Masters of Modernism: Neutra and Wright

SAH/SCC Tour, Bakersfield
Saturday, October 24, 2009, 8AM-6PM

Join SAH/SCC Executive Board Members Sian Winship and John Berley, who will be your guides for a special daytrip to Bakersfield, CA, where we will explore two rarely seen homes by Richard Neutra and one by Frank Lloyd Wright that has not been open to public tours for a generation.

The tour includes round-trip coach transportation to Bakersfield from West Los Angeles, lunch, and a souvenir tour brochure. SAH/SCC member price is $85; non-member is $125. (Participants may provide their own transportation to Bakersfield, however discounted tickets are not available.)

The first part of the tour will take us to Neutra’s remarkable Davis Residence (1937). Just eight years after the creation of the Lovell Health House, Neutra designed this architectural jewel in the International Style for local patron Frank Davis. One of the best-preserved examples of Neutra’s pre-war architecture, the home has been lovingly cared for by its current owner.

For those who are fans of our Modern Patrons program, the next stop will be especially fulfilling. Neutra’s Leddy Residence (1958) will feature a tour of the house and an extended dialogue with the home’s original owner, a former member of the Martha Graham Dance Company. The Leddy “starter home” in the post-and-beam style shares acreage with this Bakersfield pioneer family’s original, late-1890s gothic farmhouse. Both homes will be open for viewing.

Bakersfield is known for its Basque immigrants and traditions. After an authentic Basque lunch at the renowned Wool Growers restaurant, we will make an afternoon visit to Wright’s rarely seen George and Millie Ablin Residence (1958). One of the last houses designed by Wright prior to his passing, the home was completed by Taliesin Associated Architects. This is the first time the house has been open to a group visit in approximately 20 years. In completely original condition, the Ablin Residence is a graciously executed example of Wright’s use of the hexagon and triangle. The house also features textured concrete block.

Don’t miss the opportunity to visit these three inspirational homes. Coach seating is limited to 20 people, so sign up now to avoid disappointment!
SAH/SCC President’s Letter

Julius Shulman, Life Member, 1910-2009

I.M. Pei once said: “architecture is a way of seeing.” If that is true, then the brilliance of Julius Shulman was that Julius gave us the most compelling way of seeing architecture.

In his life’s work, Julius Shulman defined the face of modern architecture for the public. For many of us, the first time we saw modern architecture was in a book or magazine as captured by the lens of Julius. During a recent panel discussion, actress and modern architecture enthusiast Kelly Lynch described being a young person looking through architecture books and being fascinated. “…all the buildings seemed to be done by the same guy, this guy named Julius Shulman…at the time I thought Julius Shulman was a great architect!”

Julius embraced the same values as modern architecture. He loved nature, simplicity, and progressive ideas. His photos became one of the most powerful manifestos that modern architecture could ever had.

Because he was prolific in photographing Southern California, it is sometimes easy to overlook the genius he brought to the entirety of his work. A few years ago, while working on the Phoenix tour, I was in the archives at ASU looking at the papers of modern architect Blaine Drake. I eagerly opened a file marked “photographs” and was confronted with some of the most disappointing images I had ever seen. I knew Drake’s work, and these were somehow not capturing the subtle quality and essence of it. They were by an “architectural photographer” from Tucson.

Flash forward to the Getty Center, where I found a series of images from a trip to Phoenix Julius had taken in the 1940s. Here were the same buildings, only this time captured through Shulman’s lens. The architecture was transformed: elegant, crisp, and inviting. As with all of his photos, you instantly wanted to be there.

This was the brilliance of Julius.

From the iconic Case Study House photos that conveyed the promise of a new and glamorous lifestyle, to a child playing in his bedroom patio, to having Mrs. Kaufmann recline to block that annoying pool light, Julius understood that modern architecture was, at its essence, supposed to be about people.

