



SOCIETY OF ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIANS  
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAPTER

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# NEWS

2005  
july | august



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



Irving Gill

## Irving Gill: California Impressions

SAH/SCC Lecture with  
Architect John Reed  
Sunday, July 24th

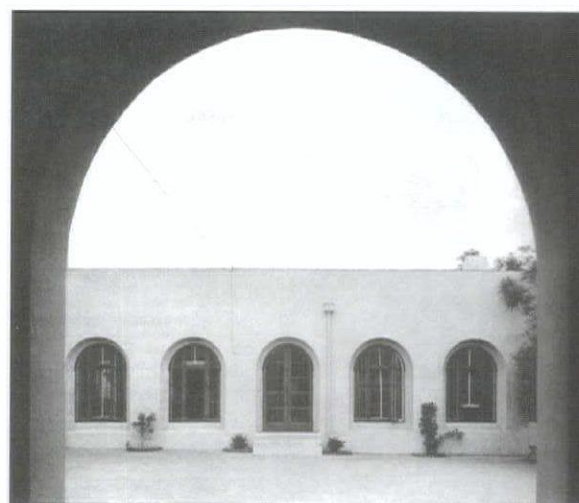
Join SAH/SCC Sunday, July 24th, 2-4PM, for a very special presentation by architect and SAH/SCC Founding Member, John Reed. The event will be held at the Irving Gill-designed Clarke Estate (1919) in Santa Fe Springs. The \$15 cost includes the lecture, admission to the Clarke Estate, and light refreshments. Reservations are required and space is limited. See order form on the back page.

Reed will present rare Kodachrome slides on the work of Irving Gill from his personal collection, compiled throughout the past 50 years. This event offers an opportunity to see rare images of buildings as they once were and buildings that have been lost, accompanied by the reflections of one of Southern California's most authoritative voices on modern architecture.

John Reed grew up in San Diego and attended the School of Architecture at USC. After college, he worked for three years in the office of Lloyd Wright, where he often visited Lloyd Wright's famous father, Frank Lloyd Wright.

A pioneer in the preservation of modern architecture in Los Angeles, as well an accomplished architect in his own right, John Reed was the preservation officer for the Southern California chapter of the AIA. He was also president of the "Save The Dodge House" foundation. This attempt to save the universally lauded Irving Gill masterpiece was the first effort to preserve a contemporary building—one fewer than 50 years old. Reed also helped Esther McCoy with her book, *Five California Architects* (Reinhold Publishing Corporation, 1960), acting on his interest in Gill and R.M. Schindler.

The Clarke Estate in Santa Fe Springs is located just 35 minutes from the Westside, near the intersection of the 5 and 605 Freeways. Commissioned by Chaucey and Marie Ranking Clarke, Gill organized the house around a central courtyard or "outdoor room." The lush garden and reflecting pool add to this enchanting site's allure. See for yourself on July 24th.



**Bishop's School, La Jolla, Irving Gill (1909).**  
Photo: Marvin Rand



**Dodge House, Irving Gill (1916, destroyed).**  
Photo: Marvin Rand



**Horatio West Court, Santa Monica, Irving Gill (1919).**  
Photo: Marvin Rand

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*Preservation is in the eye of the beholder.*

So says Steve Scauzillo, the editorial page editor of the San Gabriel Valley Tribune, who recently argued that the embattled Azusa Drive-In does not deserve to be saved. It was an excellent article that highlighted some of the larger issues facing the architectural history and preservation communities today.

This is a classic case of competing interests between a property owner and a small but powerful band of enthusiasts. And it raises compelling questions about what kinds of places are significant and worth saving.

The Azusa Drive-In is on the California Register of Historic Places because it is one of the few remaining drive-ins off Route 66, recalling the romance of 1950s car culture. When the site was first listed as historic, Ken Bernstein of the LA Conservancy asked, "What if we had never preserved the ornate theaters of the 1920s? All kids today would know are the giant 10-screen theater complexes."

The problem is that the structure's original purpose is essentially obsolete, and difficult to adapt to a viable new purpose. As Scauzillo writes, our movie-watching habits have changed dramatically since the heyday of the drive-in. Other types of structures are more adaptable: a homestead can become the office of a non-profit group, or a historic church can be preserved as a small museum. Or sometimes, as in the case of Bob's Big Boy in Toluca Lake, the original function can be rehabilitated with great success. But a new use that preserves and honors the drive-in has not been discovered. This one is used as a low-rent flea market from time to time.

Another aspect of the problem is that the structure is not architecturally significant itself, nor particularly beautiful. Of course this makes it hard to arouse a lot of passion within our community.

A final part of the problem, according to Scauzillo, is that the preservation of the drive-in would compromise the potential quality of future architecture. The land is owned by Azusa Pacific University (APU), which is rapidly growing and wants to build new dormitories on the site. By adding stunning buildings, Scauzillo says, the university could become the most architecturally beautiful university in the area.

