



SOCIETY OF ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIANS
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAPTER

2007
november | december

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NEWS



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CENTERING ON ART CENTER

Please join SAH/SCC for the annual Members' Celebration on Saturday, December 1st, 2-4PM, at Art Center College of Design's Hillside Campus in Pasadena. We'll meet at the Faculty Dining Room in the building designed by Craig Ellwood. Attendees will learn about the history of Ellwood's design, as well as future planning and development growth for the college. As always, our Members' Celebration is free to SAH/SCC members in good standing. To reserve a spot, use the form on the last page, call 800.9SAH-SCC, or email info@sahscc.org. Walk-ins are always welcomed.



Art Center College of Design

SAH/SCC Members' Celebration
Saturday, December 1st, 2-4PM

The featured speakers are Art Center's Dana Hutt, Director of Architectural Documentation and Special Projects (and a member of SAH/SCC), and Patricia Oliver, AIA, Senior Vice President of Educational Planning and Architecture.

Having operated in the City of Los Angeles for more than 40 years, Art Center acquired property in the Linda Vista neighborhood of Pasadena and opened its doors in 1976. Situated on 175 wooded acres, the main building, designed by Craig Ellwood Associates, is a 17,000-square-foot structure providing space and facilities for the College's approximately 1,400 fulltime undergraduate students. The building's stark steel-and-glass design has been recognized by the City of Pasadena as a Designated Historic Property. The Ellwood building has been described by writer Joseph Giovannini in a 2005 article in *Architectural Record* as a "svelte, Miesian, bridge-like structure that spans a gully in the Linda Vista Hills above Pasadena. Embodying a pristine, idealized vision of architectural beauty, this essentially classical building in bucolic seclusion represents the Modernist version of the ivory tower."

Ms. Hutt will speak on the history and future conservation efforts of the Ellwood Building, while Ms. Oliver will talk specifically about the Art Center's Master Plan, which took more than seven years to develop and is now in the year-long planning process at City Hall.

The scope of the 25-year expansion plan includes building a 48,000-square-foot Frank Gehry-designed Research Center, maintaining more than 145 acres of the 175-acre site as natural open space, and creating new outdoor plazas for meetings and events, as well as renovating and remodeling the Ellwood building. Art Center has, to date, raised \$67.5 million of a \$75-million capital campaign.

The Hillside campus is located at 1700 Lida Street in Pasadena. Refreshments will be provided. Parking is available in the student parking lot located at the southern end of the campus. The Members' Celebration is free to current SAH/SCC members, and \$10 for non-members (applicable toward the \$45 membership fee for those who join on or before December 1st).

Photos: Steven A. Heller, Art Center College of Design

2007

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President's Letter

SAH/SCC is in the midst of its Crossroads Challenge fund-raiser. In addition to those donors recognized in the last issue of SAH/SCC News, we would like to thank the following for their generous donations:

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We are rapidly approaching our goal and would appreciate all help to make it by the end of the year.

A happy post-script to our 2006 Members' Celebration, a Preservation Summit held at the historic (but deteriorating) Lummis House: The City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation & Parks recently completed reroofing and fumigating the structures—badly needed first steps toward saving this architecturally and historically significant landmark! Hurrah!

In other good news, we are happy to introduce Dennis Whelan, the newest member of the SAH/SCC Executive Board. He is a Southern California native, who earned his undergraduate degree at UCSB in Studio Art with a minor in Architectural History, and was a student of David Gebhard. "What great field trips!" remembers Dennis. He earned a Masters of Architecture at UCLA, where he was a student—and employee—of Charles Moore. Currently a licensed California architect and certified planner, Dennis has been a Campus Planner at UCSB for more than 15 years.

Merry Ovnick

Call for Proposals

Society of Architectural Historians 62nd Annual Meeting

Pasadena, California, April 1–5, 2009

Members of the Society, representatives of affiliated societies, and other scholars who wish to chair a session at the 2009 SAH Annual Meeting in Pasadena, CA, are invited to submit proposals by January 2, 2008, to Prof. Dianne Harris, General Chair of the SAH 62nd Annual Meeting, Department of Landscape Architecture, 101 Temple Buell Hall, 611 Lorado Taft Drive, Champaign, IL 61820; harris3@uiuc.edu; 217.333.7727.