It was in this spirit that he was a great believer in education and a great supporter of SAH/SCC. He was incredibly generous with his images, his time, and his remarkable oral histories. I like to think of him as being a big supporter of this organization because he was, in reality, one of the greatest educational forces of our time. His way of seeing modern architecture reached millions nationally and internationally. I’m glad he lived long enough to enjoy the world coming to his doorstep—to pay homage and to say thank you.

We cannot say it enough. Thank you, Julius. You will be sorely missed.

Sian Winship
Annual Members’ Celebration: Annenberg Community Beach House

SAH/SCC Event, Santa Monica
Saturday, November 7, 2009, 2-5PM

We are excited to present this year’s SAH/SCC Members’ Celebration at the recently opened Annenberg Community Beach House on Santa Monica State Beach. Docents will provide free guided tours of the property, including the historic guest house designed by Julia Morgan. A slide show presentation on the five-year, $30-million rehabilitation project that transformed a dilapidated, derelict site into the nation’s first public beach club will be given by the project manager, SAH/SCC Executive Board Member John Berley, an associate at Frederick Fisher and Partners Architects (FFPA), the principal designer of the project.

The Annenberg Community Beach House—recently granted LEED Gold certification—is a multi-use public beach recreation facility that occupies the site of the historic Marion Davies Estate designed by Morgan and built in 1928 by William Randolph Hearst. The original five-acre estate on Pacific Coast Highway included a 110-room mansion, seven-bedroom guest house, gardens, pool, and tennis courts. Only the Morgan-designed guest house and pool, both city landmarks, remain.

FFPA conceived the project as a series of indoor/outdoor recreation and event spaces, both formal and informal, woven through the historic and new structures of the site. “The site provides a rare combination of a dramatic natural setting, historic cultural and architectural assets, and a public space of regional importance,” says architect Frederick Fisher. The primary images for the project were formulated in response to three compelling aspects of the Beach House site: its natural setting, its social history, and the architectural remains of its heyday. The Beach House setting is a powerful combination of ocean, beach, and palisades with dramatically changing weather conditions and iconic sunsets. At the Beach House, Hearst, Davies, and Morgan created a significant place in California history. “This beach has a long and colorful history of social and recreational life,” continues Fisher. “Our goal was to call on all these elements to reactivate the site as a community resource for posterity.”

As always, this special SAH/SCC event is free to members in good standing. We encourage you to bring friends who might want to join the SAH/SCC member roster. Guests are $10, which is applicable to new membership dues. Space is limited, so call 800.9SAHSCC for member reservations, or use Order Form on back page.
Architecture in Film: Greene & Greene

SAH/SCC Screening and Talk, Santa Monica
Saturday, September 12, 2009, 1PM

Part two of SAH/SCC’s Architecture in Film series at the Santa Monica Public Library features **Greene & Greene: The Art of Architecture**. Emmy-Award-winning producer Paul Bockhorst created the first comprehensive study of Charles and Henry Greene’s work. The film chronicles their creative development, beginning with early efforts to blend American, European, and Asian design concepts into an architectural vocabulary suited to the culture and landscape of California. The brothers’ achievements in residential design come alive in the one-hour documentary. Bockhorst will provide Q&A after the screening.

**Greene & Greene** was produced by Paul Bockhorst Productions in cooperation with SAH/SCC. The event is free and open to the public. Reservations are not required, however seats will be available on a first-come, first-served basis. The screening is in the MLK Jr. Auditorium at Santa Monica Public Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd.; 310.458.8600; www.smpl.org.

Cliff May’s Modern Ranch Houses

Tour and Book Signing, Encino
Saturday, September 12, 2009, 4-7PM

SAH/SCC members are invited to celebrate the work of Cliff May and the publication of the monograph *Cliff May and the Modern Ranch House* (Rizzoli, 2008), by Daniel P. Gregory (see SAH/SCC News, May 2008, for Bookmarks review). This event—organized and sponsored by the Institute of Classical Architecture (ICA)—takes place on Saturday, September 12th, 4-7PM, and is open to SAH/SCC members for the ICA member price.