I'm not quite so convinced that APU is building a real architectural legacy, but you see the larger question. By preserving a mediocre work of the past, we might be preventing architects from creating buildings that might really be worth preserving someday.

After more than three years, this is my final President's Letter. I am opening a new chapter in my own life, and I am happy to pass the torch to Merry Ovnick, who is currently our membership coordinator. Merry's credentials are impeccable. She has a Ph.D. in architectural history from UCLA, she is a professor at CSU Northridge, and she is the author of the excellent *Los Angeles: The End of the Rainbow* (Balcony Press, 1994). I think we've done some good work in the past few years, and I expect that it will only get better under Merry's leadership. Farewell.

Tony Denzer

## Ciao Los Angeles!

The SAH/SCC Board is sad to announce the recent "retirement" of its long-time treasurer, Rina Rubenstein, as she leaves the organization and Los Angeles to live and work in Manhattan for a year.

For the past many years, Rina has tirelessly and efficiently handled the less-than-glamorous duties of keeping the organization's books, preparing its tax returns, and paying the bills. The many of you who came to know Rina through SAH/SCC also know that she was intimately involved in virtually every program and event the organization has created. Her devotion and her leadership within the organization will be sorely missed—as will her bright spirit, quick wit, and encyclopedic knowledge of her hometown of Los Angeles and its cultural offerings.

Although her departure from the organization is bittersweet, we know that Rina will flourish professionally and personally in her new metropolis. Please join us in wishing her well in this new endeavor and thanking her for her years of dedication and service to our organization.

We'll miss you mightily, Rina! Come home soon.

**Note:** The duties of SAH/SCC Treasurer will now be assumed by former treasurer and past president of SAH/SCC, John Berley.

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 exclusive SAH/SCC architectural events and tours.

**Editor:** Julie D. Taylor

**Assistant Editor:** Anne Dickhoff

**Internet Editor:** Brent Eckerman

**Art Director:** Svetlana Petrovic

**Administration:** Arline Chambers

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

**Issue Deadline:**

September/October 2005

August 10, 2005

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

**Julie D. Taylor, Editor**

SAH/SCC News

Newsletter telephone: 310.247.1099

P.O. Box 56478

Newsletter fax: 310.247.8147

Sherman Oaks,

Newsletter e-mail: jtaylorpr@usa.net

CA 91413

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### NOTE:

To the friends of Life Members Miriam & Sam Campbell:

Their mail has been returned. If you know their new mailing address, please contact SAH/SCC Membership at 818.363.9326 or merry.ovnick@csun.edu.

**1, 15, Friday****Drawing Hour in the Getty Garden.**

Fresh air and botanical drawing in the Getty Center garden. The Getty Center, 1200 Getty Center Dr., LA; 7-8:30PM. 310.440.7300. getty.edu.

**2, Saturday****Village Walking Tour.**

Tour of the downtown Village area of Claremont, including the exteriors of Victorian homes and college and commercial buildings. Claremont Heritage; Metrolink Depot, 200 W. First St., Claremont; 10AM; \$5; res. req. 909.621.0848.

**2, Saturday****Silent Film.**

Screening of "Wings" (Clara Bow and Buddy Rogers, 1927) at the Orpheum Theatre (G. Albert Lansburgh, 1926), accompanied by legendary theater organist Bob Mitchell. American Theatre Organ Society and Los Angeles Conservancy; Orpheum Theatre, 842 S. Broadway, LA; 8PM; \$13-\$20. 888.528.6722. latos.org

**2, 9, 16, 23, 30, Saturday****Neon Cruise.**

Bus tour of contemporary and historical neon in Downtown, Chinatown, and Hollywood. Museum of Neon Art, 501 Olympic Blvd.; 7PM; \$35-45; res. req. 213.489.9918. neonmona.org.

**6, Wednesday****Last Remaining Seats.**

Screening of "The Quiet Man" (John Wayne and Maureen O'Hara, 1952), at the Orpheum Theatre (G. Albert Lansburgh, 1926). Los Angeles Conservancy; Orpheum Theatre, 842 S. Broadway, LA; 8PM; \$13-16. 213.623.2489. laconservancy.org.

**7, Thursday****Life on the Rancho.**

Children's workshop on life in Old California with activities, games, songs, and stories. Friends of the Rancho Los Cerritos Historic Site, 4600 Virginia Rd., Long Beach; 2-4PM; \$3; res. req. 562.570.1755. rancholoscerritos.org.

**7, Thursday****ASID Board of Directors****Meeting and Mixer.**

Board meeting of the ASID followed by a members networking mixer. ASID/LA; Lakaye Studio, 1550 N. Curson Ave., LA; 5-7PM; res. req. 323.460.7330. asidla.org.