As membership in the Society is required to present research at the annual meeting, those wishing to chair a session or deliver a paper who are currently not members must become an SAH member before October 19, 2008, also the deadline for fellowship applications.

Since the principal purpose of the annual meeting remains that of informing the Society's members of the general state of research in their and related disciplines, session proposals covering every period in the history of architecture and all aspects of the built environment, including landscape and urban history, are encouraged. Sessions may be theoretical, methodological, thematic, interdisciplinary, pedagogical, revisionist, or documentary in premise and have broadly conceived or more narrowly focused subjects. In every case, the subject should be clearly defined in critical and historiographic terms, and should be substantiated by a distinct body of either established or emerging scholarship.

Proposals of no more than 500 words including a session title should summarize the subject and the premise. Include name, professional affiliation (if applicable), address, telephone, and fax numbers, e-mail address, and a current CV. For examples of content, consult the "Call for Papers for the 2008 Annual Meeting in Cincinnati" published in the April 2007 issue of the SAH Newsletter. Proposals and CVs should be submitted, if possible, both by mail and by e-mail. E-mail submissions should include the text of the proposal in both the body of the email and in the attachment.

Proposals will be selected on the basis of merit and the need to organize a well-balanced program. Proposals for pre-1800 topics and topics exploring the architecture of the Pasadena region are especially encouraged, as are those dealing with related fields of urban and landscape history around the world. Since late proposals cannot be considered, it is recommended that proposals be submitted and their receipt be confirmed well before the deadline. The General Chair cannot be responsible for last-minute submissions, electronic or otherwise, that fail to reach their destination. Authors of accepted proposals will be asked to draft a more concise Call for Papers of not more than 300 words. This will be distributed and published in the April 2008 SAH Newsletter. One or two open sessions also will be organized by the General Chair.

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 most comprehensive calendars of architectural events in Southern California and advance notice of exclusive SAH/SCC architectural events and tours.

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Information and ads for the newsletter should be sent three weeks before the issue date.
 January/February 2008 issue deadline: December 10, 2007

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

Julie D. Taylor, Editor	SAH/SCC News P.O. Box 56478 Sherman Oaks, CA 91413	Newsletter telephone: 310.247.1099 Newsletter fax: 310.247.8147 Newsletter e-mail: julie@taylor-pr.com
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2007

november

1, Thursday

Gritty Brits:
New London Architecture.
 Opening reception for exhibition exploring emerging architectural thinking and practice in London. University Art Museum, UC Santa Barbara; 5-7PM. 805.893.2951. uam.ucsb.edu.

1, Thursday

MOCA Art Talk.
 Discussion with artist Ned Smyth in conjunction with "Gordon Matta-Clark: You Are the Measure" exhibition. MOCA, 250 S. Grand Ave., LA; 6:30PM. 213.626.6222. moca.org.

3, Saturday

Old Pasadena Walking Tour.
 Tour exploring the history and architecture of Old Pasadena. Pasadena Heritage; Pasadena; 9-11:30AM; \$10; res. req. 626.441.6333. pasadenaheritage.org.

3, Saturday

Village Walking Tour.
 Guided tour of Claremont's downtown Village area. Claremont Heritage; Claremont Metrolink Depot, 200 W. First St., Claremont; 10AM; \$5; res. req. 909.621.0848. claremontheritage.org.

3, Saturday

Reflecting Antiquity.
 Lecture on the imitation of historical works by modern glassmakers with Getty curator of antiquities Karol Wright. The Getty Villa, 17985 Pacific Coast Hwy., Pacific Palisades; 3PM. 310.440.7300. getty.edu.

3, 10, 17, 24, Saturday

Downtown Santa Monica.
 Walking tour covering more than 20 architectural gems. Santa Monica Conservancy; 10AM-12PM; \$5-10; res. req. 310.496.3146. smconservancy.org.

4, Sunday

Mainly Main.
 Tour of the architecture and history of Main Street in Downtown Los Angeles. Los Angeles Conservancy; LA; 10AM-4PM; \$25-30; res. req. 213.623.2489. laconservancy.org.

