



Image: courtesy Los Angeles Public Library

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Inventing Ojai: Placemaking Through Architecture

SAH/SCC Exhibition and Home Tour Sunday, March 19, 2017

Join SAH/SCC this spring as we venture to Ojai, CA, to examine the legacy of city father Edward Drummond Libbey (1854-1925) in the architecture of Ojai. We begin the day with a behind-the-scenes tour of the Ojai Valley Museum's exhibition, "Inventing Ojai," with museum president and historian, Mark Lewis. After a formal luncheon in an historic setting, we will tour downtown Ojai and selected residences of the period.

In his recent article in the Winter 2016-17 issue of *Ojai Quarterly*, Mark Lewis recounts the story of how Ojai became the cohesive architectural wonderland that it is today. In the early 1900s, Libbey, the glass magnate from the Midwest, hired Myron Hunt and Elmer Grey to design and construct a Craftsman-style vacation home for him in Ojai. The town



Glass magnate and Ojai city father Edward Drummond Libbey. Photo: courtesy The Ojai Valley Museum



Photo: courtesy Los Angeles Public Library

at the time was known as "Nordhoff" and consisted of a ramshackle group of vernacular wooden buildings. In 1916, inspired by a discussion with friend and oil magnate Harry Sinclair, Libbey decided to do something for the community: remake it into a quaint Spanish town in the spirit of early Californian and Mexican settlements. Libbey hired architects Frank Mead and Richard Requa to remake the town. Shortly afterward it was renamed Ojai, a derivation of the Chumash word for "moon."

Taking a page from the popular City Beautiful movement, to which Libbey had been fully exposed at the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago, Mead and Requa unified the town through architecture. They designed a façade for the north side of the main thoroughfare, a new post office with Spanish Colonial Revival bell tower, a Mediterranean-style pergola, and a new park. Their St. Thomas Aquinas Chapel was added in 1919. Over the years, architects, such as George Washington Smith and Wallace Neff, continued the idea of placemaking in Ojai through architecture, which Libbey set in motion with residential commissions that complement the early California vision.

All of this activity predated the Southern California City Beautiful planning projects most often associated with the movement, including Santa Barbara, San Clemente, and Rancho Palos Verdes.

See Ojai as you have never seen it before—through the eyes of the visionary leaders and architects who set the tone for the artistic and spiritual community that flourishes there 100 years later.

Inventing Ojai: Placemaking Through Architecture—Sunday, March 19, 2017; time, schedule, and pricing to be determined; to make a non-binding reservation, see order form on Page 6, call 800.972.4722, or email info@sahscc.org. Check www.sahscc.org for updates.

SAH/SCC President's Letter

2017 Is Upon Us

Last year was an especially rich year of programming for SAH/SCC. Our programs spanned far and wide in Southern California and we covered topics from Craftsman and Art Deco architecture, to mid-century buildings and landscape. We even took on one of the most controversial building typologies in recent memory: the Dingbat Apartment building. Alternately loved and reviled, it is hard to argue that this form is quintessentially Los Angeles in origin.

While some people had OldChella to amuse them this fall, others of us delighted in Gillpalooza—our three events celebrating the work of Irving Gill. From an insightful lecture by one of the most celebrated architectural historians of the region, Thomas Hines, through an expansive exhibit at UCSB, we capped off the experience with site visits to three important Gill residences in Los Angeles. The takeaway affirmed that Gill was a master of form, proportion, light, shadow, and a regional language of modernism that feels both revolutionary and evolutionary.

SAH/SCC is also delighted to have provided its members with access to two of Los Angeles' most important buildings: Bullock's Wilshire and the Grand Central Air Terminal. Both buildings embrace the changes in transportation that propelled the region forward during the 1920s and 1930s. While one iconic tower loomed as a Cathedral of Commerce, the other iconic tower acted as a beacon for pioneer aviators Charles Lindbergh, Howard Hughes, and Amelia Earhart, and ushered in commercial aviation. At the Air Terminal, we were fortunate to meet several members of the Ladies 99 Club—a group of women aviators dating back to the days of Earhart herself.