**7, Thursday****On the Map: Space International.**

Tour of the Ferguson Residence and lecture with architects Space International. Los Angeles Forum for Architecture and Urban Design; Ferguson Residence, 328 W. Avenue 41, LA; 7:30PM; \$15. 323.852.7145. laforum.org.

**8, Friday****Porosity.**

Reception for the SCI-Arc exhibit "Porosity" by New York-based Steven Holl Architects, exploring the fusion of light with form, shade, and shadow through technology and materials. SCI-Arc Gallery, 960 East 3rd St., LA; 6-8PM. 213.613.2200. sciarc.edu.

**9, Saturday****Lake Anniversary Tour.**

Walking tour commemorating the 110th anniversary of the opening of Echo Park

Lake to the public. Historic Echo Park; Echo Park Boathouse, 751 Echo Park Ave., LA; 10AM; \$3; res. req. 323.860.8874. historicechopark.org.

**9, Saturday****Masters of California Architecture.**

Illustrated lecture on the works of mid-20th-century architects John Lautner, Wallace Neff, Richard Neutra, and Paul Williams with Santa Monica College professor and SAH/SCC Life Member Eleanor Schraeder Schapa. UCLA Extension; 1010 Westwood Blvd., LA; 10AM-2PM; \$50-65; res. req. 310.825.9971. uclaextension.org.

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

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

**9-10, Saturday-Sunday****Lotus Festival.**

Celebration of Asian and Pacific Island culture with dragon boats, flowers, Asian foods, and Oriental arts and crafts. LA Department of Recreation and Parks; Park Ave. between Glendale Ave. and Echo Park Blvd.; 12PM-9PM. 213.485.8745. laparks.org.

**13, Wednesday****Construction Light: The Magic of Architectural Painting.**

Lecture on fine wall finishing with muralist and artist Vanessa Valore. Pacific Design Center, 8687 Melrose Ave., West Hollywood; 10AM; res. req. 310.657.0800. pacificdesigncenter.com.

**14, Thursday****Garden Treasures.**

Children's workshop on life in Old California with activities, games, songs, and stories. Friends of the Rancho Los Cerritos Historic Site, 4600 Virginia Rd., Long Beach; 2-4PM; \$3; res. req. 562.570.1755. rancholoscerritos.org.

**14, Thursday****Barton Myers.**

Lecture and book signing with architect and subject of *Steel Houses: Recent Projects* Barton Myers. UCSB, University Art Museum, Santa Barbara; 6PM. 805.893.7564. uam.ucsb.edu.

**14, Thursday****On the Map:****Aleks Istanbul Architects.**

Tour of the Westchester-Loyola Library and lecture with architect Aleks Istanbul. Los Angeles Forum for Architecture and Urban Design; Westchester-Loyola Library, 7114 W. Manchester Ave., LA; 7:30PM; \$15. 323.852.7145. laforum.org.

**16, Saturday****Downtown's Evolving Skyline.**

Tour of architecture, art, and open spaces of Downtown's Central Business District, focusing on the postwar urban built environment and how a city's future is shaped by the choices it makes about its past. Los Angeles Conservancy; LA; 10AM; \$5-10; res. req. 213.623.2489. laconservancy.org.

**16, Saturday****Union Station.**

Walking tour of the architecture and history of Union Station. Los Angeles Conservancy; LA; 10AM; \$5-10; res. req. 213.623.2489. laconservancy.org.

**16, Sunday****Designer Walking****Art Tour of Venice.**

Guided tour of 30-40 Venice artists' studios, followed by cocktails at Casa Del Mar. ASID/LA, NEWH; Venice; 12-6PM; \$30; res. req. 310.659.8998. asidla.org.

**16, Saturday****Celebration on the Bridge.**

Celebration of historic preservation with live music, activities, and vintage cars on the Colorado Street Bridge (J.A.L. Waddell + John D. Mercereau, 1913). Pasadena Heritage; Colorado Street Bridge, 500 West Colorado St., Pasadena; 6-11:30PM; \$10-15. 626.441.6333. pasadenaheritage.org.

**16, 23, Saturday****Sunrise Photography in the Garden.**

Photography class at the Huntington Botanical Garden with photographer Donald G. Rogers. The Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens, 1151 Oxford Rd., San Marino; 6-10AM; \$70-85; res. req. 626.405.2146. huntington.org.

**19, Tuesday****DnA: Design & Architecture.**

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

**21, Thursday****Modernism.**

Meeting of the Save Our Heritage Organization. SOHO; Whaley House Museum, 2482 San Diego Avenue, San Diego; 6:30PM. 619.297.9327. sohosandiego.org.

**21, Thursday****On the Map: DMJM Design.**

Tour of RAND Headquarters and lecture with architects from DMJM Design. Los Angeles Forum for Architecture and Urban Design; RAND Headquarters, 1776 Main St., Santa Monica; 7:30PM; \$15. 323.852.7145. laforum.org.