4, Sunday

First Sundays Are For Families Workshop.
 Family workshop with artist Andrew Armstrong in conjunction with "Gordon Matta-Clark: You Are the Measure" exhibition. MOCA, 250 S. Grand Ave., LA; 1-3:30PM. 213.626.6222. moca.org.

4, Sunday

Moveable Musical Feast.
 Guitar and cantaora flamenco performance at La Señora Research Institute at Rancho Boca de Santa Monica (Merrill Baird, 1929), Santa Monica. Da Camera Society; 1:30PM and 3:30PM; \$78-92; res. req. 213.477.2929. dacamera.org.

5, Monday

Sixth Annual Southern California Transportation Summit.
 Discussion on Southern California's transportation challenges. Mobility 21 and Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce; Ontario Convention Center, 2000 E. Convention Center Way, Ontario; 8AM-2PM. 213.580.7500. mobility21.com.

6, Tuesday

Not Another LED Seminar!
 Informative presentation with discussion and examples of LEDs integrated into projects. Designers Lighting Forum; product display-6PM, program-7PM; res. req. 310.535.0105. dfla.org.

7, Wednesday

Where We Live: Student Perspective.
 Opening reception for photo exhibition. Vincent Price Art Museum; East Los Angeles College, 1301 Avenida Cesar Chavez, Monterey Park; 6-8PM. 323.265.8841. elac.edu.

7, Wednesday

Smart Cities: The City Car and Other Recent Work.
 Lecture with MIT professor of architecture and media arts and sciences William J. Mitchell. SCI-Arc, 960 E. 3rd St., LA; 7PM. 213.356.5328. sciarc.edu.

7, Wednesday

The Photographer and His City.
 Discussion with architectural photographer and SAH/SCC Life Member Julius Shulman. ALOUD at Central Library, 630 W. 5th St., LA; 7PM; res. req. 213.228.7025. aloudla.org.

7, Wednesday

Moveable Musical Feast.
 Violin and fortepiano performance at Doheny Mansion (Hunt and Eisen, 1899). Da Camera Society; talk-7:45PM, concert-8PM; \$55-75; res. req. 213.477.2929. dacamera.org.

7, Wednesday

Artist's Talk by John Divola.
 Discussion in conjunction with "Where We Live: Student Perspectives". Vincent Price Art Museum; East Los Angeles College, 1301 Avenida Cesar Chavez, Monterey Park; 8PM. 323.265.8841. elac.edu.

8, Thursday

Downtown Art Walk.
 Self-guided walking tour showcasing art exhibition venues in Downtown Los Angeles. Downtown Art Walk; LA; 12-9PM. 213.624.6212. downtownartwalk.com.

9, Friday

Reflecting Antiquity: Modern Glass Inspired by Ancient Rome.
 Gallery talk with Getty assistant conservator of antiquities Erik Risser. The Getty Villa, 17985 Pacific Coast Hwy., Pacific Palisades; 3PM; res. req. 310.440.7300. getty.edu.

10, Saturday

A Night of Hollywood Glamour.
 Annual benefit at the 1937 home of Ed Limato in Hollywood to advance the Los Angeles Conservancy's efforts. Los Angeles Conservancy; \$500; res. req. 213.430.4213. laconservancy.org.

13, Tuesday

Refabricating Architecture.
 Interrobang lecture with KieranTimberlake Associates partner Stephen Kieran, FAIA. SD chapters of AIA, ASID, ASLA; SOHO San Diego; Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego, 1001 Kettner Blvd.; reception-6PM, presentation-7PM; \$12-18; res. req. 619.225.8155. mcsd.org.

14, Wednesday

Urban Transformations in Istanbul.
 Lecture with World Architecture Community chairman Süha Özkan. SCI-Arc, 960 E. 3rd St., LA; 7PM. 213.356.5328. sciarc.edu.

15, Thursday

Point-of-View: Artist Talks at the Getty Villa.
 Discussion on ancient and modern glassmaking techniques with artist Rhys Williams. The Getty Villa, 17985 Pacific Coast Hwy., Pacific Palisades; 11:30AM and 3PM; res. req. 310.440.7300. getty.edu.

15, Thursday

Chris Reed.
 Lecture with StoSS LU Boston principal landscape architect Chris Reed. Otis College of Art and Design, 9045 Lincoln Blvd., LA; 7PM. 310.665.6867. otis.edu.

