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.

Contemporary Patrons: Wells in Laguna Beach
SAH/SCC Talk and Tour: Saturday, January 19, 2008

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. The house was completed in December 2005.

Known to many at SAH/SCC, Ted Wells was our board president, and leader of many memorable tours; he remains on SAH/SCC advisory board. Wells is the principal at Ted Wells living:simple LLC, in Laguna Niguel, CA. His designs include houses, offices, monasteries, gardens, and neighborhood planning projects throughout the US, as well as restorations of significant historical properties by noted architects such as Henry and Charles Greene, RM Schindler, and Irving Gill.

His architecture degree is from USC, and he is currently an architectural guest lecturer at UC Irvine, and taught at Saddleback College in Mission Viejo from 2002 to 2004.

continues on page 3
SAH/SCC Year in Review: 2007

SAH/SCC members celebrated and investigated sites both near and far in 2007. Take a look at our year in review. If you weren't with us on any of our adventures you can relive some of them through the publications created especially for the events. See the back page for ordering information.

Libya and Tunisia: In Search of Ancient Splendor and the Far-Flung Outposts of Empire

This year in review. It you weren't with us on any of our adventures, you can read some of them through the publications created especially for the events. See the back page for ordering information.

SAH/SCC members

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

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

President's Letter

This year, SAH/SCC mounted its first fund-raising campaign in the institutional memory of the organization. Because we had never held a fundraising campaign, we had no way of guessing the outcome in advance. The Crossroads Challenge campaign sought $25,000 to preserve the organization's advocacy and meet the challenges of the electronic era of communication. The goal has just been reached and gifts are still coming in, expanding the possibilities of how we can best meet members' expectations and fulfill our mission of educating the public about architectural design and the built environment of Southern California.

The members of the executive and advisory boards have been deeply touched by the support received from the donors to the Crossroads Challenge campaign to date:

David Keitel
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Ted Wells
Allyne Windermere
Dr. Robert Winter
Joyce Zeitlin

In this post-holiday season for sending thank-you notes, our sincere thanks. We look forward to a new year of events and gatherings where we hope to see all of our current members and to meet new ones in 2008. Happy New Year!

Merry Donck
4. Friday
Reflecting Antiquity.
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.

5. Saturday
Angelino Heights.
Walking tour of Victorian architecture in the historic suburb of Angelino Heights. Los Angeles Conservancy; LA; 10AM; $5-10; res. req. 213.623.2489.laconservancy.org.

5. Saturday
City Hall.
Tour of public spaces in City Hall. Los Angeles Conservancy, LA; 2PM; $5-10; res. req. 213.623.2489.laconservancy.org.

13. Sunday
Biltmore Hotel.
Tour of public spaces in the 1923 Millennium Biltmore Hotel. Los Angeles Conservancy; LA; 2PM; $5-10; res. req. 213.623.2489.laconservancy.org.

16. Wednesday
"Salle du Bain"! Lecture about happy, zany, and other important political trends with SCI-Arc Distinguished Chair of History and Theory Jeffrey Kipnis. SCI-Arc, W.M. Keck Lecture Hall, 960 E. 3rd St., LA; 7PM. 213.613.2200. sciac.edu.

18. Friday
Commercial Leases With Michael Meyer.
Annual seminar covering provisions of commercial leasing. CLE International; Millennium Biltmore Hotel, 506 S. Grand Ave., LA; 8:30AM-5:30PM; $590-795, res. req. 800.873.7130. cle.com.

18. Friday
The Magnificent Piranesi.

19. Saturday
Downtown's Evolving Skyline.
Tour of architecture, art, and open spaces of Downtown's Central Business District. Los Angeles Conservancy; LA; 10AM; $5-10, res. req. 213.623.2489.laconservancy.org.

19. 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.

19. Saturday
Moveable Musical Feast.

23. Wednesday
2 Kilometers of Architecture.
Lecture with architect Julien de Smidt. USC School of Architecture, Harris Hall, 101 Museum Dr, 6-8PM: $60-70; res. req. 323.464.7868. dacamera.org.