**23, Saturday****Historic Spring Street.**

Tour of the architecture of the old Spring Street financial district, once known as "Wall Street of the West" and now a hub of downtown revitalization. Los Angeles Conservancy; LA; 10AM; \$5-10; res. req. 213.623.2489. laconservancy.org.

**23, Saturday****Cocktail Soiree at the Mauretania.**

Cocktail reception, silent auction, and tour of the private penthouse of the Mauretania Apartments (Milton J. Black, 1934) to benefit Frank Lloyd Wright's Ennis-Brown House (1924). Art Deco Society of Los Angeles; Mauretania Apartments, 522 North Rossmore Ave., LA; 5-8PM; \$60-75; res. req. 310.659.3326. adsia.org.

**24, Sunday****Paul Strand:****Transforming the Ordinary.**

Lecture on the photography and vision of Paul Strand with photographic historian and author Naomi Rosenblum. The Getty Center, 1200 Getty Center Dr., LA; 4-5PM; res. req. 310.440.7300. getty.edu.

**25, Monday****Preservation Action.**

Meeting of the Save Our Heritage Organization. SOHO; Whaley House Museum, 2482 San Diego Avenue, San Diego; 5:30PM. 619.297.9327. sohosandiego.org.

**28, Thursday****Mud, Mud, Mud.**

Children's workshop on life in Old California with activities, games, songs, and stories. Friends of the Rancho Los Cerritos Historic Site, 4600 Virginia Rd., Long Beach; 2-4PM; \$3; res. req. 562.570.1755. rancholoscerritos.org.

**28, Thursday****On the Map: SPF:a.**

Tour of Washington Boulevard and lecture with architects SPF:a. Los Angeles Forum for Architecture and Urban Design; 8601-8637 Washington Blvd., Culver City; 7:30PM; \$15. 323.852.7145. laforum.org.

**28-31, Thursday-Sunday****CA Boom 2.**

Seminars, tours, opening gala, and exhibits on contemporary design and architecture. CA Boom; Santa Monica Civic Auditorium, 1855 Main St.; \$18-195; res. req. 310.306.6677. caboom2.com.

july continues

## SAH/SCC EVENT 14, Saturday

**Irving Gill: California Impressions.**

Lecture and slide presentation with architect John Reed. See page 1 for details.

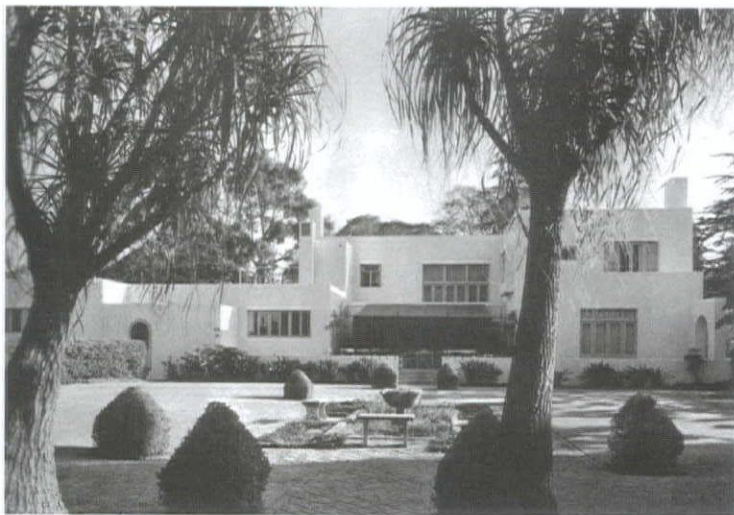


Photo: Marvin Rand

july continues

## 30, Saturday

### *Los Angeles River Tour.*

Tour of the Los Angeles River from the San Fernando Valley to Downtown LA with *LA Weekly* writer Jennifer Price. The Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens; LA; 9:30AM-4:30PM; \$75-85; res. req. 626.405.2146. [huntington.org](http://huntington.org).

## 30, Saturday

### *San Pedro.*

Walking tour of San Pedro's Vinegar Hill Historic Preservation Overlay Zone with important civic structures including the Municipal Building, the Ferry Building, and the Warner Grand Theatre. Los Angeles Conservancy; LA; 1PM; \$5-10; res. req. 213.623.2489. [laconservancy.org](http://laconservancy.org).

## august calendar

## 3, Wednesday

### *Art Deco Summer Evening Walking Tour.*

Condensed version of weekly Art Deco downtown walking tour. Los Angeles Conservancy; LA; 5:30PM; \$5-10; res. req. 213.623.2489. [laconservancy.org](http://laconservancy.org).

## 5, Friday

### *Tut, Tut, Tut!*

Tour of LACMA exhibition "Tutankhamun and the Golden Age of the Pharaohs" and private lecture on the effect of the 1922 discovery of Tut's tomb on the art and design of the Deco era. Art Deco Society of Los Angeles; LACMA West, 5905 Wilshire Blvd., LA; 7PM; \$25-27.50; res. req. 310.659.3326. [adsla.org](http://adsla.org).