17, Saturday

The History of Los Angeles Graffiti Art.
 Panel discussion and book launch for *The History of Los Angeles Graffiti Art, Volume 2, 1989-1994*. MOCA, 250 S. Grand Ave., LA; 1PM. 213.626.6222. moca.org.

19, Monday

Shunji Yamanaka.
 Lecture with Tokyo-based Leading Edge Design principal Shunji Yamanaka. UCLA Department of Architecture and Urban Design, Perloff Hall, LA; 6:30PM. 310.267.4704. aud.ucla.edu.

25, Sunday

Moveable Musical Feast.
 Flute and harp performance at Rogers House (Barton Myers, 2006), Los Angeles. Da Camera Society; 2PM and 3:30PM; \$91; res. req. 213.477.2929. dacamera.org.

26, Monday

Philippe Rahm.
 Lecture with Paris-based architect Philippe Rahm. UCLA Department of Architecture and Urban Design, Perloff Hall, LA; 6:30PM. 310.267.4704. aud.ucla.edu.

26, Monday

High Density, High Service, High Design Housing.
 Opening reception for exhibition on technologically advanced housing prototypes for Culver City developed in the research studio led by Dagmar Richter. UCLA Department of Architecture and Urban Design, Perloff Gallery, LA; 8-9PM. 310.267.4704. aud.ucla.edu.

28, Wednesday

The Forces of Effervescence.
 Lecture with Gage/Clemenceau Architects principal Mark Foster Gage. SCI-Arc, 960 E. 3rd St., LA; 7PM. 213.356.5328. sciarc.edu.

29, Thursday

Hidden Compartments: A Revealing Look Inside French Furniture.
 Gallery talk with Getty associate curator of sculpture and decorative arts Charissa Bremer-David. The Getty Center, 1200 Getty Center Dr., LA; 10:30AM; res. req. 310.440.7300. getty.edu.

29, Thursday

Treasury of World Culture: Archaeological Sites and Urban Centers.
 Lecture on identifying, protecting, and preserving heritage sites with UNESCO World Heritage Center director Francesco Bandarin. The Getty Villa, 17985 Pacific Coast Hwy., Pacific Palisades; 8PM. 310.440.7300. getty.edu.

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.

FEATURED EVENT**6, Tuesday****Not Another LED Seminar!**

Designers Lighting Forum program. See listing for details.



Photo: courtesy Behnisch Architects

1, Saturday

Point-of-View: Artist Talks at the Getty Villa.

Discussion on ancient and modern glassmaking techniques with artist Rhys Williams. The Getty Villa, 17985 Pacific Coast Hwy., Pacific Palisades; 11:30AM and 3PM; res. req. 310.440.7300. getty.edu.

2, Sunday

Holiday Tour at the Castle Green.

Self-guided tour at historic former hotel (Frederick L. Roehrig, 1898/1903). Friends of the Castle Green; 99 S. Raymond Ave., Pasadena; 1-5PM; \$20. 626.577.6765. castlegreen.com.

2, Sunday

Moveable Musical Feast.

Tallis Scholars performance at Hollywood United Methodist Church (Thomas P. Barber, 1927), Hollywood. Da Camera Society; talk-3:15PM, concert-4PM; \$39-48; res. req. 213.477.2929. dacamera.org.

3-4, Monday-Tuesday

California Coastal Law:

From the Sandy Beaches of San Diego to the Craggy Cliffs of Crescent City.

Annual conference. CLE International; Millennium Biltmore Hotel, 506 S. Grand Ave., LA; 8:30AM-5:30PM; \$595-795; res. req. 800.873.7130. cle.com.

4, Tuesday

Real Estate Development From Beginning to End in California.

Seminar to navigate all aspects of real estate development including subdivision regulations. Lorman Educational Services; Holiday Inn City Center, 1020 S. Figueroa, LA; 8AM-4:30PM; res. req. \$359-369. 866.352.9539. lorman.com.

7, Friday

Reflecting Antiquity: Modern Glass Inspired by Ancient Rome.

Gallery talk with Getty curator of antiquities Karol Wright. The Getty Villa, 17985 Pacific Coast Hwy., Pacific Palisades; 3PM; res. req. 310.440.7300. getty.edu.