Watch the sunset in one of May’s classic California Ranch-style homes on a stunning hillside lot in Encino, and hear author Gregory, former Senior Home Editor of *Sunset Magazine*, discuss the career and life of this influential architectural figure. Copies of the book will be available and signed by the author. In addition to a private tour of the home, the group will view home movies from architect Marc Appleton of his childhood growing up in a Cliff May home.

SAH/SCC member price for the event is $125 ($50 less than the regular non-member price). To register, contact ICA chapter coordinator Diane Sipos directly for tickets at 310.396.4379 or diane@classicist-socal.org. To receive the discount, be sure to let her know that you hold SAH/SCC membership.
1, Tuesday  

3, Thursday  

7, Monday  
**Sensate: Bodies and Design.** Lecture with architects Andrew Kudless and Alex Schweder. San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, 151 Third St., SF; 7PM; $7-10. 415.538.2693. sfmoma.org.

8, Tuesday  
**Gardens Are for People.** Walking tour of landscapes by “the father of California landscape architecture” Thomas Church (1902-1978). AIA San Francisco; Parkmerced, Juan Bautista Circle and Crespi Dr., SF; 3-5PM; $15-25; res. req. 415.362.7397. aiasf.org.

9, Wednesday  
**Work.** Lecture with Los Angeles/Zurich architect Sarah Graham. USC School of Architecture, Gin D. Wong Conference Center, LA; 6PM. 213.740.2092. arch.usc.edu.

12, Saturday  
**Secrets of San Pedro.** Scavenger hunt for discovering historic San Pedro. Los Angeles Conservancy, Out of the Box Events; San Pedro; 2PM; $30; res. req. 323.799.1374. outoftheboxevents.net.

12, Saturday  
**Guardians of the Bridge.** Gala fundraiser honoring those involved in the ongoing preservation of Pasadena’s historic bridge. Pasadena Heritage; $150; res. req. 626.441.6333. pasadenaheritage.org.

12-13, Saturday-Sunday  
**San Francisco Living.** Tours of 10 Bay Area homes plus more events throughout the weekend. AIA San Francisco; 10AM-4PM; $60-85; res. req. 415.362.7397. aiasf.org/hometours.

16, Wednesday  
**Is Traffic Curable?** Lecture with author and design writer Tom Vanderbilt. Zócalo Public Square; The Actors’ Gang, 9070 Venice Blvd., Culver City; res. req. 213.381.2541. zocalopublicsquare.org.

17, Thursday  
**Sardi’s to Orange Julius®.** Lecture on LA restaurants with UC Santa Barbara University Art Museum director Kathryn Kanjo. Edward Cella Art + Architecture, 6018 Wilshire Blvd., LA; 7PM; res. req. 323.525.0053. edwardcella.com.

18, Friday  

18, Friday  
**Park[ing] Day.** Nationwide event with participating landscape architects, designers, and architects creating day-long installations in existing parking spaces. Various locations. parkingday.org.

23, Wednesday  
**After Life.** Lecture with Georgia Tech associate culture professor Eugene Thacker. SCI-Arc, 960 East 3rd St., LA; 7PM. 213.613.2200. sciarc.edu.

30, Wednesday  
**Concrete Utopia: Roads and Freeways in Los Angeles.** Lecture with Automobile Club of Southern California historian Matthew Roth. The Huntington Library, 1151 Oxford Rd., San Marino; 7:30PM. 626.405.2100. huntington.org.

30, Wednesday  
**Sixties Turn Fifty.** Panel on preserving architecture from the 1960s at DWP Building (AC Martin, 1963) includes architecture writers Frances Anderton and Alan Hess. Los Angeles Conservancy; 111 N Hope St., LA; 8PM; res. req. 213.623.2489. laconservancy.org.

**SAH/SCC EVENT**

12, Saturday  
**Architecture in Film.** See Page 5 for details.
1, Thursday

2, Friday

4, Sunday
AIA/LA Home Tour: A Day in Manhattan (Beach). Tour of four homes by KAA Design Group, Michael Lee Architects, LeanArch, and MAKE Architecture. American Institute of Architects/LA; 11AM-4PM; $65-75; res. req. 213.639.0777. aialosangeles.org.