## 5, 19, Friday

### *Drawing Hour in the Getty Garden.*

Fresh air and botanical drawing in the Getty Center garden. The Getty Center, 1200 Getty Center Dr., LA; 7-8:30PM. 310.440.7300. [getty.edu](http://getty.edu).

## 6, Saturday

### *Village Walking Tour.*

Tour of the downtown Village area of Claremont, including the exteriors of Victorian homes and college and commercial buildings. Claremont Heritage; Metrolink Depot, 200 W. First St., Claremont; 10AM; \$5; res. req. 909.621.0848.

## 6, Saturday

### *Decorative Arts and Interiors of the Italian Renaissance.*

Lecture and slide illustration of the opulent art, architecture, and decorative accessories that graced the homes of the Renaissance with Santa Monica College professor and SAH/SCC Life Member Eleanor Schraeder Schapa. UCLA Extension; 1010 Westwood Blvd., LA; 10AM-1PM; \$60-75; res. req. 310.825.9971. [uclaextension.org](http://uclaextension.org).

## 6, 13, 20, 27, Saturday

### *Neon Cruise.*

Bus tour of contemporary and historical neon in Downtown, Chinatown, and Hollywood. Museum of Neon Art, 501 Olympic Blvd.; 7PM; \$35-45; res. req. 213.489.9918. [neonmona.org](http://neonmona.org).

## 10, Wednesday

### *Public Works Construction: New and Dramatic Legal Changes in California.*

Seminar on the changing landscape of public works construction in California with attorneys Sam Abdulaziz, Thomas Kovacich, and Kirk MacDonald. Lorman Education Services; Millennium Biltmore Hotel, 506 S. Grand Ave., LA; 8:30AM-4:30PM; \$329-339; res. req. 888.678.5565. [lorman.com](http://lorman.com).

## 10, Wednesday

### *Downtown Summer Evening Walking Tour.*

Condensed version of monthly Downtown's Evolving Skyline walking tour. Los Angeles Conservancy; LA; 5:30PM; \$5-10; res. req. 213.623.2489. [laconservancy.org](http://laconservancy.org).

## 12, Friday

### *Construction Management/Design-Build in California.*

Seminar on the design-build project delivery system with Construction Consultant Services principal Michael Forry and attorneys Michael Baker and G. Christian Roux. Lorman Education Services; Wilshire Grand Hotel, 930 Wilshire Blvd., LA; 8:30AM-4:30PM; \$329-339; res. req. 888.678.5565. [lorman.com](http://lorman.com).

## 13, Saturday

### *Little Tokyo.*

Walking tour of the historic heart of LA's Japanese community. Los Angeles Conservancy; LA; 10AM; \$5-10; res. req. 213.623.2489. [laconservancy.org](http://laconservancy.org).

## 13, Saturday

### *Walking Tour 25th Anniversary.*

Free half-hour tours and live music celebrating 25 years of Los Angeles Conservancy walking tours. Los Angeles Conservancy; Pershing Square, Olive Street between 5th and 6th Streets; 4-7PM. 213.623.2489. [laconservancy.org](http://laconservancy.org).

## 16, Tuesday

### *DnA: Design & Architecture.*

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

## 17, Wednesday

### *Union Station Summer Evening Walking Tour.*

Condensed version of monthly Union Station downtown walking tour. Los Angeles Conservancy; LA; 5:30PM; \$5-10; res. req. 213.623.2489. [laconservancy.org](http://laconservancy.org).

## 18, Thursday

### *Modernism.*

Meeting of the Save Our Heritage Organization. SOHO; Whaley House Museum, 2482 San Diego Avenue, San Diego; 6:30PM. 619.297.9327. [sohosandiego.org](http://sohosandiego.org).

## 19-20, Friday-Saturday

### *Residential Architecture in Los Angeles: An On-Site Study Tour.*

Illustrated course and on-site tour on the residential styles in Los Angeles, including Adobe, Victorian, Arts and Crafts, Art Deco, English Tudor, Spanish Colonial, Mid-Century Modern, and Post-Modern, with Santa Monica College professor and SAH/SCC Life Member Eleanor Schraeder Schapa. UCLA Extension; 1010 Westwood Blvd., LA; Friday lecture-7-9PM, Saturday tour-9AM-3PM; res. req. 310.825.9971. [uclaextension.org](http://uclaextension.org).

## 20, Saturday

### *Union Station.*

Walking tour of the architecture and history of Union Station. Los Angeles Conservancy; LA; 10AM; \$5-10; res. req. 213.623.2489. [laconservancy.org](http://laconservancy.org).

## 21, Sunday

### *Mud Mania:*

### *A Celebration of Adobe.*

Festival with interactive activities focusing on adobe construction, archaeology, pottery, and gardening. Rancho Los Cerritos Historic Site, 4600 Virginia Rd., Long Beach; 12:30-4:30PM; \$3-5. 562.570.1755. [rancholoscerritos.org](http://rancholoscerritos.org).

