Authors on Architecture: Downtown Details

SAH/SCC Lecture & Book Signing
Sunday, March 29, 2015, 2-4PM

In the words of Los Angeles Conservancy’s Linda Dishman, who penned the foreword: “This book is much more than a window into the past. The vast majority of buildings pictured are still here, right now. In Tom Zimmerman’s remarkable photographs, we see the details that are there, waiting for each of us torediscover, enjoy, and preserve for future generations.”

In addition to Downtown in Detail, Zimmerman’s books include A Day in the Season of the Los Angeles Dodgers (S.P.I. Books, 1994) and Wednesday at the Pier (Carol Pub Group, 1991). After the presentation at the Santa Monica Public Library (Moore Ruble Yudell, 2006), the book will be available for sale and signing by the author.

Authors on Architecture: Zimmerman—Sunday, March 29, 2015; 2-4PM; Martin Luther King, Jr. Auditorium at the Santa Monica Central Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd., Santa Monica; free; seating is available on a first-come, first served basis; 310.458.8600.

SAH/SCC’s “Authors on Architecture” presents photographer and writer Tom Zimmerman, who will discuss Downtown in Detail (Angel City Press, 2009). Zimmerman will share some of his most beloved images and anecdotes about one of his favorite topics: Los Angeles architecture.

Zimmerman’s keen eye for the architectural elements (both exterior and interior) that tell the hidden stories of buildings and the dreams behind them is evident in Downtown in Detail. Zimmerman goes inside and finds long-forgotten penthouses, windows that provide more than light, and stairways seemingly leading to the sky. To many of us, these same details are hidden by progress; skyscrapers lock us in elevators and smart phones keep our eyes distracted.

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SAH/SCC President’s Letter

Archipedia

This year, SAH national is embarking on an exciting project: Archipedia. Archipedia is an NEH-funded project that functions as an online public resource documenting 100 buildings of historical significance for each state in the U.S. The website’s mission is to be “an authoritative online encyclopedia of the built world.”

SAH/SCC member Dr. Emily Bills, Managing Director of the Julius Shulman Institute at the School of Architecture at Woodbury University, has been tasked with the difficult matter of coordinating the California portion of the project. Indeed, the hardest part of Emily’s position will be narrowing down the list to a mere 100. For a state the size of California, this would be challenging enough. However, Southern California’s rich legacy of architecture would make compiling such a list for our region alone a daunting task.

Unlike qualifying for the National Register of Historic Places, buildings on the list are not weighed down by a 50-year age threshold. A review of the general working list of potential buildings includes The Getty Center (Richard Meier, 1997), Frank Gehry Residence (1978), CalTrans District 7 Headquarters (Morphosis, 2004), and Pavilion for Japanese Art at LACMA (Bruce Goff/Bart Prince, 1978-88). Of course the list also contains recognized buildings of historical and cultural significance, such as The Lummis House (Charles Fletcher Lummis; Hunt & Eisen, 1895-1910) and the Eames House (1947-49).

An example of some of the first posts—each building includes a short essay, photographs and maps—can be viewed at http://sah-archipedia.org.

So, if you have ever fancied yourself to be a Gebhard or a Winter (and really, who hasn’t?), now is the time to step up and help Emily memorialize 100 of California’s most significant buildings. For more information, please contact Emily Bills at emilybills@gmail.com.

—Sian Winship

Tour and Event Information:
1.800.972.4722
info@sahscc.org

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Internet Editor: Brent Eckerman
Art Director: Svetlana Petrovic
Administration: Arline Chambers

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Julie D. Taylor, Editor
SAH/SCC News P.O. Box 56478
Sherman Oaks, CA 91413
Newsletter telephone: 310.247.1099
Newsletter fax: 310.247.8147
Newsletter e-mail: julie@taylor-pr.com

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Questions: Call 800.9SAHSCC.
Authors on Architecture: Universal vs. Disney
SAH/SCC Co-Sponsored Lecture & Book Signing
Saturday, April 25, 2015, 1:30-3:30PM

Co-sponsors SAH/SCC and Glendale Library, Arts, and Culture are pleased to present author and Disney historian Sam Gennawey talking about his recent book *Universal vs. Disney: The Unofficial Guide to American Theme Parks’ Greatest Rivalry* (Unofficial Guides, 2014). Gennawey will talk about the processes, personalities, and politics behind some of America’s greatest theme parks.

