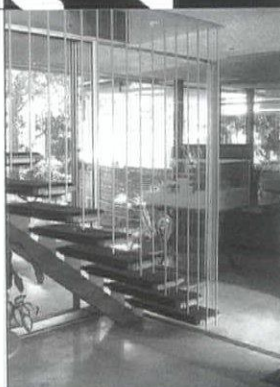


NEWS

2008
may | june



P.O. Box 56478, Sherman Oaks, CA 91413, 800.972.4722, www.sahscc.org

HAUS H O M E

and

SAH/SCC Tour: Saturday, June 7th

Join SAH/SCC at Richard Neutra's Van der Leeuw (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.

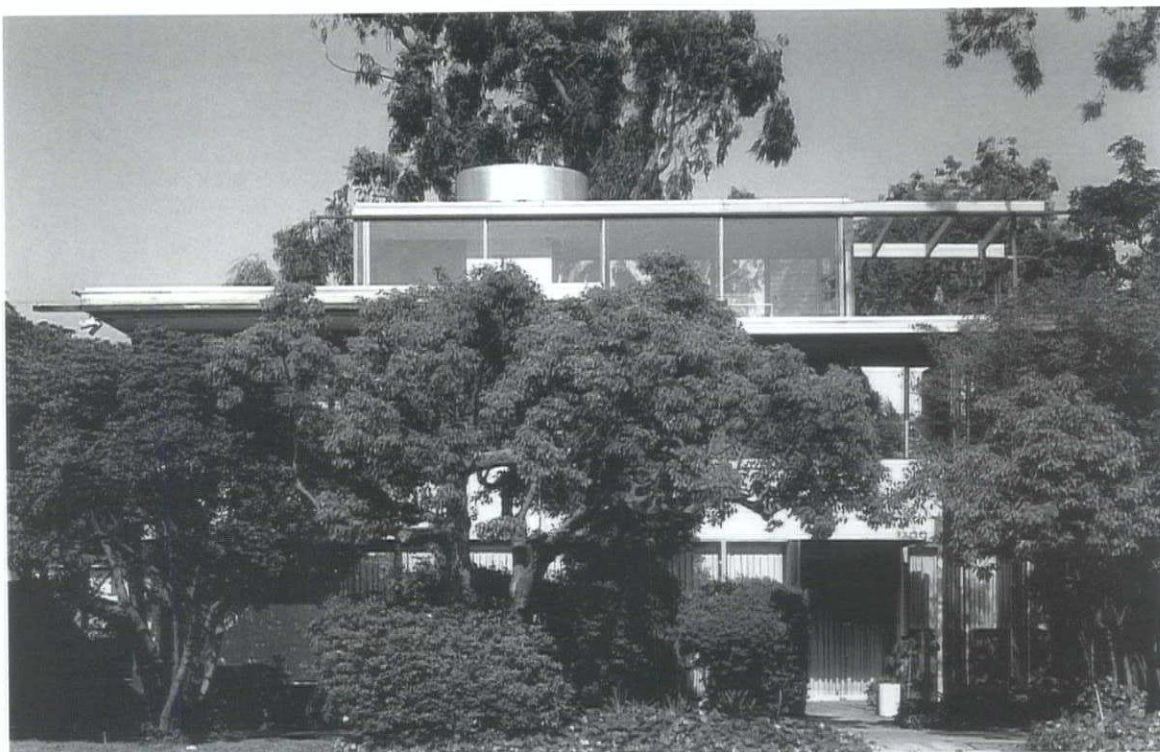


Photo: Douglas Hill

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 Leeuw, 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 and working 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.

In her book *Neutra*, 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/office; 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

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 of exclusive SAH/SCC architectural events and tours.

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

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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 indoctrination. But no one wants to preserve these rows of look-alike houses as historical monuments. Nor should they. I grew up in such a tract and recently returned to the block where I lived to find that all but two of the 20 houses had been converted into two-story behemoths with varying whiffs of aesthetic sensitivity. It is right that later owners should adapt these houses to meet their needs and fill their visions. But the physical record of the 1940s past has disappeared.

Happily, the record of the historical built environment has been preserved in scattered photo collections. Take a look at the Los Angeles Public Library's online selection from its 2.5 million historic photos (www.lapl.org), or at USC's newly accessible collection (<http://digarc.usc.edu>). Regional libraries, such as Long Beach and Santa Monica, have their own collections. Everyone's past is there, safe and sound, for virtual touring.