## 22, Monday

### *Preservation Action.*

Meeting of the Save Our Heritage Organization. SOHO; Whaley House Museum, 2482 San Diego Avenue, San Diego; 5:30PM. 619.297.9327. [sohosandiego.org](http://sohosandiego.org).

## 24, Wednesday

### *Getting Graphic:*

### *How Great Graphic Design Can Promote Interior Designers.*

Lecture and tabletop display on graphic design with FreeAssociates creative director Josh Freeman. ASID; Pacific Design Center, 8687 Melrose Ave., West Hollywood; 10AM. 310.657.0800. [asidla.org](http://asidla.org).

## 24, Wednesday

### *Little Tokyo Summer Evening Walking Tour.*

Condensed version of bi-monthly Little Tokyo downtown walking tour. Los Angeles Conservancy; LA; 5:30PM; \$5-10; res. req. 213.623.2489. [laconservancy.org](http://laconservancy.org).

## 27, Saturday

### *Historic Spring Street.*

Tour of the architecture of the old Spring Street financial district, once known as "Wall Street of the West" and now a hub of downtown revitalization. Los Angeles Conservancy; LA; 10AM; \$5-10; res. req. 213.623.2489. [laconservancy.org](http://laconservancy.org).

## 27, Saturday

### *Highland Park.*

Tour of Highland Park, including the Craftsman homes of Sycamore Terrace. Los Angeles Conservancy; 1PM; \$10; res. req. 213.623.2489. [laconservancy.org](http://laconservancy.org).

## 27, Saturday

### *Palms for Southern California Gardens.*

Tour of the Huntington's palm collection and workshop on growing these icons of Southern California lifestyle with horticulturist Tom Shea. The Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens, 1151 Oxford Rd, San Marino; 1:30-4:30PM; \$35-45; res. req. 626.405.2146. [huntington.org](http://huntington.org).

## 28, Sunday

### *Around the Claremont Hotel.*

Walking tour of historic Oakland buildings with Berkeley Architectural Heritage Association president Wendy Markel. Oakland Heritage. 510.763.9218. [oaklandheritage.com](http://oaklandheritage.com).

## 31, Wednesday

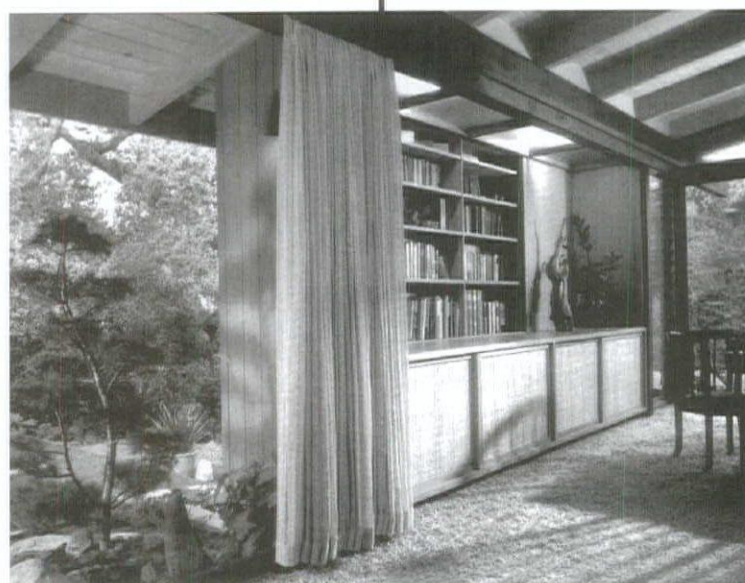
### *Art Deco Summer Evening Walking Tour.*

Condensed version of weekly Art Deco downtown walking tour. Los Angeles Conservancy; LA; 5:30PM; \$5-10; res. req. 213.623.2489. [laconservancy.org](http://laconservancy.org).

## FEATURED EVENT

## 19-20, Friday-Saturday

## Residential Architecture in Los Angeles



Illustrated course and on-site tour of residential styles in Los Angeles with SAH/SCC Life Member Eleanor Schraeder Schapa. See listing for details.