In case you missed out, here is a full list of SAH/SCC programming from the past year:

- Marina Tower Display Residence in Long Beach
- Dingbat 2.0 Lecture
- Authors on Architecture: Welch on Rice
- Ruth Shellhorn: Mid-Century Landscapes in Southern California
- Los Angeles Coliseum Tour
- Authors on Architecture: Bosley on Greene and Greene and Their Clients
- Hines on Gill: Modernist Cottages
- Citadel of Learning, Cathedral of Commerce at Bullock's Wilshire
- Fast Forward: William F. Cody
- Irving Gill: Simplicity and Reform Exhibit Tour
- Irving Gill Los Angeles Home Tour
- Authors on Architecture: Serraino on Creativity
- Ready for Take Off! Glendale Central Air Terminal

In 2016, the SAH/SCC board said goodbye and thank-you to former Vice President, John Ellis, who served the organization and created memorable programs for many years. Going forward, the Vice President position will be filled by long-time board member Jay Platt. Jay will bring his many years as an educator, preservationist, and all-round big brain to the executive board. The organization also welcomed two new board members: Lauren Van Der Veen and Kimberly Bahnsen McCarron. We are excited to be joined by two such talented individuals and look forward to the new ideas and inspiration they will bring.

We have lots more planned for 2017. So let's ring in the New Year together with even more adventures!

—Sian Winship



Meet the New SAH/SCC Vice President

Jay Platt is Planner for Historic Preservation and Urban Design with the City of Glendale Planning Department. Jay spent several years in New York City, where he worked with the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission and Building Conservation Associates, as well as serving as Deputy Director of the Historic Districts Council. He moved back to LA in 2004 and became Preservation Advocate for the Los Angeles Conservancy. Jay is a Los Angeles native who received his undergraduate degree from UCLA and an MS in Historic Preservation from the University of Pennsylvania.

Tour and Event Information:

1.800.972.4722

info@sahscc.org



SOCIETY OF ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIANS
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAPTER

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Internet Editor: Brent Eckerman

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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

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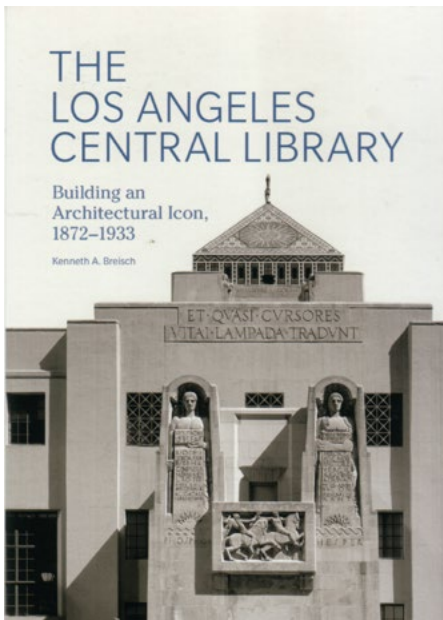
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Questions: Call 800.9SAHSCC.



Kenneth A. Breisch, Ph. D.

Authors on Architecture: Breisch on the Central Library

**SAH/SCC Talk & Book
Signing, Santa Monica
Sunday, January 29, 2017,
2-4PM**

Please join SAH/SCC and the Santa Monica Public Library (Moore Ruble Yudell, 2006) for a very special program celebrating the all things library. Focusing on the iconic Los Angeles Central Library (Bertram Grosvenor Goodhue, 1933), author Kenneth A. Breisch, Ph.D., will discuss his new book *The Los Angeles Central Library: Building an Architectural Icon, 1872-1933* (Getty Research Institute, 2016).

The construction of the Los Angeles Central Library marked the evolution of the LA public library system from an elite organization ensconced in two rooms in downtown LA, into one of the largest public library systems in the United States. It was yet another factor in the “coming of age” of the city and the region.

