Libya and Tunisia: In Search of Ancient Splendor

SAH/SCC Talk
Sunday, February 11th

Please join architect, world traveler, and SAH/SCC Advisory Board member Stephen Harby on Sunday, February 11th, 2-4PM, for Libya and Tunisia: In Search of Ancient Splendor and the Far-Flung Outposts of the Roman Empire, an illustrated talk. The talk takes place at the Santa Monica Public Library at 601 Santa Monica Boulevard. This event is free, but reservations are needed. See back page.

Libya has long beckoned to the avid traveler in search of spectacular landscapes, some of the best preserved Greek and Roman cities, and a culture that has remained distinct from the increasingly more homogeneous modern world. Until recently it has been out of reach to most travelers—and especially Americans—but that has changed, as the government of Mouammar Qaddafi now realizes the enormous potential for tourism the country possesses. Harby is planning a tour of the country in March, and will give a preview of the trip.

These two countries were once the breadbasket of the Roman Empire, and offer today some of the best preserved and most dramatically situated of ancient sites. Leptis Magna, Dougga, Sabratha, and Sbeitla were all wealthy colonial outposts and flourishing market towns. In spite of being off the beaten path following the collapse of the Roman Empire, they have remained in relatively good states of preservation. In Tunisia, and to some degree in Libya, the next wave of settlement in the Islamic period produced notable architecture. The Tunisian city of Kairouan is considered among the four holiest Muslim places (joining Mecca, Medina, and the Dome of the Rock in Jerusalem), and its great mosque is the oldest place of continuous Muslim worship.

Libya, following the collapse of the Ottoman Empire, became an Italian colony in the early 20th century. It was the scene of brutal domination by Mussolini, who left behind a rich collection of historically derivative modern buildings intended to evoke and reestablish the greatness of the Roman Empire.

This lively slide talk will take place at the newly built Santa Monica Public Library designed by Moore Ruble Yudell, recipient of the prestigious 2006 Architecture Firm Award by the American Institute of Architects. Opened in January 2006, the library represents a greater civic presence on Santa Monica Boulevard and includes multiple entrances, garden spaces, and window walls to engage users and passers by. Please join us in the multi-purpose room on the second floor.

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SAH/SCC
President’s Letter

Pasadenans and architectural historians in general are acrid about Pasadena City Council’s unanimous decision to grant a demolition permit to Fuller Theological Seminary for the Herkimer Arms (1912), the only apartment house designed by Greene & Greene. The religious school wants to replace it with a modern chapel.

Social planner Barbara Lammers, in an open letter to the community, has pointed out that this commission saw the Greene brothers experimenting successfully with the new technology and aesthetic of sprayed Gunite, employing built-in trundle beds and kitchen cabinetry with a modernist’s eye to functional efficiency, and integrating an apartment house into the scale of a residential neighborhood.

Architect and former SAH/SCC President Ted Wells emphasizes the significance of Herkimer Arms to understanding Charles and Henry Greene’s body of work. This structure illustrates their post-Arts & Crafts period of innovation. Fuller Theological Seminary could use a nearby underutilized church as its chapel and save Herkimer Arms within the context of its original neighborhood.

Another possibility is to move Herkimer Arms, also known as the Parker A. Earle Apartments, to a new location—an empty or a potentially vacant lot elsewhere in Pasadena. Wells notes Pasadena Mayor Bill Bagdziai’s interest in funding adaptation to affordable housing. And Pasadena Heritage director Sue Massum observes that city financial support for adaptive reuse—along with the $200,000 offered by the seminary for a relocation project—will be necessary, considering the high cost of land and house-moving, unless a funding angel comes to the rescue.

The search is on for a prospective new location in a compatible neighborhood setting before the clock runs out. The city granted a 12-month stay on the demolition permit, until November 2007. If anyone knows of a Pasadena lot or of a way to persuade Fuller Theological Seminary to revise its plans, please speak up. Or go take a last look at this interesting Greene & Greene work at 507 E. Union Street in Pasadena.

Merry Dvinick
6. Saturday
Angelo Heights.
Walking tour of Victorian architecture.
Los Angeles Conservancy, LA; 10AM-12PM; res. req. 213.623.2489. laconservancy.org.

6. Saturday
El Centro Hall.
Tour of public spaces in City Hall.
Los Angeles Conservancy, LA; 11AM-5:10; res. req. 213.623.2489. laconservancy.org.