*A mid-century Modern home by Calvin Straub. Photo: Julius Shulman*



SOCIETY OF ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIANS  
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAPTER

## Harris Postcard:

# The Work and the Words

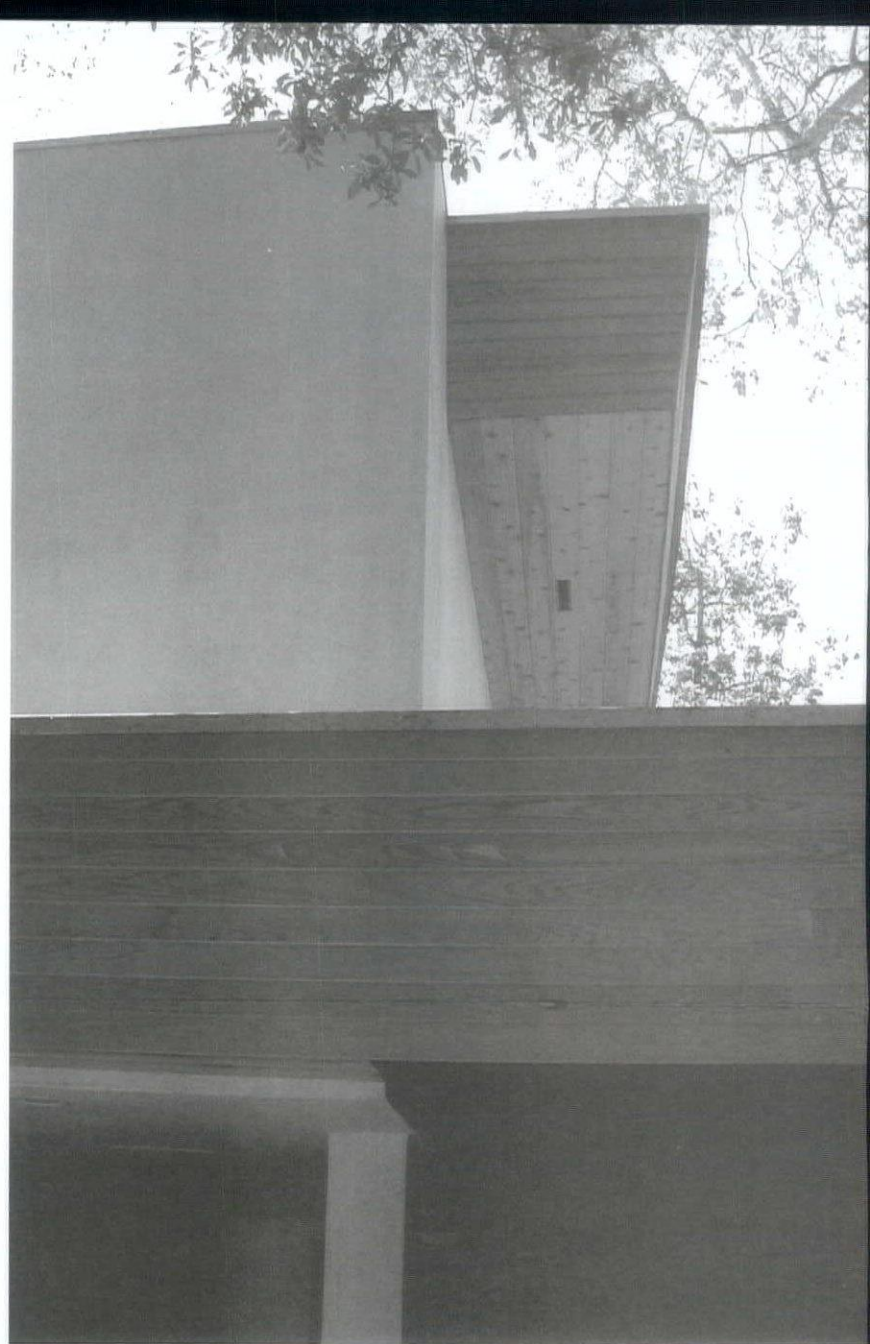


The *Harwell Harris X Two* tour in Santa Monica Canyon didn't start out as your typical SAH/SCC event. While the basic tour ingredients—interesting architecture, historical context, and tasty hors d'oeuvres—were all in tow, this event took on an added dramatic flare.

At 2PM on Saturday, May 14th, the stage was set. Forty-five tour goers took their seats. There was a hush in the back patio of the Pumphrey Residence, with all eyes toward Ted Wells, SAH/SCC Advisory Board Member and co-organizer of the day's event. "Today," Wells explained, "we are going to hear from Harwell Hamilton Harris, in his own words and in the words of his good friend, noted architectural writer Esther McCoy." You could hear a pin drop.

Wells had created a Reader's Theatre of sorts. The "dialogue" was culled from a variety of sources, such as Esther McCoy's books and her archived papers at the Smithsonian, Lisa Germany's exhaustive book on Harris, and the Harris Archives at University of Texas.

The conversation between Harris (persuasively played by Jack Valero) and McCoy (righteously interpreted by SAH/SCC Vice President Sian Winship), was vibrant, illuminating, and sometimes downright funny. Valero and Winship took moments to breathe life into their characters, replete with dramatic gesture and convincing intention. The dialogue showcased a young and optimistic Harris in early career, up to the period of time when the Byron Pumphrey and John Entenza houses—the two houses we visited—were built. We learned about Harris's search for form in wood and plaster, and about the influence of Richard Neutra and Frank Lloyd Wright on the aspiring architect. We also learned about some of Harris's own architectural dictates, including "make one wall of a room glass facing a garden" and "by doing the most natural thing, you do the most revolutionary."