Merry Ovnick

Exhibition Preview

Between Earth and Heaven: The Architecture of John Lautner

The Hammer Museum highlights John Lautner's legacy and creative process by presenting 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 force. 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 (1960) 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 buildings themselves. Newly crafted large-scale models give a sense of the internal spaces and scale of key projects, and digital animations reveal Lautner's construction processes. Short color films by prize-winning documentarian Murray Grigor convey the sensation of movement through these buildings and their sites, helping the visitor to feel the "vitality within repose" that Lautner sought to create. Surrounding this 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 modernist homes in Los Angeles.

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1-3, Thursday-Saturday

Society of California Archivists.
Annual meeting. Monterey. 510.642.8175.
calarchivists.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*Venice Garden and Home Tour 2008.*

Self-guided tour of gardens in Venice, CA. Las Doradas Children's Center, 804 Broadway Ave.; 10AM-5PM; \$60-70. 310.821.1857. venicegardentour.org.

3, Saturday*Julius Shulman: Palm Springs.*

Gallery talk with docent specialist Lois Kahn-Feuer. Palm Springs Art Museum, McCallum Wing, 101 Museum Dr., Palm Springs; 11AM; \$5-12.50. 760.325.4490. psmuseum.org.

3, Saturday*Moveable Musical Feast.*

Wind Soloists of New York plays at Yamashiro (Franklin M. Small, 1913; Walter Weber, 1999). Da Camera Society, LA; 1PM and 3PM; \$49; res. req. 213.477.2929. dacamera.org.

3, Saturday*Paradise Promoted:**The Booster Campaign that Created Los Angeles, 1870-1930.*

Lecture and book signing by author Tom Zimmerman. Dawson's Book Shop, 535 N. Larchmont Blvd., LA; 2:30PM; res. req. 323.469.2186. dawsonbooks.com.

4, Sunday*Adelaide Drive.*

Architectural tour of historic homes on Adelaide Drive in Santa Monica. Santa Monica Conservancy; 1-5PM; \$35-40; res. req. 310.496.3146. smconservancy.org.

4, Sunday*BAHA Spring House Tour.*

Tour of turn-of-the-century houses along Benvenue and Hillegass Avenues in Willard Park area of Berkeley. Berkeley Architectural Heritage Association; 1-5PM; \$25-35; res. req. 510.841.2242. berkeleyheritage.com.

4, Sunday*30th Anniversary Gala.*

Dinner for the Mingei International Museum. Plaza de Panama—Balboa Park, 1439 El Prado, San Diego; 6PM; res. req. 619.239.0003. mingei.org.

5, Monday*Eric Owen Moss.*

Lecture with EOM Architects principal and SCI-Arc director Eric Owen Moss. UCLA Department of Architecture and Urban Design, Perloff Hall, LA; 6:30PM. 310.267.4704. aud.ucla.edu.

7, Wednesday*Roman Interior Design.*

Discussion with gallery teacher Sarah Thomas followed by gallery tour. The Getty Villa, 17985 Pacific Coast Hwy., Pacific Palisades; 1-4PM; \$20; res. req. 310.440.7300. getty.edu.

7, Wednesday

"August Sander: People in the Twentieth Century" and "Bernd and Hilla Becher: Basic Forms".
Gallery talk with Getty associate curator of photographs Virginia Heckert. The Getty Center, 1200 Getty Center Dr., LA; 2:30PM; res. req. 310.440.7300. getty.edu.

7-8, Wednesday-Thursday

The Secretary of the Interior's Standards: Treatment Considerations.
Seminar on historic property rehabilitation for federal tax benefits, with attention to character-defining features, preservation of historic fabric, and use of replacement materials. National Preservation Institute; San Francisco; \$375; res. req. 703.765.0100. npi.org.

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. 626.396.2357. artcenter.edu.

8, Thursday*LA Conservancy Preservation Awards.*

Luncheon honoring recipients of the Conservancy's 2008 awards, which recognize outstanding achievement in historic preservation. Los Angeles Conservancy; Millennium Biltmore Los Angeles, 506 S. Grand Ave., LA; 11:30AM-1:30PM; \$125; res. req. 213.623.2489. laconservancy.org.