Architect Bertram Goodhue developed a new style, fully integrating the building’s sculptural and epigraphic program with its architectural forms to express a complex iconography. Working closely with sculptor Lee Oskar Lawrie and philosopher Hartley Burr Alexander, he created a great civic monument that, combined with the library’s murals, embodies an overarching theme: the light of learning.

Breisch, a former member of the Santa Monica Public Library Board, teaches architectural history at the University of Southern California (USC) and has been studying the architecture of libraries for decades. In his new book, Breisch draws upon a wealth of primary source material to tell the story of one of LA’s lasting treasures. Breisch is past president of the national Society of Architectural Historians as well as a Life and Advisory Board Member of our local chapter.

This beautiful new book will be available for sale and signing by the author.

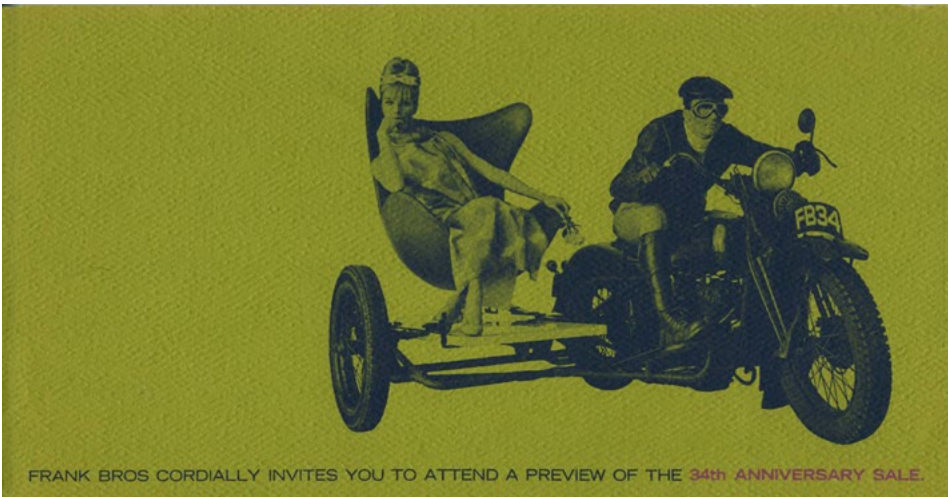
Authors on Architecture: Breisch on the Central Library—Sunday, January 29, 2017; 2-4PM; Santa Monica Central Library; 601 Santa Monica Blvd.; free; seating is available on a first-come, first-served basis; 310.458.8600.



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Frank Bros. 34th-Anniversary Sale Mailer, 1964

Image: courtesy Frank Family



Frank Bros.: The Store That Modernized Modern

**SAH/SCC Tour & Book Signing, CSLB
Sunday, February 26, 2017, 10AM-Noon**

In postwar Southern California, Frank Bros. Furniture emerged as a local and national leader in the retailing of modern design. Join curators Cara Mullio and Jennifer M. Volland for a special, behind-the-scenes tour of a new exhibition focused on Frank Bros. Furniture. "Frank Bros.: The Store That Modernized Modern" is on view at the University Art Museum at Cal State Long Beach, which is opening its doors early especially for SAH/SCC.

Frank Bros. Furniture was one of the first retailers in the nation to wholly embrace a modern aesthetic. As influential architects in the Los Angeles area were experimenting with new materials and techniques, Frank Bros. Furniture store in Long Beach was providing the furnishing, accessories, and interior design for these houses across Southern California. Many of these homes were featured in *Arts & Architecture* magazine from the 1940s through the 1960s as part of the Case Study House program. While they were marketing, designing, and retailing new kinds of furniture and accessories, Frank Bros. was on the forefront of selling the modern lifestyle.

The exhibition is accompanied by a catalog, *Frank Bros.: The Store That Modernized Modern* (Black Dog Publishing, 2017). After the gallery tour, Mullio and Volland will be on hand to sign purchased copies. Space for this event is limited.