7, Wednesday
Wholes, Holes, and All the Other Stuff in Between. Lecture with PATTERNs co-founder and architect Marcelo Spina. SCI-Arc, 960 East 3rd St., LA; 7PM. 213.613.2200. sciarc.edu.

9-11, Friday-Sunday

14, Wednesday
It’s Called Landscape Architecture, Not Landscape Gardening for a Reason. Lecture with landscape architect Laurie Olin. SCI-Arc, 960 East 3rd St., LA; 7PM. 213.613.2200. sciarc.edu.

16-18, Friday-Sunday
18th Annual Craftsman Weekend. Tours of significant Craftsman-era homes, lectures by experts, and evening receptions in historic sites. Pasadena Heritage; Pasadena; res. req. 626.441.6333. pasadenaheritage.org.

21, Wednesday

29, Thursday
Ruins Between East and West. Lecture on ruins as material signs of transience with professor Alain Schnapp. Getty Villa, 17985 Pacific Coast Hwy., Malibu; 7:30PM; res. req. 310.440.7300. getty.edu.

30, Friday

24, Saturday
The Role of the Royal Mistress in the Design of Great French Palaces. Lecture and on-site Getty tour with art historian and SAH/SCC Life Member Eleanor Schrader Schapa. UCLA Extension, Westwood Center, LA; 10AM-4PM; $70-85; res. req. 310.825.9971. uclaextension.edu.

28, Wednesday
The Other Project. Lecture with Chinese architect and Peking University Graduate Center of Architecture founder Yung Ho Chang. SCI-Arc, 960 East 3rd St., LA; 7PM. 213.613.2200. sciarc.edu.

29, Thursday

30, Friday
SAH/SCC PUBLICATIONS

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**Paul Tay, Architect:** 4” x 8” color brochure featuring five modern ranch-style homes in Long Beach

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**Architecture: Inside and Outside:** 5” x 5” folded color brochure featuring Santa Barbara’s Lotusland, Casa del Herrero, and Val Verde

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**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

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**A Block 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

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**Rodney Walker 3 30 90:** 12-page brochure featuring nine homes on five sites, as well as the architect’s use of the three-foot module

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

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**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

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**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

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**Kesling Homes:** bi-fold, two-color brochure from the “Kesling Modern Structures” tour

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**The Historic and Modern Spirit of Ventura:** 20-page guide from Ventura tour

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**Modernism for the Masses:** tri-fold brochure with inserts of detailed floor plans of Eichler homes visited on the Orange County tour

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**Reconsidering Lloyd Wright:** 21-page, four-color booklet from “Reconsidering Lloyd Wright” house tour

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**Union Station and MTA Transit Center:** bi-fold map for a self-guided walking tour including historical facts and photos

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**David Gebhard Review:** essays on the Works Project Administration by Robert W. Winter, Orville O. Clarke, Jr., and Mitzi March Mogul

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SAH/SCC is a 501c3 nonprofit organization dedicated to providing its members with opportunities to learn about and experience the rich architectural heritage of Southern California and beyond. Our volunteer board members create tours, lectures, travel tours, and other events that explore the ideas behind the architecture as well as the buildings that result from them. From modern to craftsman, from Spanish Colonial to contemporary, our programs are the best-kept secrets in Southern California!

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- FREE tickets to our annual Members’ Celebration event
- Special Members-Only E-Alerts about upcoming events
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$30 Student (requires scan of valid Student ID) – All the benefits of Individual membership at a 30% discount.

SAH/SCC EVENT TICKETS

Masters of Modernism—October 24th

_____ Member ticket(s) at $85 each = $_________

_____ Non-member ticket(s) at $125 each = $_________

Members’ Celebration—November 7th

_____ Member ticket(s) FREE = $_________

_____ Non-member ticket(s) at $10 each = $_________

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