8, Thursday

Ten Years in Focus: The Artist and the Camera.
Gallery talk with Getty assistant curator of photographs Karen Hellman. 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.

10, Saturday

Home Tour 2008.
Tour of prestigious local homes. Huntington Beach Art Center; 10AM-3PM; res. req. 714.374.1650.

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. opendaysprogram.org.

10, Saturday

Art Party.
A day of casual creativity featuring drop-in art sessions, workshops, demonstrations, performances, dancing, screenings, and tours. Palm Springs Art Museum, 101 Museum Dr.; 10AM-4PM. 760.325.4490. psmuseum.org.

10, Saturday

Moveable Musical Feast.
Billy Childs' Chamber Jazz performs at Warner Grand Theatre (Marcus Priteca and A.T. Heinsbergen, 1931). Da Camera Society, LA; 4PM; \$35-43; res. req. 213.477.2929. dacamera.org.

14, Wednesday

Papyrus: The Ancient World and Beyond.
Hands-on exploration of ancient papyrus making, followed by galleries and gardens tour. The Getty Villa, 17985 Pacific Coast Hwy., Pacific Palisades; 1-4PM; \$40; res. req. 310.440.7300. getty.edu.

15, Thursday

San Diego's Balboa Park.
Lecture and book signing by author David Marshall, AIA. Save Our Heritage Organization; Adobe Chapel, 3950 Conde St., San Diego; 6-7:30PM. 619.297.9327. sohosiandiego.org.

15, Thursday

Conservation Matters: Unimpaired for Future Generations: Preserving Objects, Sites, and Structures in National Parks.
Discussion with National Park Service chief archaeologist Frank McManamon on the role of the NPS in protecting cultural resources at various sites. The Getty Center, 1200 Getty Center Dr., LA; 7PM; res. req. 310.440.7300. getty.edu.

17, 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.

17, Saturday

Palo Alto Area Open Day.
Tour of two gardens in Palo Alto. The Garden Conservancy; 10AM-4PM; \$5 per garden. 888.842.2442. opendaysprogram.org.

17, 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. 951.509.7682. oldriverside.org.

17, Saturday

The Avalon Ball.
Dance and silent auction. Art Deco Society of Los Angeles; Avalon Casino Ballroom, Catalina Island; 6-10PM; \$40-50. 310.659.3326. adsla.org.

17, Saturday

Poet's Beat Neon Cruise.
Nighttime bus tour featuring music, poetry, and various bar stops. Museum of Neon Art, 136 W. 4th St., LA; 8PM; \$25-35; res. req. 213.489.9918. neonmona.org.

18, Sunday

Marston, Van Pelt, and Maybury.
Tour examining the evolution of one of Pasadena's most significant architectural firms with interior visits to selected private residences. Pasadena Heritage; Pasadena; 9AM-12PM and 1-4PM; \$35-40; res. req. 626.441.6333. pasadenaheritage.org.

18, Sunday

Glendale Garden Tour.
Tour of 12 gardens in historic Northwest Glendale to benefit the Glendale Adventist Cancer Center. Glendale Historical Society; 10:30AM-4PM; \$25-30. 818.507.8969. glendalehistorical.org.

18, Sunday

Sights and Sounds of the '30s.
Festival focusing on life in the 1930s. Rancho Los Cerritos Historic Site, 4600 Virginia Rd., Long Beach; 12:30-4:30PM; \$3-5. 562.570.1755. rancholoscerritos.org.

19, Monday

Jean-Philippe Vassal.
Lecture with Paris-based Lacaton & Vassal Architects director Jean-Philippe Vassal. UCLA Department of Architecture and Urban Design, Perloff Hall, LA; 6:30PM. 310.267.4704. aud.ucla.edu.

20, Tuesday

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

23, Friday

Urban Futures Chicago.
Opening reception for exhibition of new urban morphologies for future Chicago development. UCLA Department of Architecture and Urban Design, Perloff Gallery, LA; 6-8PM. 310.267.4704. aud.ucla.edu.

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.