23. Wednesday
Architects' Roundtable.
Discussion on the future impact of residential and commercial architecture in Downtown Los Angeles. ALOUD at Central Library, 630 W. 5th St., LA; 7PM; res. req. 213.228.7075. aloudla.org.

24. Thursday
Frank Lloyd Wright's Textile Block Experiment.
Lecture with author Kathryn Smith. USC School of Architecture, LA; 213.740.2723. arch.usc.edu.

25. Friday
Frank Lloyd Wright: The Southwest Legacy.
Lecture on the effect of Wright's Southwest experiences on his later work by The Frank Lloyd Wright School of Architecture Studio Master Frank Henry, Friends of the Gamble House; Art Center College of Design, Pasadena; 7:30PM; $20-25. 626.793.3334. gamblehouse.org.

26. Saturday
Spring Street: Wall Street of the West.
Walking tour of Spring Street, the city's first financial district. Los Angeles Conservancy; LA; 10AM; $5-10; res. req. 213.623.2489.laconservancy.org.

26. Saturday
Tour It: La Miniatura.
Tour of Frank Lloyd Wright's La Miniatura (1923), Friends of the Gamble House; La Miniatura, Pasadena; 10AM-5PM; $30-50. 626.793.3334. gamblehouse.org.

26. Saturday
Doheny Sierra.
St. Petersburg String Quartet plays at the Doheny Mansion (Hunt and Eisen, 1899), LA; Da Camera Society; lecture-2:45PM, concert-BPM; $65-48; res. req. 213.477.2929. dacamera.org.

27. Sunday
Biltmore Hotel.
Tour of public spaces in the 1923 Millennium Biltmore Hotel. Los Angeles Conservancy; LA; 2PM; $5-10; res. req. 213.623.2489.laconservancy.org.

30. Wednesday
Before the Memorial.
Lecture with WWP Landscape Architecture landscape architect Peter Walker. SCI-Arc, W.M. Keck Lecture Hall, 960 E. 3rd St., LA; 7PM. 213.613.2200. sciarc.edu.

31-31, Wednesday-Thursday
Inspired by Piranesi.
Course covering architectural pen-and-ink drawings of Getty Villa architecture as the model with art educator and artist Ann Steinsapir.

31, Thursday
La Dolce Vita—Italian Decorative Arts from the 1820s to the 1950s.

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.

SAH/SCC EVENT
19, Saturday
Contemporary Patrons: Wells in Laguna Beach
SAH/SCC Talk and Tour. See page 1 for details.
1. Friday
The Magnificent Piranesi.

2. Saturday
Angelino Heights.
Walking tour of Victorian architecture in the historic suburb of Angelino Heights. Los Angeles Conservancy; LA; 10AM; $5-10; res. req. 213.623.2489. laconservancy.org.

2. Saturday
City Hall.
Tour of public spaces in City Hall. Los Angeles Conservancy; LA; 10AM; $5-10; res. req. 213.623.2489. laconservancy.org.

3. Friday
Tour of public spaces in the 1923 Biltmore Hotel.
10, Sunday
Tour of architecture and open spaces of Downtown's Central Business District. Los Angeles Conservancy; LA; 10AM; $5-10; res. req. 213.623.2489. laconservancy.org.

213.623.2489. laconservancy.org.

22. Friday
infoFORMation & InNOVAtion.

23. Saturday
Highland Park.
Walking tour of the architecture and history of Highland Park. Los Angeles Conservancy; LA; 10AM; $5-10; res. req. 213.623.2489. laconservancy.org.

23. Saturday
Spring Street.
Walking tour of Spring Street, the city’s first financial district. Los Angeles Conservancy; LA; 10AM; $5-10; res. req. 213.623.2489. laconservancy.org.

24. Sunday
Biltmore Hotel.
Tour of public spaces in the 1923 Millennium Biltmore Hotel. Los Angeles Conservancy; LA; 1PM; $5-10; res. req. 213.623.2489. laconservancy.org.

27. Wednesday
Giovanni la Verna.

29. Friday
Ramiro Diaz Granados and Heather Flood.
Lecture with F-Art principals Ramiro Diaz Granados and Heather Flood. SCI-Arc, W.M. Keck Lecture Hall, 960 E. 3rd St., LA; 1PM. 213.613.2200. sciarc.edu.