7, 8, Friday, Saturday

Christmas Candlelight Tour.

Tour by lamplight of 163-year-old Rancho Los Cerritos. Rancho Los Cerritos Historic Site, 4600 Virginia Rd., Long Beach; 6:30-8:30PM; \$8-10; res. req. 562.570.1755. rancholescerritos.org.

10, Monday

Toyo Ito.

Lecture with Tokyo-based Toyo Ito & Associates principal Toyo Ito. UCLA Department of Architecture and Urban Design, Eli and Edythe Broad Art Center, LA; 6:30PM. 310.267.4704. aud.ucla.edu.

10, Monday

Silversmiths to the Nation: Thomas Fletcher and Sidney Gardiner, 1808-1842.

Lecture given by Winterthur Museum curator Ann Wagner. DADC/LACMA, 5905 Wilshire Blvd., LA; 7:30PM; \$15-20. 323.857.6528. lacma.org.

13, Thursday

Downtown Art Walk.

Self-guided walking tour showcasing art exhibition venues in Downtown Los Angeles. Downtown Art Walk; LA; 12-9PM. 213.624.6212. downtownartwalk.com.

21, Friday

Reflecting Antiquity: Modern Glass Inspired by Ancient Rome.

Gallery talk with Getty assistant conservator of antiquities Erik Risser. The Getty Villa, 17985 Pacific Coast Hwy., Pacific Palisades; 3PM; res. req. 310.440.7300. getty.edu.

SAH/SCC EVENT

1, Saturday

Members' Celebration.

Event at Art Center College of Design. See page 1 for details.

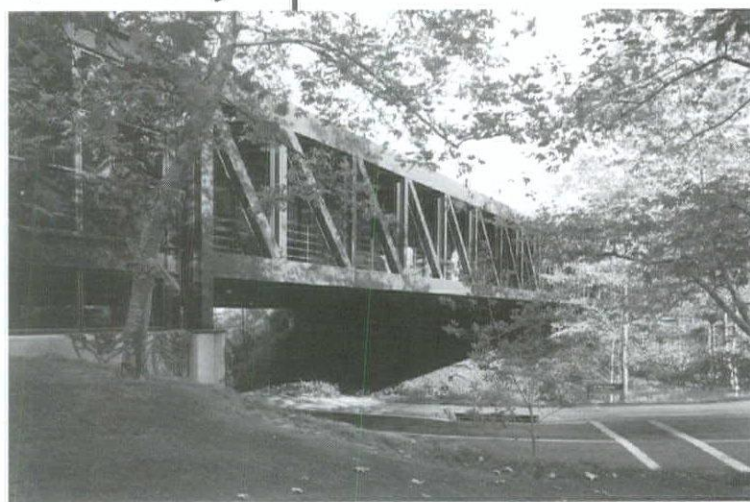


Photo: Steven A. Heller/Art Center College of Design

Historic Sites

Adamson Home

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

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

Andres Pico Adobe

10940 Sepulveda Blvd., Mission Hills. 818.365.7810.

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

Banning Residence Museum

401 E. M Street, Wilmington. 310.548.7777.

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

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: Sunday, 2-4PM.

Dominguez Ranch House

18127 S. Alameda St., Compton. 310.603.0088.

Fully restored 1826 adobe with original documents, authentic family furnishings and historic memorabilia. Tours: Wednesday, 1-2PM; Sunday, 1-3PM.

Eames House

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

House designed by Charles and Ray Eames in 1949 as part of Art & Architecture magazine's Case Study housing experiment. Tours: Monday-Friday, 10AM-4PM by appointment; Saturday, 10AM-3PM by appointment.

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 Hill Historical Park

25151 Serrano Rd., Lake Forest. 949.923.2230.

Four historic buildings, including El Toro School, Bennett Ranch House, Serrano Adobe, and St. George's Episcopal Mission, that span the time from Mexican ranchos to the beginning of the citrus industry. Tours: Wednesday-Friday, 2PM; Saturday-Sunday, 11AM and 2PM.

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: Wednesday-Sunday, 12:30-3:30PM.