Photo: Courtesy Santa Monica Conservancy

24, Saturday

Experiencing the Getty Collection: Curator's Choice: Photographs. Lecture with Getty senior curator of photography Weston Naef on a selection of recent acquisitions, in conjunction with "Ten Years in Focus: The Artist and the Camera" exhibit. The Getty Center, 1200 Getty Center Dr., LA; 10:30AM-12:30PM; \$15; res. req. 310.440.7300. getty.edu.

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

Moveable Musical Feast. Harlem Quartet plays at First A.M.E. Church (Paul Williams, 1969). Da Camera Society, LA; lecture-3:15PM, concert-4PM; \$35-43; res. req. 213.477.2929. dacamera.org.

28, Wednesday

Lars Spuybroek. Lecture with Georgia Institute of Technology College of Architecture professor and Rotterdam-based NOX principal Lars Spuybroek. UCLA Department of Architecture and Urban Design, Perloff Hall, LA; 6:30PM. 310.267.4704. aud.ucla.edu.

28, Wednesday

Last Remaining Seats. Screening of "Gentlemen Prefer Blondes" (1953) at the Los Angeles Theatre (S. Charles Lee with S. Tilden Norton, 1931). Los Angeles Conservancy; Los Angeles Theatre, 615 S. Broadway, LA; 8PM; \$15-18. 213.430.4219. laconservancy.org.

29, Thursday

The Nose on Your Face: Faces and Souls in August Sander's Germany. Discussion linking 21st-century obsession with faces to the cultures of the Weimar Republic. The Getty Center, 1200 Getty Center Dr., LA; 7PM; res. req. 310.440.7300. getty.edu.

31, Saturday

August Sander in Context. Part one of two-part course with Getty associate curator of photographs Virginia Heckert in conjunction with "August Sander: People of the Twentieth Century." The Getty Center, 1200 Getty Center Dr., LA; 10:30AM-12:30PM; \$20-30; res. req. 310.440.7300. getty.edu.

june

3, Tuesday

Design and the Elastic Mind. Lecture given by Museum of Modern Art Architecture and Design department senior curator Paola Antonelli. DADC/LACMA, 5905 Wilshire Blvd., LA; 7:30PM; \$15-20. 323.857.6528. lacma.org.

4, Sunday

2008 AIA Los Angeles Design Awards Party. Celebration of design excellence in Los Angeles. AIA Los Angeles; BCAM at LACMA, 5905 Wilshire Blvd., LA; 6-10PM; \$150-225; res. req. 213.639.0777. aialosangeles.org.

4, Wednesday

Last Remaining Seats. Screening of "Mildred Pierce" (1945) at the Million Dollar Theatre (Albert C. Martin, 1918). Los Angeles Conservancy; Million Dollar Theatre, 307 S. Broadway, LA; 8PM; \$15-18. 213.430.4219. laconservancy.org.

5-8, Thursday-Sunday

Dwell on Design. Conference, exhibition, and home tours featuring architects, planners, and designers exploring modern trends. Dwell Magazine; LA Convention Center, LA; Thursday-9:30AM-8:30PM, Friday-9:30AM-6PM, Saturday/Sunday-10AM-3PM; \$349-449; res. req. 415.373.5100. dwellondesign.com.

6, Friday

Blake Gardens. Tour of landscaped grounds surrounding the Anson S. Blake House in Kensington. Berkeley Architectural Heritage Association, Berkeley; 11AM; \$15; res. req. 510.841.2242. berkeleyheritage.com.

6, Friday

Stefano Boeri. Lecture with Milan-based *Abitare* editor Stefano Boeri. UCLA Department of Architecture and Urban Design, Perloff Hall, LA; 6:30PM. 310.267.4704. aud.ucla.edu.

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 structures 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

Neon Cruise. Nighttime bus tour of neon signs throughout downtown Los Angeles and Hollywood. Museum of Neon Art, 136 W. 4th St., LA; 7:30-11PM; \$45-55; res. req. 213.489.9918. neonmona.org.

9, Monday

Rumble. Opening reception for UCLA Department of Architecture and Urban Design's first all-student exhibition of studio work. UCLA Department of Architecture and Urban Design, Perloff Hall, LA; 6-9PM. 310.267.4704. aud.ucla.edu.

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

Last Remaining Seats. Screening of "Goldfinger" (1964) at the Orpheum Theatre (G. Albert Lansburgh, 1926). Los Angeles Conservancy; Orpheum Theatre, 842 S. Broadway, LA; 8PM; \$15-18. 213.430.4219. laconservancy.org.

