The Spirit in Architecture

SAH/SCC Film & Talk: Downtown LA
Saturday, July 31, 2010, 2PM


The film journeys into Lautner’s world with footage from his apprenticeship with Frank Lloyd Wright at Taliesin, extensive documentation of his extraordinary buildings, interviews with historians, critics, collaborators, and clients, and engaging footage of Lautner himself.

After discovering Lautner’s work for herself and getting the opportunity to meet him, Cohen recalls: “He was speaking about many ideas he wished he could show visually. I thought film would be a wonderful way to portray these ideas, to portray the complex flowing spaces, and to describe the creative forces behind them.” She started the film in 1988, documenting Lautner’s buildings, contemporaries, and collaborators, and it premiered in 1991 at the Museum of Contemporary Art, LA. “John was great to interview,” Cohen continues. “I loved talking to him about intangibles: integrity, justice, honor, truth, and beauty. John lived by his philosophy.”

Following the screening a lively group will come together to discuss Lautner’s work on film and off: award-winning filmmaker Cohen, who is currently working on “In Search of a Living Architecture,” a documentary on architect Albert Frey; architect and film co-writer Tom Marble of Marble Architecture, whose romantic comedy about architecture and urbanism is called “After the city, this (is how we live)”; script consultant and co-producer Evelyn Wendell, who has worked at Paramount Studios in feature film marketing and feature film development; author, historian, and architect Alan Hess, who writes regularly for the San Jose Mercury News and continues to publish books on residential and commercial Modern architecture and architects; and Lautner scholar Jon Yoder, who is currently preparing his UCLA doctoral dissertation as a book titled Widescreen Architecture: The Immersive Visuality of John Lautner.

The Spirit in Architecture: Saturday, July 31, 2010; 2PM; Southern California Institute of Architecture (SCI-Arc), 960 E. 3rd St., LA; free for SCI-Arc students and alumni; $15 for SAH/SCC Members; $30 for non-members; see back page for order form or go to www.sahscc.org.

Photos: courtesy Bette Jane Cohen
Southern California recently lost another of its important modern architects, Richard L. Dorman. Dorman passed away in April at the age of 87 at his home in Santa Fe, having moved there from Southern California in 1975.

Dorman was a member of the generation of architects whose architectural education was delayed by service in World War II and then made possible by the G.I. Bill. A graduate of USC in 1951, Dorman is most often associated with corporate architecture: first through his design work at Welton Becket and Associates, then in his own practice, Richard Dorman and Associates. During the first five years of having his own firm, Dorman won 10 national and regional design awards. By 1961, Esther McCoy identified him as one of the promising “Young Architects in the United States,” along with Victor Lundy, Ray Kappe, Ulrich Franzen, and Paolo Soleri.

Ironically, I was introduced to Dorman’s work through a decaying post-and-beam residence almost literally in my own back yard, the Milinkin Residence. Designed in 1964 as a playful series of interconnected glass pavilions, the house piqued my curiosity and my research on Dorman has revealed his career-long interest in designing innovative modern homes that demonstrated his mastery of siting, plan, and section and expressed Dorman’s philosophy of “total design.” His Seidenbaum Residence (1966) was widely published and recognized, with the AIA calling it “…among the greatest pieces of architecture between 1947 and 1967.”

Sadly, Dorman’s phone number was sitting on my desk this spring, awaiting a summer respite when I might call and/or visit to learn more about the man and his work. It is a painful reminder that there is much Southern California architectural history that is slipping away and needs to be captured.

The recent documentary film “Journeyman Architect: The Life and Work of William Krisel” is a good example of the kind of recognition the post-war, G.I. Bill graduates deserve. This group of architects came later to education and were often more pragmatic in their practices than the younger students they graduated with. Yet the architecture of Lundy, Krisel, and Dorman belies a plasticity, use of color, and gusto borne out of their unique experiences and larger-than-life personalities. Lundy was wounded on the battlefields of the European theatre. Dorman flew the B-24 bomber, Tropic Knight, in the Pacific. Krisel, given his command of the Chinese language from growing up in China, was assigned to General Stillwell in the Pacific as his interpreter. In 1962, Life magazine named Richard L. Dorman to its list of 100 national trendsetters selected from across all industries dubbed, “The Take Over Generation.”

