 originally built in 1932 on Silver Lake Boulevard and reconstituted after a tragic fire in 1966, the house is named in honor of Cornelius H. Van der Leew, a Dutch industrialist who provided the capital so that young Neutra could build an experimental house for himself and his family. The house is all about living close to nature in an urban residential setting.

Tickets are $25 for regular SAH/SCC members, $20 to our Patron and Life members, and $35 for non-members. All proceeds will go directly to support the restoration campaign established by Richard Neutra’s youngest son Dr. Raymond Neutra, The VDL Advisory Board, and Cal Poly Pomona College of Environmental Design.

Join SAH/SCC at Richard Neutra’s Van der Leew (VDL) Research House in Silver Lake for an afternoon of engaging conversation and exploration. The place Richard Neutra called home will be open to all SAH/SCC members and friends on Saturday, June 7th, 1-4PM, for a special day that will inform and enliven your experience of the landmark house and garden.

In her book Neutra: An American Architect, esteemed Neutra scholar, historian, and former SAH/SCC Board Member Barbara Lamprecht writes: “While the Neutra homes VDL Research Houses I and II succeed in their self-appointed task of solving generic problems, they are also intimate family portraits. The houses explore a range of issues. How does an architect communicate his ethics aesthetically? Neutra’s response shows how to increase urban density in a city; how to accommodate and layer potentially conflicting uses in a house/offic; and how to enhance human vitality through an intimate bond with nature.”

The three-story main house faces Silver Lake with work spaces on the ground floor, the main living spaces above on the principal floor, and at the top, a small glass penthouse and roof deck. Together, the main house and a one-story apartment to the rear form a central courtyard creating an outdoor “room” at the center of the property. Spectacular views are

continues on page 3
Registration for our "Architecture Inside and Outside" event, featuring three ultra examples of Spanish Colonial Revival architecture in Santa Barbara, filled up immediately—not surprising, as these are celebrated gems. We all enjoy touring mansions, iconic structures, and innovatively designed masterpieces. While these may be landmarks in the history of architecture, they shed only limited light on the history of their times. Great works of architecture may tell us about the architect and a few individual clients or their circles, but it is the vernacular houses, stores, office buildings, and schools that can inform us about the visions, limits, and possibilities available to most people of the times. Yet it is the palatial and the distinctive structures that tend to be preserved, not the tract houses and shopping rows. Selective survival and the attention we give to elite and exemplary structures tend to skew our concept of the past.

Rows and rows of 1940s stucco boxes that constituted war-worker and immediate post-war housing tracts of several hundred houses each, with very little variation in plan or trim, tell us about wartime material shortages and restrictions for a generation whose imagination had been stunted by the depression and molded to conformity by wartime material shortages and restrictions. Nor should they. I grew up in such a tract and recently returned to it.

Attention we give to elite and exemplary structures tend to skew our concept of the past. Most people of the times. Yet it is the palatial and the distinctive structures that tend to be landmarks in the history of architecture, they shed only limited light on the history of the 1940s past has disappeared immediately—not surprising, as these are celebrated gems. We all enjoy touring examples of Spanish Colonial Revival architecture in Santa Barbara, filled up immediately—not surprising, as these are celebrated gems. We all enjoy touring mansions, iconic structures, and innovatively designed masterpieces. While these may be landmarks in the history of architecture, they shed only limited light on the history of their times. Great works of architecture may tell us about the architect and a few individual clients or their circles, but it is the vernacular houses, stores, office buildings, and schools that can inform us about the visions, limits, and possibilities available to most people of the times. Yet it is the palatial and the distinctive structures that tend to be preserved, not the tract houses and shopping rows. Selective survival and the attention we give to elite and exemplary structures tend to skew our concept of the past.

The Architecture of John Lautner

The Hammer Museum presents John Lautner's legacy and creative process through the first major exhibition survey of his work: “Between Earth and Heaven: The Architecture of John Lautner,” on view from July 13 through October 12, 2008. One of the most important and influential architects of the 20th century, Lautner had a remarkable career spanning nearly six decades. Residing and working in Los Angeles during much of that time, he infused his designs with radical innovation and specific attention to materiality, space, and a consciousness of the natural environment.

An aesthetic, philosophical, and social visionary, Lautner made buildings that continue to amaze architects and patrons alike with their formal variety and freedom, their structural originality, and their sculptural impact. Lautner’s work has come to represent some of the most important examples of architecture in Southern California, including private residences such as Elrod House (1968) in Palm Springs and Malin House (1968) in Los Angeles—also known as the “Chemosphere,” which hovers high above a canyon, and balances on a single support. Curated by historian Nicholas Olsberg and architect Frank Escher, the exhibition features a design as visceral an experience as Lautner’s.

The exhibition features a design as visceral an experience as Lautner’s dramatic core are a wealth of archival materials, including never-before-seen drawings, architectural renderings, study models, and construction photographs that will offer insight into how the structures and spaces unfolded in Lautner’s mind and emerged physically in their settings.