12, Thursday

Beaumont Newhall: Teaching a History and Inspiring a Vision. Discussion examining the first curator of photography at the Museum of Modern Art, New York, Beaumont Newhall. The Getty Center, 1200 Getty Center Dr., LA; 7PM; res. req. 310.440.7300. getty.edu.

13, Friday

Currents: Class of 2008. Reception for student exhibition. UCLA Department of Architecture and Urban Design, Perloff Gallery, LA; 6:30-8:30PM. 310.267.4704. aud.ucla.edu.

14, Saturday

Little Tokyo. Walking tour of the historic heart of LA's Japanese community. Los Angeles Conservancy; LA; 10AM; \$5-10; res. req. 213.623.2489. laconservancy.org.

14, 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, 4:30PM, 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; 2:30-3PM. kcrw.com.

18, Wednesday

Last Remaining Seats. Screening of Mel Brooks' "Young Frankenstein" (1974) at the Los Angeles Theatre (S. Charles Lee with S. Tilden Norton, 1931). Los Angeles Conservancy; Los Angeles Theatre, 615 S. Broadway, LA; 8PM; \$15-18. 213.430.4219. laconservancy.org.

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; 4:30PM and 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. opendaysprogram.org.

21, Saturday

Artist-at-Work Demonstration: Botanical Drawing. Demonstration of art and practice of botanical drawing with Australian artist Jenny Phillips in conjunction with "Maria Sibylla Merian & Daughters: Women of Art and Sciences" exhibit. The Getty Center, 1200 Getty Center Dr., LA; 1-3PM; res. req. 310.440.7300. getty.edu.

25, Wednesday

Last Remaining Seats. Screening of "El rey del barrio"/"The King of the Neighborhood" (1950) in Spanish with English subtitles at the Million Dollar Theatre (Albert C. Martin, 1918). Los Angeles Conservancy; Million Dollar Theatre, 307 S. Broadway, LA; 8PM; \$15-18. 213.430.4219. laconservancy.org.

28, Saturday

LA Conservancy Annual Meeting. Review of the past year in preservation, with a special program on the work of architect Gerard Colcord. Los Angeles Conservancy; Pacific Design Center, 8687 Melrose Ave., West Hollywood; 10AM. 213.623.2489. laconservancy.org.

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

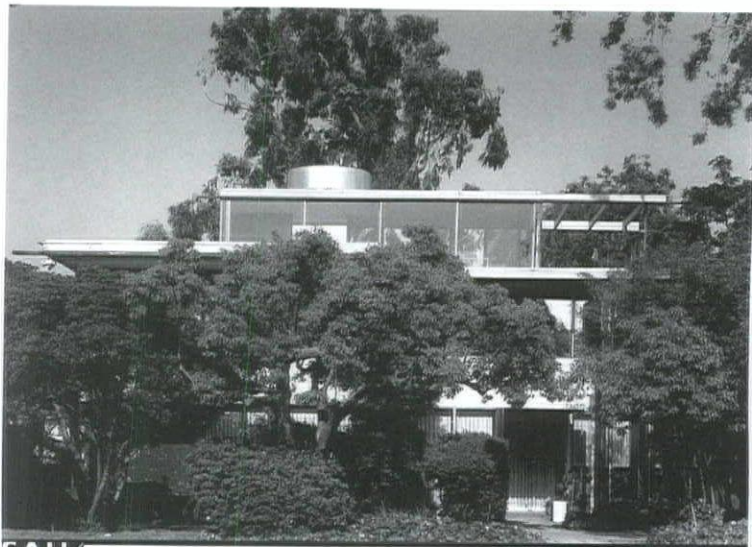
Union Station Family Tour. Walking tour designed for children and families, exploring the architecture and history of Union Station. Los Angeles Conservancy; LA; 11AM; \$5-10; res. req. 213.623.2489. laconservancy.org.