Dorman’s passing sadly reminds us of the remarkably rich and diverse architectural legacies of individuals who played significant roles in shaping the built environment we sometimes take for granted here in Southern California. His is a legacy we feel privileged to have available to us, to reveal, explore, and share with you, our members.

Sian Winship

Photo: you-are-here.com

Windows Into Eagle Rock

SAH/SCC Talk: Glendale
Sunday, August 15, 2010, 1:30PM

The Eagle Rock volume in the Images of America series of historical books published by Arcadia Publishing sheds light on what was once a small farming community on Tongva ancestral lands. The author, SAH/SCC Life Member Eric Warren, will give the colorful history of this area that he knows so well with a slide talk based on the book, which will be available for purchase and signing. The talk takes place at the Central Library (Welton Becket Associates, 1973) in neighboring Glendale.

A native of the area and president of the Eagle Rock Valley Historical Society, Warren selected remarkable vintage images of his neighborhood's past from the Society's outstanding archives as well as from other public and private collections. They illustrate Eagle Rock's steady evolution from an oak-shaded valley into one of Los Angeles's great neighborhoods.

By 1906, trolleys made for an easy commute to Los Angeles, and Eagle Rock, which incorporated as a city in 1911, became increasingly integrated in the urban fabric yet remained defined by its residential nature and small-town character. The annexation of Eagle Rock by Los Angeles in 1923 brought ample water supply as well as Eagle Rock High School, a center of town life, into the 21st century. Freeway construction and shifts in business patterns affected Eagle Rock's growth in the post-World War II years, but the pleasant neighborhood identity remains despite its proximity to urban bustle.

Windows Into Eagle Rock: Saturday, August 15, 2010; 1:30PM; Central Library Auditorium, 222 East Harvard St., Glendale; free; 818.548.2042.

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FRANCIS PACKER
HELEN PALMER

continues
SAVE THE DATE

A Shared Perspective:
Case Study Apartments and Beyond

SAH/SCC Talk: Santa Monica
Saturday, September 18, 2010, 1PM

Phoenix-based architect Edward (Ned) B. Sawyer will present a history of his work with fellow architect Alfred Newman Beadle on a series of modern apartment buildings originally commissioned by Arts & Architecture Magazine. Although many people are familiar with the legendary California Case Study House Program started by Arts & Architecture publisher John Entenza, it is often forgotten that the program shifted focus in the 1960s from single-family residential projects to multi-family, multi-unit apartment buildings. Sawyer will talk about his work with Beadle on the Case Study apartments in Phoenix, AZ, as well as their long-standing collaboration on many modern buildings. This presentation will feature archival materials and seldom-seen photographs of their work. Sawyer will present his talk at the main branch of the Santa Monica Public Library (Moore Ruble Yudell, 2006).

Photos: courtesy of Ned Sawyer
CALENDAR

1, Thursday

3, Saturday
*Angelino Heights.* Walking tour of LA's Victorian architecture. LA Conservancy; 10AM; $5-10; res. req. 213.623.2489. laconservancy.org.

3, 17, Saturday
*Downtown's Modern Skyline.* Tour of LA architecture, art, open spaces. LA Conservancy; 10AM; $5-10. 213.623.2489. laconservancy.org.

3, 10, 17, 24, 31, Saturday

6, Tuesday

7, Wednesday

8, Thursday

8, Thursday
*Historic American Landscapes Survey.* Overview of new Historic American Landscapes Survey (HALS) program with HALS Northern California Chapter co-chair Chris Pattillo. ASLA/Northern California Chapter; AIA San Francisco, Halidie Building (Polk 1917); 6:30PM. 415.362.7397. asla-ncc.org.

8, Thursday

9, Friday

10, 24, Saturday
*Downtown Renaissance: Spring & Main.* Tour of LA's former financial district. LA Conservancy; 10AM; $5-10. 213.623.2489. laconservancy.org.