7. Sunday
Citywide Family Appreciation Day.
Storytelling with guest artists from Pixar.
San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, 151 Third St., 11AM-4PM. 415.536.2863. sfmoma.org.

7. Sunday
Design a Building You Can Wear.
Family workshop with set, costume, and puppet designer Lynn Jeffries in conjunction with "Skin + Bones" exhibition.

8. Monday
CityLAB Seminar.

8. Monday
Keller Easterling.

9. Friday
The Sculpture Galleries of the Altes Museum, Berlin.

12. Friday
Currents: Fall 2006.

13. Saturday
Little Tokyo.

13. Saturday
San Pedro.

13. Saturday
Biltmore Hotel.
Walking tour of the architecture and history of Downtown LA's Biltmore Hotel.
Los Angeles Conservancy, LA; 2PM-5:10; res. req. 213.623.2489. laconservancy.org.

14. Sunday
Build Your Own Fantasy Structure.
Teen workshop in conjunction with "Skin + Bones" exhibition.
MOCA, 250 S. Grand Ave., LA; 3PM-5:10. 213.621.1745. moca.org.
1. Thursday
The Director's Series: Between Michael Govan. LACMA director Michael Govan speaks with artist Jeff Koons in conjunction with "Magritte and Contemporary Art" exhibition. LACMA, 5905 Wilshire Blvd., LA, 7:30PM; res. req. 323.657.9028. lacma.org

2. Friday
Doheny Soiree. Paris Piano Trio plays at the Doheny Mansion (Hunt and Ernst, 1899). Da Camera Society, LA; talk, 7-8:15PM; concert, 8:45PM; $36-87; res. req. 213.477.2952. dacamera.org

2. Friday
The Faculty Club. Berkeley Architectural Heritage Association. 510.861.2242. berkeleyheritage.com

3. Saturday
Angelina Heights. Walking tour of Victorian architecture. Los Angeles Conservancy; LA; 10AM; $5-10; res. req. 213.623.2498. lacconservancy.org

3. Saturday
City Hall.
Tour of public spaces in City Hall. Los Angeles Conservancy; LA; 11AM; $5-10; res. req. 213.623.2498. lacconservancy.org

3. Saturday
Moveable Musical Feast. Performance by Tapestry at UCLA’s Powel Library Building (George W. Kelham, 1929; Moore Ruble Yudell, 1986). Da Camera Society, LA; talk, 7-8PM; concert, 8PM; $39-44; res. req. 213.477.2952. dacamera.org

4. Sunday
Weearable Sculptures. Family workshop with costume designer Ann Casley-Ferlay in conjunction with "Skin + Bones" exhibition. MOCA, 250 S. Grand Ave., LA; 1-3:30PM; 213.621.1745. moca.org

4. Sunday
Faucett’s Magritte and Other Metapictures. Lecture with University of Chicago history and english professor W.J.T. Mitchell. LACMA, 5905 Wilshire Blvd., LA; 2PM. 323.657.9228. lacma.org

5, Monday
CityLAB Seminar. Program with Montreal and Milan architect Mirko Zardini. UCLA Department of Architecture and Urban Design, Perioli Hall, UCLA; 12PM; res. req. 310.267.4704. aud.ucla.edu

5, Monday

6, Tuesday
Have Your Cheesecake, and Eat It Too. Serving up fresh designs at Multiple Locations. Program with Lighting Design Alliance’s Kyllene Jones. Designers Lighting Forum, product display, 6PM-8PM. program, 7PM; res. req. 310.535.0195. dfila.org

8, Thursday
Steven Ehrlich. Lecture with LA architect Steven Ehrlich, FAIA, Ditses College of Art and Design, 3645 Lincoln Blvd., LA; 7PM. 310.655.0861. otis.edu

8, Thursday

8, Thursday

10, Saturday
University of Southern California. Walking of USC’s University Park campus. Los Angeles Conservancy; LA; 10AM-10:15; res. req. 213.623.2498. lacconservancy.org

10, Saturday
Little Tokyo. Walking tour of the historic heart of LA’s Japanese community. Los Angeles Conservancy; LA; 10AM; $5-10; res. req. 213.623.2498. lacconservancy.org

10, Saturday

11-11, Saturday, Sunday
The Ancient Art of Mosaics. Hands-on workshop with mosaicist Lillian Sizemore. Getty Villa, 17985 Pacific Coast Hwy., Pacific Palisades; 10AM-4PM; res. req. 310.440.7300. getty.edu