SAH/SCC EVENT

7, Saturday

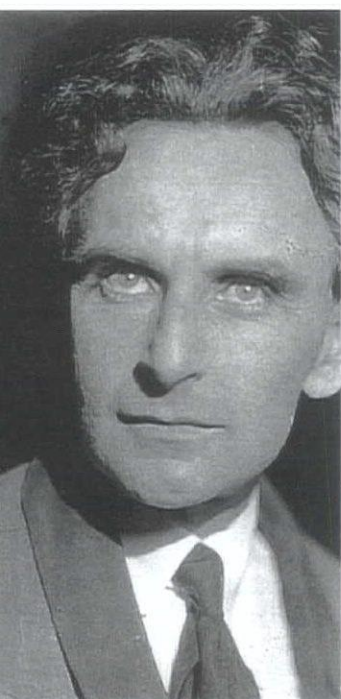
Haus and Home

SAH/SCC Talk and Tour. See page 1 for details.



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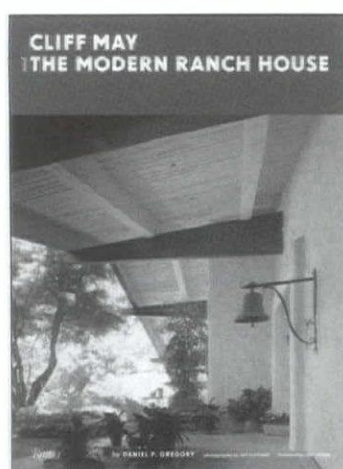
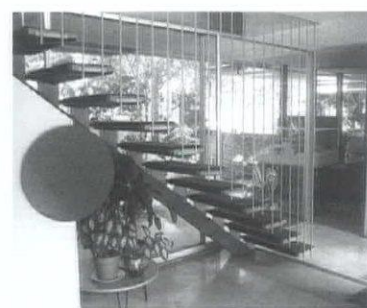
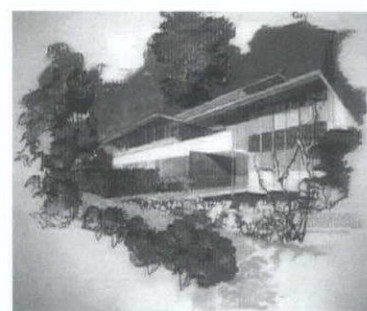
designed to continue throughout the house, across the courtyard, decks, and balconies, extending space beyond typical boundaries. The house represents the complete integration of so many vital ideas about life and human habitat that Neutra brought to all of his projects.

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 1929. 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.



Cliff May and the Modern Ranch House

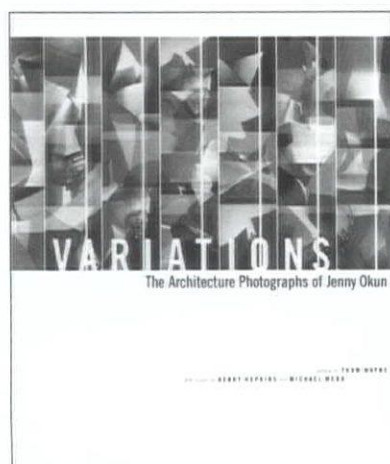
by Daniel P. Gregory

photos by Joe Fletcher

book design by Volume, Inc.

When it comes to the propagation (or propagandization) of the California Lifestyle, perhaps there is no better team than Cliff May and *Sunset Magazine*. Those two Golden State entities come together in this terrific new volume by *Sunset*'s long-time architecture editor Dan Gregory. It is extremely rare to credit a book's designer (Volume, Inc.) along with the author and principal photographer, but the graphic quality of this book is dynamic in its fresh approach to the combination of new and vintage visual information. Several spreads establish a cinematic quality to the volume prior to reaching the title page and foreword by famed movie producer and architectural home collector Joel Silver. A sprightly biography gives the reader a real sense of the man, who "still had a sparkle in his eye" well into his later years. The projects begin with May's 1939 Riviera Ranch House—the third he built for his family—and spans to the 1980 Robert Mondavi Residence, showing a mix of vintage and new photography. Interspersed are essays on May's relationship with *Sunset* (not only a huge supporter, but a client, as May created its beautiful Menlo Park headquarters), along with discussions of the Western lifestyle, illustrated with plans, sketches, promotional materials, and insightful quotations. This book is the definitive work on a defining lifestyle.

Rizzoli International Publications; hardcover; 256 pages; \$60.