Kimberly Crest

1325 Prospect Dr., Redlands. 909.792.2111.

An 1897 chateau-style house with Tiffany items, formal gardens, citrus groves, and lily ponds. Tours: Thursday-Sunday, 1-4PM.

Lanternman House

4420 Encinas Dr., La Cañada Flintridge. 818.790.1421.

An historic 1914 Craftsman house, with newly opened archive reading room. Tours: Tuesday and Thursday, 1-4PM; first and third Sunday, 1-4PM.

Lasky-DeMille Barn

2100 N. Highland Ave., Hollywood. 323.874.2276.

Now Hollywood Heritage Museum, this structure was the birthplace of Paramount Pictures. Tours: 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. Tours: Friday-Sunday, 12-4PM.

Maloof Residence

5131 Carnelian St., Alta Loma. 909.980.0412. malooffoundation.org.

Historic Arts and Crafts house, former home of woodworker Sam Maloof. Tours: Thursday and Saturday, 1-3PM.

The Marston House

3525 7th Ave., San Diego. 619.298.3142.

A 1905 home designed by Irving Gill and William Hebbard sits on a five-acre estate that includes historic gardens. Tours: Friday-Sunday, 10AM-4PM.

Mission Inn Museum

3696 Main St., Riverside. 951.788.9556.

Historic museum. Tours: Daily, 9:30AM-4PM.

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

428 S. Mission Dr., San Gabriel. 626.457.3048.

Fourth oldest mission in California. Tours: Daily, 9AM-4:30PM.

Schindler House

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

This former home and studio of architect Rudolf Schindler now houses the MAK Center for Art and Architecture. Tours: Saturday-Sunday, 11AM-6PM.

Sepulveda House

622 N. Main St., LA. 213.628.1274.

An 1887 furnished bedroom and kitchen in a former boarding house, plus a film on LA History. Tours: Daily, 9-4PM.

Editor's Note: Tour times are approximate. Please call for times, reservations, and prices prior to visiting.

Contemporary

Patrons:

Wells in Laguna Beach

SAH/SCC Talk and Tour:
Saturday, January 19, 2008

The new year welcomes the first in a new SAH/SCC series called Contemporary Patrons. Modeled after our on-going Modern Patrons series, these events are designed to highlight the process of commissioning, designing, and living in a house from the original clients' point of view. Whereas Modern Patrons looked to those ground-breaking talents that established LA's Modern legacy, Contemporary Patrons focuses on current practitioners who are investigating the meanings of today's architecture.

Please join us on January 19th, 2-4PM, at the home of Jan and Paul Muñoz in Laguna Beach, designed by former SAH/SCC board president Ted Wells. Moderated by board member John Ellis, the talk will feature the homeowners' journey in creating the piece of contemporary architecture. The event is \$15 and open to SAH/SCC Life and Patron members (the

program will only be available to the general membership in the event there is space available). See the order form on the back page. Space is limited.

Ten years ago, the Muñozes purchased what was classified as an "unbuildable" sloping lot on Pacific Coast Highway. Beside the grade and location issues, the lot had access, parking, and height restrictions that would make it a nearly impossible property to develop. They worked with a noted architect on a design for three years, but still had no approvals from the city. And worse, the proposed design had been compromised to such an extent that the landowners had resigned themselves to building a house they no longer loved, selling it, and moving on.

They started a process of finding a new lot for a new house and had saved a cover of the *Los Angeles Times Magazine* showing a house designed by Ted Wells. They called Wells, and decided to face the challenge of designing a house on their existing lot, which was completed in December 2005.

The house wanders up the hillside in a series of three boxes made of prefabricated panels of Cor-ten weathering steel. The quarter-inch-thick plates of steel are the structural walls of the house. Between the three-foot-wide panels of steel are windows covered by sliding wood screens. The three boxes stack and interlock upon one another around a central courtyard garden and are topped by thin copper-edged roofs, shading gable ends filled with glass. Additionally, the house is environmentally conscious in construction, durable in material, and flexible in plan.

Join us for the inaugural Contemporary Patrons event, for an afternoon of exploration into what it took to create this work of architecture overlooking the Pacific.