11, Sunday
Biltmore Hotel. Walking tour of the architecture and history of the Biltmore Hotel. Los Angeles Conservancy; 2PM; $5-10, res. req. 213.623.2498. lacconservancy.org

11, Sunday
Experiment With Texture, Fabric, and Surface Manipulation. Tour with fashion designer Carol Young in conjunction with "Skin + Bones" exhibition. MOCA, 250 S. Grand Ave., LA; 10AM-4PM; $40-55. 213.621.1745. moca.org

11, Sunday
Hidden Compartment: A Revealing Look Inside French Furniture. Gallery talk with Getty decorative arts associate curator Charissa Breneman David. Getty Center, 1200 Getty Center Dr., LA; 10AM; res req. 310.440.7300. getty.edu

17, Saturday
Union Station. Walking tour of the architecture and history of Union Station. Los Angeles Conservancy; LA; 10AM; $5-10, res. req. 213.623.2498. lacconservancy.org

17, Saturday
Shifting Forms: Radical and Practical Clothing and Patternmaking Workshop. Workshop with designers Honey Jermquist and Lucy Karanfilian in conjunction with "Skin + Bones" exhibition. MOCA, 250 S. Grand Ave., LA; 10AM-4PM; $40-55. 213.621.1745. moca.org

20, Tuesday

21, Wednesday
Hidden Compartments: A Revealing Look Inside French Furniture. Gallery talk with Getty decorative arts associate curator Charissa Breneman David. Getty Center, 1200 Getty Center Dr., LA; 10AM; res req. 310.440.7300. getty.edu

22, Thursday
MOCA Art Talks. Discussion with architects Peter Zumthor and Devon Weisz in conjunction with "Skin + Bones" exhibition. MOCA, 250 S. Grand Ave., LA; 6:30PM. 213.621.1745. moca.org

22, Thursday
Conservation Matters. Panel discussion of international experts on art and historic site conservation. Getty Center, 1200 Getty Center Dr., LA; res req. 310.440.7300. getty.edu

22, Thursday
Friedrich and His Late-20th Century Progeny. Lecture with NYU art history professor Robert Rosenberg. Getty Center, LA; 7PM; res req. 310.440.7300. getty.edu

24, Saturday
Highland Park.
Guided walking tour of the historic Sycamore Grove neighborhood. Los Angeles Conservancy; LA; $5-10, res. req. 213.623.2498. lacconservancy.org

24, Saturday
Historic Spring Street.
Walking tour of Spring Street, once known as the Wall Street of the West. Los Angeles Conservancy; LA; $5-10, res. req. 213.623.2498. lacconservancy.org

24, Saturday
Architectural Model Making Workshop.
Hands-on session in conjunction with "Skin + Bones" exhibition. MOCA, 250 S. Grand Ave., LA; 10AM-4PM; $40-55. 213.621.1745. moca.org

24, Saturday
Parallel Practices in Fashion and Architecture.
Teen Night in conjunction with "Skin + Bones" exhibition. MOCA, 250 S. Grand Ave., LA; 7-10PM. 213.621.1745. moca.org

25, Sunday
The Ranch House Reborn.
Third Lemon Grove Home Tour showing four rejuvenated ranch homes. The Lemon Grove Historical Society; H. Lee House Cultural Center, 3205 Olive St., 1-4PM; $12-15. 619.460.4353. lemongrovehistoricalsociety.com

25, Sunday
Moveable Musical Feast.
Adaskin String Trio plays at the Canfield-Moreno Estate (Robert D. Fargher, 1923). Da Camera Society, LA; 2PM and 3:30PM; $60-92; res. req. 213.477.2952. dacamera.org

26, Monday
David Grahame Shane.
Lecture with Columbia University architecture and urbanism professor and author David Grahame Shane. UCLA Department of Architecture and Urban Design, Perioli Hall, UCLA; 6:30PM. 310.267.4704. aud.ucla.edu

27, Tuesday
CityLAB Seminar. Program with Columbia University architecture and urbanism professor and author David Grahame Shane. UCLA Department of Architecture and Urban Design, Perioli Hall, UCLA; 12PM; res. req. 310.267.4704. aud.ucla.edu

SAH/SCC EVENT
11, Sunday
Libya and Tunisia

Libya and Tunisia: The ongoing travels of Stephen Harby. See page 1 for details.