FEATURED EVENT
15. Friday
quasar talk.
Discussion on SCI-Arc exhibit. See listing for details.

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. 323.464.7888.
Wells has lectured at universities around the world, and appeared for three years on Home and Garden Television network’s “American Homestyles” series, as well as on numerous PBS educational programs. Wells is writing a book on architect Harwell Hamilton Harris, to be published in 2009, and is a contributing author to a book on Southern California Modernism to be published in 2008.

The house Wells created for the Muñoz family 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 that shade gable ends filled with glass. Additionally, the house is environmentally conscious in construction, durable in material, and flexible in plan.

At the core of the house is a two-story airy transition room with a cantilevered steel stair and a 13-foot-high sliding hangar door to the courtyard. On the upper floor the main are living areas and a wide ocean view. The level below contains two bedrooms, a bath, and studio. The lowest level, shielding the house from PCH, contains a guest bedroom, bath, and office. Steel, wood, glass, concrete, and boulders combine in a form reminiscent of an old barn, but one made of elegantly crafted material with daring structural design.

Throughout the house, the repetition of the panelized structural system of Cor-ten steel panels asserts itself. On the interior, each prefabricated panel is inset with finished materials of waxed Masonite, smooth cork, or muted-color laminate. The floors, of cork or polished concrete, are simple to maintain, unaffected by sand from the beach, and are warmed by radiant heating. At the center of the living area, a freestanding wall of bookcases and closets defines the space and is anchored by two fireplaces of thin horizontal brick.

Today, the house is a single-family dwelling for Mr. and Mrs. Muñoz and their teenage son, along with spaces for their daughters and grandchildren, who frequently visit. There is a separate studio workspace for the couple. Mr. Muñoz is a design engineer of micro-medical devices, and Mrs. Muñoz is a fabric artist.

But these contemporary patrons want their house to adapt and change as their lives will, so the house is designed to convert to two or three independent dwellings, if needed, for multi-generational living.

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.
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 featuring the work of Frank Lloyd Wright, Al Beadle, Blaine Drake, Paolo Soleri, Edward B. Sawyer, Bennie Gonzales, and Will Bruder  
____ at $12 each

A Black in Glendale: pocket-size fandeck of cards featuring five diverse properties—including a Paul Williams residence—plus historical background information on the Brockmount Heights subdivision  
____ at $3 each

Rodney Walker: 30 90: 12-page brochure exploring the architect’s usage of the three-foot module and features nine homes on five sites  
____ at $8 each

Edward Killingworth: Setting a Modern Standard: 20-page, black-and-white brochure featuring seven Long Beach houses and an article by the architect  
____ at $8 each

Space and Learning: eight-page, four-color brochure on the historical and contemporary legacy of LA school architecture featuring projects by Richard Neutra, Thom Mayne, Rios Clementi Hale Studios, and others  
____ at $8 each

Rodney Walker: The Ojai Years: tri-fold, black-and-white brochure featuring Walker’s important residences in Ojai, with pictures and article by historian David Mason  
____ at $5 each

Kesling Homes: bi-fold, two-color brochure from the “Kesling Modern Structures” tour  
____ at $2 each

The Historic and Modern Spirit of Ventura: 20-page guide from Ventura tour  
____ at $10 each

Modernism for the Masses: eight-page, four-color brochure on the historical and contemporary legacy of LA school architecture featuring projects by Richard Neutra, Thom Mayne, Rios Clementi Hale Studios, and others  
____ at $8 each

Reconsidering Lloyd Wright: 21-page, four-color booklet from “Reconsidering Lloyd Wright House Tour”  
____ at $10 each

Union Station and MTA Transit Center: bi-fold map for a self-guided walking tour including historical facts and photos  
____ at $2 each

David Gebhard Review: essays on the Works Project Administration by Robert W. Winter, Dwelle D. Clark, Jr., and Mitzi March Mogul  
____ at $5 each

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SAH/SCC Event:
Contemporary Patrons: Wells in Laguna—January 19th  
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(Only SAH/SCC Patron and Life Members are eligible. To become a member, see below.)

SAH/SCC Membership Benefits:
Subscription to bi-monthly SAH/SCC News
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