Photos: John Ellis



Postcard From Phoenix

A group of 50 SAH/SCC members venture into the wilds (or sprawl, depending on how you see it) of Phoenix not knowing what to expect in this harsh desert environment. Here in the fifth-largest and second-fastest-growing city in the country, we gather to focus our Southern California lens on all things architectural, beginning with Frank Lloyd Wright and stretching out from under his shadow, into the generations of architects to follow.

With veteran tour director and SAH/SCC Vice President Sian Winship as our guide, the weekend journey starts at the Phoenix Museum of Art, recently expanded by acclaimed architects Tod Williams and Billie Tsien. Local architect Will Bruder gives a thought-provoking presentation that elegantly frames the weekend, catapulting Phoenix "Out of the Shadow" and directly into our consciences.

Leaving the museum with a healthy dose of inspiration, we shuttle to the Valley Ho, our Mid-Century Modern, chic-boutique hotel. It's sunset now. Graceful shadows stripe the desert landscape, reminding us of the theme of our visit.

In true Sian fashion, we maximize each day by boarding the bus, appropriately caffeinated, by 7:15AM. Each day we see eight houses, share a luncheon, and enjoy a few guest speakers. The houses are arranged, for the most part, in chronological order.

We start with the Price Residence, also known as the U-Haul House, by Wright. Here we discuss Usonian ideals with special guest (and former instructor to many in our group) Rob Rothblatt. We visit seven other houses that speak to the progression of architecture by protégés of Wright, each with a story, each with a unique take on addressing Modernist principles in the desert. Most revealing was a letter written by Wright to the father of Ed Korrick, a potential client. (He didn't get the job.) We share a few laughs as Mr. Korrick reads the framed letter, now a treasured heirloom.

Day two starts with Al Beadle's The Boardwalk, which is my favorite multiple housing project I've seen in years. Graceful and clean-lined, The Boardwalk is a series of 800-square-foot units, each entered from a central path that meanders through the complex. It's the best of Modern design: a humanly scaled multiple-unit approach that creates a wonderful balance for community living. (I even considered buying one of the idyllic units that was for sale, but the idea of commuting to Phoenix for weekends quickly tempered that adrenaline rush.)

Another highlight was seeing the Corbus Desert Dwelling designed by Ed Sawyer. Exquisitely sited, this jewel box holds strong with its Modernist lines profiled against the desert boulders and as welcomed opposition to the encroaching McMansions that now dot the area. We also visit the Nora Woods

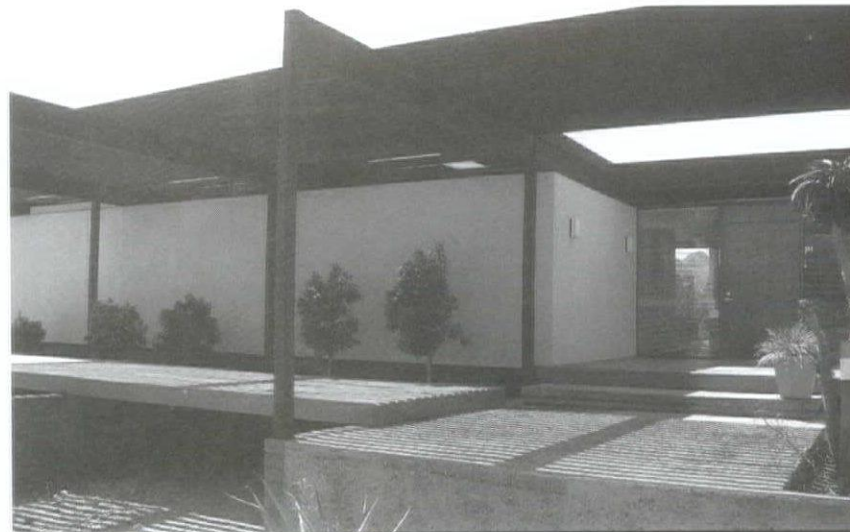


Photo: Rob Rothblatt

Residence, an experiment in living designed by Paolo Soleri, another Wright student who has gained fame for his unique vision.

A few days after returning to LA, I pick up the *New York Times*, which has a story on Phoenix architecture, including the work of Soleri. It's then that I realize Sian is at the helm of the cultural zeitgeist. We visited Phoenix at just the right time, it seems. We're a privy few, who enjoyed access to many interesting houses, and to the ideas that make them interesting still today.

