color photos (taken from street view) and historic notes. Each guidebook ends with an index of the noted architects and bibliography for further reading.

Schiffer Publishing; soft cover; 64 pages; \$9.95 each.

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.

Edward A. Killingsworth: Setting a Modern Standard: 20-page booklet on Killingsworth's Long Beach work, featuring photos by Julius Shulman and Marvin Rand
_____ at \$9 each

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

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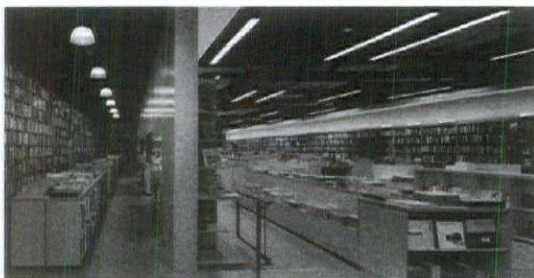
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SAH/SCC Event:

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Hamilton Harwell Harris — May 14th

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