15, Thursday

17, Saturday

17, Saturday

21, Wednesday
*Downtown at Sunset—Little Tokyo.* Walking tour of the historic heart of LA's Japanese community. LA Conservancy; 5:30PM; $5-10; res. req. 213.623.2489. laconservancy.org.

21, Wednesday
*Downtown at Sunset—Art Deco.* Walking tour of LA's Art Deco architecture & ornamentation from the 1920s & '30s. LA Conservancy; 5:30PM; $5-10; res. req. 213.623.2489. laconservancy.org.

22, Thursday
*Reweaving the Social Fabric of Skid Row.* Panel discussion on community & culture in Skid Row with visual artist Clyde Casey, artist/activist Manuel Compito, LA Catholic Worker co-founder Jeff Dietrich, artist/activist John Malpede, LA CAN founder Pete White. LA Poverty Department; ALOUD; Central Library (Goodhue & Winslow 1922-26), 630 W. 5th St., LA; 7PM; res. req. 213.228.7025. aloudla.org.

23, Friday

24, Saturday

SAH/SCC EVENT
31, Saturday
*The Spirit in Architecture.* Film on John Lautner. See Page 1 for details.

CALENDAR Information is supplied to SAH/SCC by sponsoring organizations and is correct as of press time. SAH/SCC suggests you contact sponsors prior to attending any event.

Photo: courtesy Bette Jane Cohen
### August 2010

#### 28, Wednesday

**Downtown at Sunset—City Hall.** Tour of architecture & history of LA City Hall (Austin; Parkinson; Martin 1926-28). LA Conservancy; 5:30PM; $5-10; res. req. 213.623.2489. laconservancy.org.

#### 28, Wednesday

**Downtown at Sunset—Modern Skyline.** Tour of architecture, art & open spaces of Downtown LA’s Central Business District. LA Conservancy; 5:30PM; $5-10; res. req. 213.623.2489. laconservancy.org.

#### 29, Thursday

**Redesigning Hospitals: The Evolution From Acute to Ambulatory Care.** Lecture with USC School of Policy, Planning & Development undergraduate programs director David Sloane. Huntington Library (Hunt & Grey 1910), 1151 Oxford Rd., San Marino; 7:30PM. 626.405.2100. huttoningt.org.

#### 31, Saturday


#### 31, Saturday

**Big City Forum #18.** Conversation on design & sustainability with designers Louise Sandhaus, Jessica Fleischmann, Brian Roettinger, Sean Donahue & Adam Eeuwens. Edward Cella Art + Architecture, 6018 Wilshire Blvd., LA; 4-6PM; res. req. 323.525.0053. edwardcella.com.

### August

#### 3, Tuesday


#### 4, 18, Wednesday

**Downtown at Sunset—Little Tokyo.** Walking tour of the historic heart of LA’s Japanese community. LA Conservancy; 5:30PM; $5-10; res. req. 213.623.2489. laconservancy.org.

#### 4, 25, Wednesday

**Downtown at Sunset—Union Station.** Walking tour of the architecture & history of LA’s Union Passenger Terminal (Parkinson; Christie, Gilman, Wirth; Tomson 1934-39). LA Conservancy; 10AM; $5-10; res. req. 213.623.2489. laconservancy.org.

#### 6, Friday


#### 7, Saturday

**Angelino Heights.** Walking tour of LA’s Victorian architecture. LA Conservancy; 10AM; $5-10; res. req. 213.623.2489. laconservancy.org.

#### 7, Saturday


#### 7, 14, 21, 28, Saturday


#### 7, 21, Saturday

**Downtown’s Modern Skyline.** Tour of LA architecture, art, open spaces. LA Conservancy; 10AM; $5-10. 213.623.2489. laconservancy.org.

#### 11, Wednesday

**Downtown at Sunset—Art Deco.** Walking tour of LA’s Art Deco architecture & ornamentation from the 1920s & 30s. LA Conservancy; 5:30PM; $5-10; res. req. 213.623.2489. laconservancy.org.