Gennawey is a senior associate at the Pasadena-based planning firm Katherine Padilla & Associates. He is also the author of *The Disneyland Story: The Unofficial Guide to the Evolution of Walt Disney’s Dream* (Unofficial Guides, 2013) and *Walt and the Promise of Progress City* (Theme Park Press, 2014). He was a contributor to *Planning Los Angeles* (APA Planners Press, 2012), and is a columnist for MiceChat.com. His point of view, built on his passion for history, his professional training as an urban planner, and his obsession with theme parks, has brought speaking invitations from Walt Disney Imagineering, The Walt Disney Family Museum, Disney Creative, American Planning Association, California Preservation Foundation, and League of California Cities.

Glendale’s Brand Library & Art Center was designed by Nathaniel Dryden in 1904. Modeled after the East Indian pavilion at the World’s Columbian Exposition of 1893 in Chicago, this exotic—now iconic—landmark is one of the more fascinating structures in Southern California. It was recently restored by Debra Gerod, FAIA, Partner at Gruen Associates, in close collaboration with preservation architect Fran Offenhauser, Principal of Offenhauser/Mekeel Architects.

After the presentation at the Brand Library, the book will be available for sale and signing by the author.

Authors on Architecture: Gennawey—Saturday, April 25, 2015; 1:30-3:30PM; Brand Library & Art Center, 1601 West Mountain St., Glendale; free; reservations required; reservations will be honored on a first-come, first-served basis; to register, email info@sahscc.org or go to www.sahscc.org.
BOOKMARKS

We’re happy to preview two new books about perennial SAH/SCC favorites Richard J. Neutra and Charles and Ray Eames. We’ve not yet seen the actual tomes, but given who the authors are, there’s no doubt they will be painstakingly researched, well written, and utterly delightful. Both authors are known for their deep knowledge (obsession?) with their subjects. Longtime SAH/SCC Member and former Board Member Barbara Lamprecht turns her attention to Neutra’s furniture designs. Daniel Ostroff, who SAH/SCCers will remember from his 2011 tour of “Collecting Eames: The JF Chen Collection,” has compiled the many writings of the Eameses.

Neutra Furniture: The Body and the Senses

By Barbara Lamprecht; preface by Thomas Müller

With his houses flooded with light, Austria-American architect Richard J. Neutra (1892-1970) shaped the scene of Californian Modernism. From there he rose to be one of the most influential names in the history of modern architecture. However, in contrast to his peers—such as Alvar Aalto, Marcel Breuer, Arne Jacobsen, and Jean Prouvé—Neutra’s furniture designs have long been undiscovered. Author Barbara Lamprecht fills this gap by studying the extensive but little-known furniture range that had faded into obscurity until Dion Neutra, Neutra’s son and architectural partner, started work on the designs with German manufacturer VS, whose ties to Modernism date back to the Deutscher Werkbund. Referring to the original sketches and patent drawings, the author focuses on the details of the designs to show how the furniture was integrated into his projects and its role in creating the balanced environments he intended for his clients. Each element—furniture, lighting, building, nature, landscape—worked together as a Gesamtwerk (a complete expression) to create a “sensorium,” or a “soul anchorage,” as Neutra called those environments best suited to human well-being. Lamprecht is also the author of the Taschen books Richard Neutra—Complete Works (2000) and Neutra—Selected Projects (2004).

Wasmuth/VS; 92 pages; $28.

An Eames Anthology

By Daniel Ostroff

An Eames Anthology collects for the first time the writings of the esteemed American architects and designers Charles (1907-1978) and Ray (1912-1988) Eames, illuminating their marriage and professional partnership of 50 years. More than 120 primary-source documents and 200 illustrations highlight iconic projects, such as the Case Study Houses and the molded plywood chair, as well as their work for major corporations as both designers (Herman Miller, Vitra) and consultants (IBM, Polaroid). Previously unpublished materials appear alongside published writings by and about the Eameses and their work, lending new insight into their creative process. Correspondence with such luminaries as Richard J. Neutra and Eero Saarinen provides a personal glimpse into the advance of modernity in mid-century America. Ostroff is also the author of Modern Classic:
The Eames Plastic Chair (Neenah Paper/The Eames Office, 2006, with Eames Demetrios), Eames + Valastro (The O Team, 2011), and Collecting Eames (JF Chen, 2011). He was consulting curator for “Eames Words” and curator of “Collecting Eames: The JF Chen Collection.”