SAH/SCC SOCIETY OF ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIANS SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAPTER
SAH/SCC honored Dr. Robert W. Winter with its 2006 Lifetime Achievement Award in the festive setting of the ballroom of the 1915 Lanterman House (Arthur Haley, architect) on December 3, 2006. Through 43 years of teaching, 13 books (including the invaluable Architectural Guidebook to Los Angeles), another on its way, tours, public lectures, service on commissions, and as a founder of SAH/SCC, Dr. Winter has surely done more to arouse interest in Southern California's architectural heritage and to inspire its preservation than any other living person. Here, here for Bungalow Bob!

This sketch of Bob Winter by Randy Martinez graced the program and was given to its subject along with the SAH/SCC 2006 Lifetime Achievement Award.

Discussing the needed restoration of El Alisal are (L to R) panelists Denise Spooner, Mark Mariscal, Luis Hoyos, Peyton Hall, and emcee Queena Kim.

Wish you had been there! The SAH/SCC annual Members’ Celebration took place Saturday, December 9, 2006, at El Alisal, the hand-built home of Charles Fletcher Lummis (1895-1910: design attributed to Sumner Hunt). One of the handful of bohemian, self-built homes by literary/artistic leaders who brought the elitist movement to the attention of the middle class, El Alisal—along with such popularizers as Gustav Stickley’s Craftsman Magazine—was a vital bridge in the lineage of the American Arts & Crafts movement. Now owned by LA City Recreation and Parks and operated by the Historical Society of Southern California, the site is in sorry need of repair. This was the subject of a panel discussion emceed by KPCC radio’s Queena Kim, and including Dr. Denise Spooner, the director of the Historical Society; Mark Mariscal, LA City Recreation and Parks; Dr. Luis Hoyos, Cal Poly Pomona Department of Architecture; and Peyton Hall, restoration architect and director of a preliminary restoration study.

Picturing Los Angeles
by Jon and Nancy Wilkman

Two long-time Angelenos and husband-and-wife documentary filmmakers, Jon and Nancy Wilkman, trudged picture archives to produce this illustrated history of our city, “From Outpost to Upstart (1769-1900)” to “Remember the Future (1990 and beyond)”. Chapter after chapter (divided by decade after 1900) is themed by the momentous societal, political, and cultural events of the times. Black-and-white images of landscapes and cityscapes, portraits of renowned individuals, Angelenos at work and play, and buildings both beautiful and kitschy were mostly seen first in newspapers. Most interesting to this reviewer are the photos of the people behind all those famous names: Biddy Mason, William Mulholland, Harry Chandler, Henry Huntington, Abbot Kinney, Griffith J. Griffith, etc. Picturing Los Angeles is an information-packed history with fascinating photos and breezy text that look at LA from all angles. As the authors state: “Along with innovation and hope, the pages of this book offer ample evidence of ignorance, injustice and unfulfilled promises.”

Gibbs Smith, Publisher; hardcover; 336 pages; $39.95.

Iconic LA: Stories of LA’s Most Memorable Buildings
by Gloria Koenig

The newly released paperback edition of this 2000 book updates each structure with new text. It’s a remarkable testament to the preservation of LA’s landmarks, as in a few short years much work has been done at Hollyhock House, Hollywood Bowl, City Hall, and Griffith Observatory. As well, Koenig gives current assessments of the Getty Center and Disney Hall, which were barely open when the first edition was published. An entirely new chapter adds the Eames House to the list of memorable buildings we all love, and thanks to this book, know more about.

Angel City Press; paperback; 128 pages; $19.95.
deasy/penner&partners is a design-centric real estate firm dedicated to the ART of living well. The agency brings its clients decades of experience and unmatched expertise in architectural homes, estates and residences with artistic merit. At deasy/penner&partners, we understand that the perfect home, like a piece of art, has the power to evoke EMOTION and bring BEAUTY to one's life.

Los Angeles
Pasadena
Palm Springs

Gamble House Docents Wanted
The famed Gamble House is opening its Craftsman doors to potential new docents on February 3rd. It takes 170 docents to keep those impressive doors open and fulfill the Greene & Greene House's mission to educate the public. Docents receive specialized training from craftsmen, artists, Greene family members, architects, experts, and other docents. There are 10 Saturdays of training, through May, plus additional classes in September. For more information, call 626.793.3334, or go to gamblehouse.org.