Accompanying the exhibition at the Hammer Museum will be a catalog published by Rizzoli International and a full range of public programs, including lectures, screenings, a symposium on modern and contemporary architecture, and walking tours of notable vernacular homes in Los Angeles.
1-3, Thursday-Saturday

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

3, Saturday

3, Saturday

3, Saturday
Moveable Musical Feast. Wind Societies of New York plays at Los Angeles Conservancy; LA; 3PM; $15. 213.477.2929. dacamera.org.

4, Sunday
Adelaide Drive. Architectural tour of historic homes on Adelaide Drive in Santa Monica. Santa Monica Conservancy, 1-5PM; $35-40; res. req. 310.496.3140. smcconservancy.org.

4, Sunday

5, Monday

6, Tuesday
Hands-on exploration of ancient papyrus making, followed by galleries and gardens tour. The Getty Villa, 17985 Pacific Coast Hwy, Malibu; 10-1PM; $40; res. req. 310.440.7300. getty.edu.

7, Wednesday

7-8, Wednesday-Thursday

7-9, Wednesday-Friday
Serious Play. The Art Center Design Conference explores the key role of "play" in creativity and innovation. Art Center College of Design, South Campus Wind Tunnel, Pasadena; $1,350-1,495; res. req. 626.398.2567. artcenter.edu.

8, Thursday

8, Thursday
Ten Years in Focus: The Artist and the Camera. Gallery talk with Getty assistant curator of photographs Karen Hemmila. The Getty Center, 1200 Getty Center Dr., LA; 2:30PM; res. req. 310.440.7300. getty.edu.

9, Friday
Point-of-View: Artist Talks at the Getty Center. Discussion with photographer Catherine Opie. The Getty Center, 1200 Getty Center Dr., LA; 4:30PM and 6PM; res. req. 310.440.7300. getty.edu.

9, Friday

10, Saturday
Los Angeles Area Open Day. Tour of six gardens in Los Angeles. The Garden Conservancy, 10AM-4PM; $5 per garden. 888.842.2442. openparks.org.

10, Saturday
Old Riverside Foundation Home Tour, Restoration Faire, and Vintage Mercantile. Tour of nine historic homes. Old Riverside Foundation, 1510 University Ave., Riverside; 10AM-5PM; $15-18; 951.509.7980. oldriverside.org.

10, Saturday

10, Saturday
Los Angeles Area Open Day. Tour of six gardens in Los Angeles. The Garden Conservancy, 10AM-4PM; $5 per garden. 888.842.2442. openparks.org.

11, Sunday

11, Sunday
East LA Riverfront and Historic Neighborhoods Tour. LA Conservancy and A T Heinsbergen. 1931), Da Camera Society. LA; 4PM; $35-43; res. req. 310.659.3325. adsla.org.

12, Monday

17, Saturday

17, Saturday

17, Saturday

17, Saturday
Walks in the Village: Literature, Music, and Neon Art. 136 W. 4th St., LA; 8PM, 7-8PM. 30th Anniversary Gala. Los Angeles Conservancy; LA; 11:30AM-1:30PM; $125; res. req. 213.623.2484. laconservancy.org.

17, Saturday
DPa: Design and Architecture. Radio program on design and architecture in Los Angeles with Francis Anderton. 88.9 FM KCRW; 2-3PM. kcrw.com.

23, Friday

may continues

FEATURED EVENT

4, Sunday
Adelaide Drive
Santa Monica Conservancy Tour. See listing for details.

The Milbank House is featured on the Santa Monica Conservancy's architectural tour of Adelaide Drive.
24. Saturday  

24, Saturday  
Union Station Family Tour. Walking tour designed for children and families, exploring the architecture and history of Union Station. Los Angeles Conservancy; LA; 11AM; $5-10; res. req. 213.623.2489. laconservancy.org.

25, Sunday  

25, Sunday  

26, Wednesday  

5-8, Thursday–Sunday  

6, Friday  

6, Friday  

7, Saturday  
August Sander in Context. Part two of two-part course with Getty associate curator of photographs Virginia Heckert in conjunction with “August Sander: People of the Twentieth Century” exhibit, with consideration of photographs by Bernd and Hilla Becher. The Getty Center, 1200 Getty Center Dr., LA; 10:30AM-12:30PM; $20-30; res. req. 310.440.7300. getty.edu.

7, 14, 21, 28, Saturday  

9, Monday  

10, 17, Tuesday  
Collection Connection: Drawn to Flowers. Two-session drawing course with artists Tania Marien and Deborah Shaw exploring botanical illustration techniques in conjunction with “Maria Sibylla Merian & Daughters: Women of Art and Sciences” exhibit. Session 1-The Getty Center, 1200 Getty Center Dr., LA; Session 2-The Huntington Library, 1151 Oxford Road, San Marino; 12:30-3:30PM; $45; res. req. 310.440.7300. getty.edu.