Variations: The Architecture Photographs of Jenny Okun

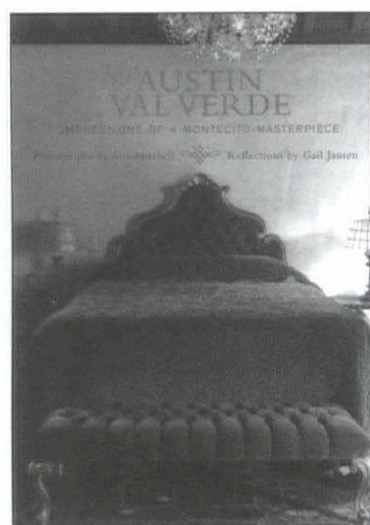
by Jenny Okun

preface by Thom Mayne

essays by Henry T. Hopkins and Michael Webb

Los Angeles- and London-based photographer Jenny Okun creates images of shape, shadow, color, form, and feeling. Spanning 25 years of the artist's explorations of architecture, *Variations* includes 93 image groups of structures from around the world—most famous, some not. Several structures that would be easily recognizable to most Angelenos—MOCA, Case Study House #21, LACMA, Disney Hall, Getty Center—are given an unfamiliar and almost otherworldly treatment in Okun's constructions. She manages to create abstraction and air from the most solid and permanent of art forms. Her background in painting and filmmaking feed effortlessly and obviously into her photography, as she deftly displays mastery of both color and movement. Okun's fascination with architecture began as a teenager while seeing the construction of a Charles Gwathmey house. Indeed, any architect would be honored to see her interpretation of a building, for, as Thom Mayne states in his preface, Okun's images "retain the fundamental DNA of the architect's project, brilliantly elucidating the character and essence of the three-dimensional work."

Five Ties Publishing; hardcover; 164 pages; \$65.



Austin Val Verde: Impressions of a Montecito Masterpiece

by Gail Jansen

photos by Ann Mitchell

To remember your Montecito tour with SAH/SCC early this May—or even if you weren't able to join us—you'll want to delve into this dreamy volume documenting every detail of the Val Verde Estate. Commissioned by Austin Val Verde Foundation, the book intends to bridge the historic site's past with its present. Mitchell's sumptuous photographs are shot, printed, and toned in the pictorialist style of early photographers, yet with a thoroughly modern compositional view. They recall the lovingly tender photographs that Eugène Atget did of Paris in the late 1800s, with their quiet mystery and subtle sensuality. On pages opposite images, a running dialogue between Foundation director Jansen and photographer Mitchell emerges as almost whispered thoughts through the oversized fonts and spacing.

Balcony Press; hardcover; 176 pages; \$50.

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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 Block in Glendale: pocket-size fandek 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 3 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, 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: 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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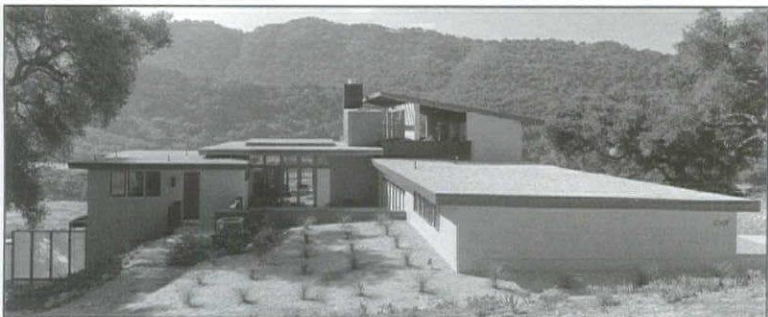
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**New Case Study House #16 by Rodney Walker
BEST Modern Architecture Value In Ojai Vicinity**

Re-created by Craig Walker, 2006. The spirit of celebrated Case Study House #16 lives again on an oaken ridge just outside Ojai. This is not a greenish copy, but rather a sensitive reinterpretation incorporating today's technological and green resources. The timeless aspect of the early modernist vision pervades: one lives within nature, not sheltered away from nature. Inside dissolves to outside, and the peace of the mountains is with you. The property is over 2 acres and affords dramatic mountain and valley views. Includes: three bedrooms, 2.5 baths, den, office, sitting room/atrium, live on roof terrace with fireplace, laundry, and four car covered parking.

\$1,495,000

Crosby Doe

Photograph by Stephen Schafer



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