— John Ellis



Photo: Rob Rothblatt

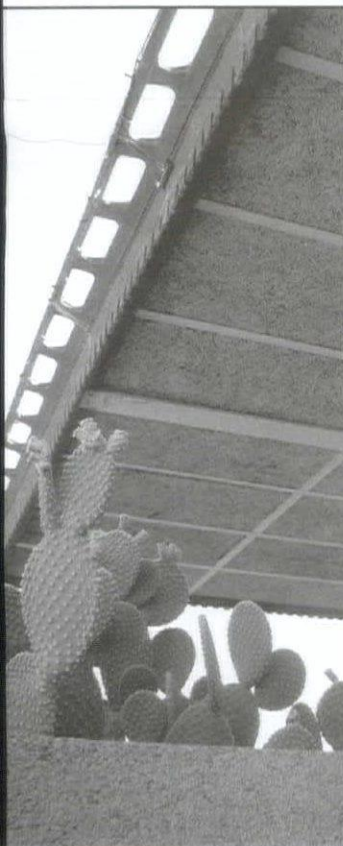


Photo: John Ellis



Photo: Rob Rothblatt

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.

Out of the Shadow: 24-page two-color brochure from Phoenix travel tour features the work of Frank Lloyd Wright, Al Beadle, Blaine Drake, Paolo Soleri, Edward B. Sawyer, Bennie Gonzales, and Will Bruder.

_____ at \$12 each

Edward A. Killingsworth: Setting a Modern Standard: 20-page black-and-white brochure featuring seven Long Beach houses and an article by the architect

_____ at \$8 each

Wallace Neff: Backwards and Forwards: four-page foldout color brochure

_____ at \$3 each

Space and Learning: eight-page color brochure on the historic and contemporary legacy of LA school architecture, featuring projects by Richard Neutra, Thom Mayne, Rios Clementi Hale Studios, others, from the Los Angeles tour

_____ at \$8 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, based on the Ojai tour

_____ at \$5 each

Soriano: Man of Steel: 12-page illustrated booklet with article by Neil Jackson, from the Los Angeles tour

_____ at \$10 each

Modernism for the Masses: threefold brochure with inserts of detailed floor plans of Eichler homes visited on the tour to Orange County

_____ at \$10 each

Reconsidering Lloyd Wright: 21-page four-color booklet from "Reconsidering Lloyd Wright House Tour"

_____ at \$10 each

A Block in Glendale: Pocket-size fandeck of cards features five diverse properties, including a Paul Williams residence, plus historical background information on Brockmont Heights subdivision

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Art Historian(s), University of Southern California, Department of Art History, Begin August 2008. The Department of Art History at USC seeks to make (2) senior appointments, one of which begins with a term as Chair (normally lasting 3 years). Applications from accomplished scholars with academic or museum backgrounds in any period or geographic area are welcome; PhD required. Successful candidates for either position will be expected to sustain an active research and publication agenda, teach graduate and undergraduate courses, and participate in the intellectual life of the university as well as the department. Those with interdisciplinary interests and a commitment to innovative, rigorous, and critically engaged teaching and research are especially encouraged to apply. Candidates should submit a letter of application including a statement of current research interests, CV including email address, and the names of three referees, to: Prof. Eunice Howe, Chair, Department of Art History, University of Southern California, Los Angeles CA 90089- 0047. howe@usc.edu Application screening begins Oct. 15, 2007 and continues until the position has been filled. USC values diversity and is committed to equal opportunity in employment. Women and men, and members of all racial and ethnic groups, are encouraged to apply.

ANNUAL SALE

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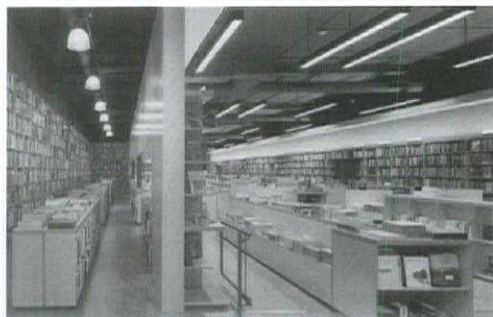
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Contemporary Patrons: Wells in Laguna—January 19th

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