11, Wednesday  

12, Thursday  

13, Friday  

14, Saturday  
Little Tokyo. Walking tour of the historic heart of LA’s Japanese community. Los Angeles Conservancy; LA; 10AM; $5-10; res. req. 213.623.4769. getty.edu.

15, Saturday, Sunday  
August Sander: People of the Twentieth Century. Screening of a documentary on August Sander’s distinctive approach to portraiture during the Weimar Republic. The Getty Center, 1200 Getty Center Dr., LA; screening-12:30PM, 2:30PM; gallery tour-1:30PM, 3:30PM; res. req. 310.440.7300. getty.edu.

17, Tuesday  
DnA: Design and Architecture. Radio program on design and architecture in Los Angeles with Frances Anderton. 89.9 FM KCRW, 2:30-3:30PM. kcrw.com.

18, Wednesday  

18, Wednesday  
Maria Sibylla Merian & Daughters: Women of Art and Sciences. Discussion examining the first female artist with a significant professional career, and her sister, Maria Magdalena. The Getty Center, 1200 Getty Center Dr., LA; 4:30PM-6PM; res. req. 310.440.7300. getty.edu.

20, Friday  
Point-of-View: Artist Talks at the Getty Center. Discussion with Australian botanical artist Jenny Phillips in conjunction with “Maria Sibylla Merian & Daughters: Women of Art and Sciences” exhibit. The Getty Center, 1200 Getty Center Dr., LA; 4-6PM; res. req. 310.440.7300. getty.edu.

21, Saturday  
Marin County Area Open Day. Tour of eight gardens in Marin County. The Garden Conservancy; 10AM-4PM; $5 per garden. 888.842.2442. openpays.org.

21, Saturday  

25, Wednesday  

28, Saturday  

28, 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.

28, Saturday  
Historic 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.

28, Saturday  
Union Station Family Tour. Walking tour designed for children and families, exploring the architecture and history of Union Station. Los Angeles Conservancy; LA; 11AM; $5-10; res. req. 213.623.2489 laconservancy.org.

SAH/SCC EVENT  
7, Saturday  
Haus and Home  
SAH/SCC Talk and Tour. See page 1 for details.

June

3, Tuesday  

4, Sunday  
2008 AIA Los Angeles Design Awards Party. Celebration of design excellence in Los Angeles. AIA Los Angeles; 8:30PM at LACMA, 5905 Wilshire Blvd., LA; 6-8PM; $15-20; res. req. 213.628.8777. aialosangeles.org.

Calendar information is supplied to SAH/SCC by the sponsoring organizations and is correct as of press time. SAH/SCC suggests you contact the sponsors prior to attending any event.
designated to continue throughout the house, across the courtyard, decks, and balconies, extending space beyond typical boundaries. The house represents the complete integration of so many vital ideas about life and human habitat that Neutra brought to all of his projects.

Of the VDL House, Thomas S. Hines, UCLA professor of history and architecture and author of Richard Neutra and the Search for Modern Architecture, writes: "In addition to its beautifully proportioned and elegantly minimalist geometry, Neutra's VDL Research House epitomized his penchant [1] for the use of new, experimental materials, [2] his delight in "nam­ing" buildings to connote larger issues—e.g. "research house" —and [3] for multivalent "after-the-revolution" planning in which particular spaces and elements could be later re-cycled and re-utilized for different uses as circumstances changed and different needs arose."

Neutra was born in Vienna, Austria, in 1892 and died in Wuppertal, Germany, in 1970. He studied under Adolf Loos, was influenced by Otto Wagner, and worked for a time in Germany in the studio of Erich Mendelsohn. He moved to the United States by 1923 and became a naturalized citizen in 1933. Neutra worked briefly for Frank Lloyd Wright before accepting an invitation from his close friend and university companion Rudolf Schindler to work and live communally in Schindler's Kings Road House in California. Neutra subsequently opened his own practice in Los Angeles a few years later. He was famous for the great attention he gave to defining the real needs of his clients, whether he was commis­sioned to build a simple house or a mansion. To determine his clients' needs exactly, he would use detailed questionnaires. Neutra's domestic architecture blends art, landscape, and practical comfort.

Included in the day's events will be a panel discussion with author Barbara Lamprecht, Cal Poly Pomona associate professor of architecture Dr. Lauren Bricker, and additional special guests.

This important combination of house and architect is the inaugural program in a series the SAH/SCC is initiating to explore the ideas architects bring to the making of a house that is their own home. Please join us for a stimulating afternoon at the family home of Richard J. Neutra.
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 Brockmont 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 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

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, Ross 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: tri-fold brochure with inserts of detailed floor plans of Eichler homes visited on the Orange County tour at $10 each

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