Yale University Press; 420 pages; $50.
## SAH/SCC Publications

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<th>Price</th>
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<tr>
<td>Masters of Modernism: eight-page, two-color brochure featuring works of Richard Neutra and Frank Lloyd Wright in Bakersfield.</td>
<td>$5 each</td>
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<tr>
<td>Architecture: Inside and Outside: 5&quot;x5&quot; folded color brochure featuring Santa Barbara's Lotusland, Casa del Herrero, and Val Verde.</td>
<td>$3 each</td>
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<tr>
<td>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.</td>
<td>$12 each</td>
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<tr>
<td>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.</td>
<td>$3 each</td>
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<tr>
<td>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.</td>
<td>$8 each</td>
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<td>Greta Magnusson Grossman: 3.5” x 8” 2-page color brochure featuring two residences by Greta Grossman.</td>
<td>$4 each</td>
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<td>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.</td>
<td>$8 each</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>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.</td>
<td>$5 each</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kesling Homes: bi-fold, two-color brochure from the “Kesling Modern Structures” tour.</td>
<td>$2 each</td>
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<tr>
<td>Union Station and MTA Transit Center: bi-fold map for a self-guided walking tour including historical facts and photos.</td>
<td>$2 each</td>
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<tr>
<td>Modernism for the Masses: tri-fold brochure with inserts of detailed floor plans of Eichler homes visited on the Orange County tour.</td>
<td>$10 each</td>
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<tr>
<td>John Parkinson, Downtown: 11&quot;x17&quot;, four-color brochure featuring a self-guided walking tour of Parkinson buildings in Downtown LA’s historic core and beyond.</td>
<td>$5 each</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Historic and Modern Spirit of Ventura: 20-page guide from Ventura tour.</td>
<td>$10 each</td>
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<tr>
<td>David Gebhard Review: essays on the Works Project Administration by Robert W. Winter, Orville O. Clarke, Jr., and Mitzi March Mogul.</td>
<td>$5 each</td>
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<tr>
<td>Killingsworth: A Master Plan for Learning: 11”x17”, four-color walking tour brochure of the Cal State Long Beach campus features history of master plan development by architect Edward A. Killingsworth, FAIA.</td>
<td>$4 each</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ray Kappe—Apotheosis: eight-page brochure features five Kappe Houses from 1959 to 1966 in the Royal Woods development of the San Fernando Valley.</td>
<td>$8 each</td>
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<tr>
<td>Conjunctive Points: four-color, 11”x17” brochure featuring a 20-building walking tour of the Hayden Tract, designed by architect Eric Owen Moss and developed by Samitaur Constructs.</td>
<td>$8 each</td>
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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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**Architects Can Do It!**

**Construction LA, April 9-12, 2015**

Architects, designers, builders, and engineers will join forces to create innovative structures meant for feeding, not housing. Instead of using bricks, they will design large-scale structures made entirely of canned foods for the Ninth Annual Canstruction LA design/build competition to benefit the Los Angeles Regional Food Bank.

The exhibit is held at the historic Farmers and Merchants Bank Building (Curlett and Beelman; W. Horace Austin, 1922), and is a featured element during the Downtown LA Art Walk.

A jury of architecture, media, and culinary experts will judge the structures and select winners in the following categories: the Juror’s Favorite, Best Meal, Best Use of Labels, Structural Ingenuity, and an Honorable Mention. All the cans used for the structures will be donated to the Los Angeles Regional Food Bank. CanstructionLA is presented by Goya and hosted by Gilmore Associates. Media sponsor is Los Angeles Downtown News; Platinum sponsor is TekWorks; Gold sponsors are Herman Miller, Milliken Floor Covering, Dragonfly Design Group, and Tom Bonner Photography; Silver sponsor is the Los Angeles Chapter of the Society for Marketing Professional Services (SMPAS LA). CanstructionLA is part of the international program organized by the Society for Design Administration.

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**Canstruction LA — April 9, 2015, Noon-10PM; April 10th, 11AM-8PM; April 11th-12th, 11AM-5PM; Farmers and Merchants Bank Building, 401 S. Main St., Downtown LA; free; www.canstructionla.com**

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*“CANimal Style Trio” by American Society of Civil Engineers*

*“FOOD FIGHT!” by PCL Construction and KPFF Consulting Engineers*