Next on the Playbill, restoration architect Michael Folonis spoke eloquently about the challenges of restoring the houses that we visited. After a brief question-and-answer period with Folonis, tour-goers split into groups.

One group started their touring with the Pumphrey House (1939), noticing the vertical surfaces of stucco and the outsloping planes of balconies lapped in redwood boards—a Harris trademark.

Another group jumped into a waiting van, winding their way just up hill to the International Styled Entenza Residence (1937) designed for John Entenza, best known as creator of the Case Study Program and publisher of *Arts and Architecture Magazine*. Tour goers marveled at the crisp elliptical lines, exterior metal stair, roof garden, and a huge glass slider that open the 18x24-foot living room to Pacific Ocean views. All this is in a house purporting to be just more than 600 square feet.

As tour goers returned to the Pumphrey House, they partook in the delicious goodies and formed informal conversational groups in the front patio. Here you noticed restoration architect Michael Folonis, who stayed the balance of the afternoon, chatting with a few tour goers. You could also hear groups comparing and contrasting the two distinct homes.

Set in the Santa Monica Canyon of the 1930s, this SAH/SCC tour gave a unique opportunity to experience the inspiring words and freshly modern works of Harwell Hamilton Harris. Definitely, an afternoon to remember!

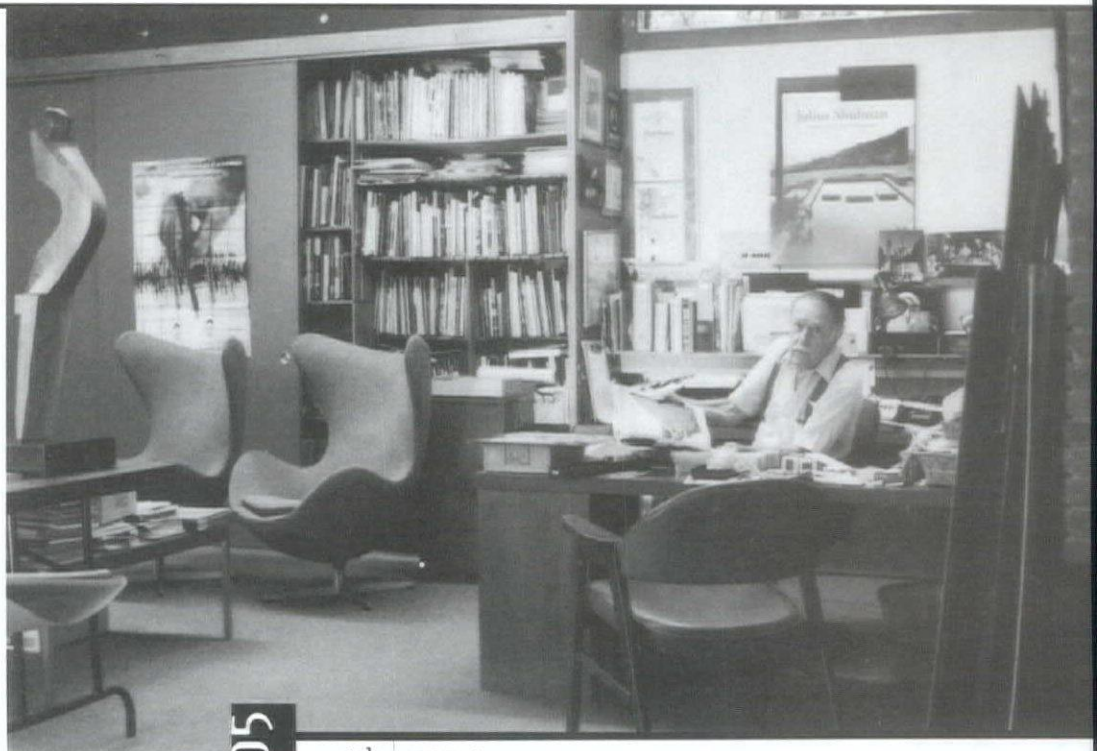
John Ellis

## Happy Birthday, Julius

SAH/SCC Event, October 9th

Celebrating the 95th birthday of one of the most formidable contributors to 20th-century architecture, SAH/SCC is delighted to announce an evening honoring Julius Shulman, on Saturday, October 9, 2005. The celebration will include cocktails, dinner, and festivities, as well as an "architectural" birthday cake for Julius. The venue for this party and SAH/SCC fundraiser, although unconfirmed at press time, is guaranteed to be sensational. For more information, check [www.sahscc.org](http://www.sahscc.org) for specific updates and look for ticket sales to be in the September/October issue of *SAH/SCC News*.

Photo: John Ellis



2005

july august

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

**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

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Irving Gill: California Impressions — July 24th  
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