#### 11, 25, Wednesday

**Downtown at Sunset—City Hall.** Tour of architecture & history of LA City Hall (Austin; Parkinson; Martin 1926-28). LA Conservancy; 5:30PM; $5-10; res. req. 213.623.2489. laconservancy.org.

#### 14, 28, Saturday

**Downtown Renaissance: Spring & Main.** Tour of LA’s former financial district. LA Conservancy; 10AM; $5-10. 213.623.2489. laconservancy.org.

#### 18, Wednesday

**Downtown at Sunset—Modern Skyline.** Tour of architecture, art & open spaces of Downtown LA’s Central Business District. LA Conservancy; 5:30PM; $5-10; res. req. 213.623.2489. laconservancy.org.

#### 21, Saturday

**Union Station.** Walking tour of architecture & history of LA’s Union Passenger Terminal (Parkinson; Christie, Gilman, Wirth; Tomson 1934-39). LA Conservancy; 10AM; $5-10. 213.623.2489. laconservancy.org.

#### 22, Sunday


#### 24, Tuesday

**The Art of Surfboard Shaping.** Lecture with surfboard shaper Scott Anderson. UCLA Hammer Museum (Barnes 1990), 10899 Wilshire Blvd., LA; 7PM. 310.443.7000. hammer.ucla.edu.

#### 28, Saturday


#### 29, Sunday

**Street Art.** Tours of photographic elevations examining warehouse façades, cinderblock walls, wooden barriers, fences, etc., that have become unofficial, artistic expression with filmmaker & photographer Lary Lust. UCLA Fowler Museum (Savrann; Warnecke; Murdock 1992), LA; 1PM & 3PM. 310.825.4361. fowler.ucla.edu.

#### Windows Into Eagle Rock

**Slide talk and book signing.** See Page 3 for details.
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<tr>
<th>Publication Title</th>
<th>Price</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>Masters of Modernism</td>
<td>$5</td>
<td>8-Page, two-color brochure featuring works of Richard Neutra and Frank Lloyd Wright in Bakersfield.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paul Tay, Architect</td>
<td>$3</td>
<td>4” x 8” color brochure featuring five modern ranch-style homes in Long Beach.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Architecture: Inside and Outside</td>
<td>$3</td>
<td>5” x 5” folded color brochure featuring Santa Barbara’s Lotusland, Casa del Herrero, and Val Verde.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Out of the Shadow</td>
<td>$12</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A Block in Glendale</td>
<td>$3</td>
<td>Pocket-size fandeck of cards featuring five diverse properties—including a Paul Williams residence—plus historical background information on the Brockmont Heights subdivision.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rodney Walker 3 30 90</td>
<td>$8</td>
<td>12-page brochure featuring nine homes on five sites, as well as the architect’s use of the three-foot module.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Space and Learning</td>
<td>$8</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rodney Walker: The Ojai Years</td>
<td>$5</td>
<td>Tri-fold, black-and-white brochure featuring Walker’s important residences in Ojai, with pictures and article by historian David Mason.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kesling Homes</td>
<td>$2</td>
<td>Bi-fold, two-color brochure from the “Kesling Modern Structures” tour.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Union Station and MTA Transit Center</td>
<td>$2</td>
<td>Bi-fold map for a self-guided walking tour including historical facts and photos.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Modernism for the Masses</td>
<td>$10</td>
<td>Tri-fold brochure with inserts of detailed floor plans of Eichler homes visited on the Orange County tour.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Historic and Modern Spirit of Ventura</td>
<td>$10</td>
<td>20-page guide from Ventura tour.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reconsidering Lloyd Wright</td>
<td>$10</td>
<td>21-page, four-color booklet from “Reconsidering Lloyd Wright” house tour.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**SUB-TOTAL** ($1 postage fee will be added to all orders)

**TOTAL**

☐ check enclosed (Make checks payable to SAH/SCC)  ☐ charge my credit card:  ☐ VISA  ☐ MC

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SAH/ORDER FORM
JOIN OR RENEW TODAY!
SAH/SCC is a 501c 3 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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Lautner Film—July 31st
____ Member ticket(s) at $15 = $_______
____ Non-member ticket(s) at $30 each = $_______

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