Frank Bros.—Sunday, February 26, 2017; 10AM-Noon; University Art Museum, California State University, Long Beach; 1250 Bellflower Blvd., Long Beach; \$20 for members (limit: two tickets at member price); \$25 for non-members; on-campus parking is \$7 per car; see order form on Page 6, call 800.972.4722, email info@sahscc.org, or go to www.sahscc.org.



Frank Bros. Exterior, 1947
Courtesy: Frank Brothers Records/Getty Research Institute, Los Angeles (2009.M.19)

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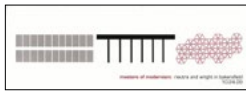
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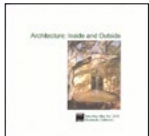
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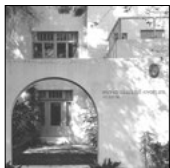
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Masters of Modernism: eight-page, two-color brochure featuring works of Richard Neutra and Frank Lloyd Wright in Bakersfield.



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Architecture: Inside and Outside: 5"x5" folded color brochure featuring Santa Barbara's Lotusland, Casa del Herrero, and Val Verde.



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Irving Gill: Los Angeles: 10-page booklet featuring photos and articles on Gill and three residential projects in LA.



_____ at \$8 each

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.



_____ \$4 each

Greta Magnusson Grossman: 3.5" x 8" 2-page color brochure featuring two residences by Greta Grossman.



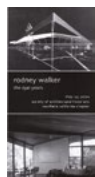
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Space and Learning: eight-page, four-color brochure on the historical and contemporary legacy of LA school architecture, featuring projects by Richard Neutra, Thom Mayne, Rios Clementi Hale Studios, and others.



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John Parkinson, Downtown: 11"x17", four-color brochure featuring a self-guided walking tour of Parkinson buildings in Downtown LA's historic core and beyond.



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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.



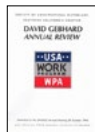
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Union Station and MTA Transit Center: bi-fold map for a self-guided walking tour including historical facts and photos.



_____ 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 \$5 each

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



_____ at \$10 each

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



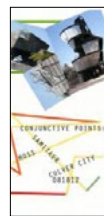
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Killingsworth: A Master Plan for Learning: 11"x17", four-color walking tour brochure of the Cal State Long Beach campus features history of master plan development by architect Edward A. Killingsworth, FAIA.



_____ at \$8 each

Ray Kappe-Apotheosis: eight-page brochure features five Kappe Houses from 1959 to 1966 in the Royal Woods development of the San Fernando Valley.



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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 Scur Construct.



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Designed for Learning: 11"x17" walking tour map and brochure of the University of California, Santa Barbara, campus.

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SOCIETY OF ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIANS / SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAPTER

NEWS

January/February 2017

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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!

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS:

- Advance notice of all SAH/SCC events—important because they usually sell out just to members
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 All event ticket sales are final. We are sorry, refunds cannot be accommodated.
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SAH/SCC EVENT TICKETS

Frank Bros. Exhibition Tour, Long Beach—February 26, 2017

_____ SAH/SCC member ticket(s) at \$20 each = \$ _____
 LIMIT: 2 TICKETS AT MEMBER PRICE
 _____ non-member ticket(s) at \$25 each = \$ _____

Ojai Tour—March 19, 2017

_____ SAH/SCC reservations

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Paul Williams, FAIA, Wins AIA Gold Medal First African-American To Gain AIA Highest Honor

The American Institute of Architects voted to posthumously award the 2017 AIA Gold Medal to Paul Revere Williams, FAIA, whose portfolio of nearly 3,000 buildings during his five-decade career was marked with a number of broken barriers. The Gold Medal honors an individual whose significant body of work has had a lasting influence on the theory and practice of architecture. SAH/SCC's own News editor, Julie D. Taylor, Hon. AIA/LA, was among the AIA National Board Members who proudly placed her vote for the LA architect.

Achieving the medal was one of many "firsts" for Williams, who was the first black architect to become a member of the AIA, and, later, the first black member to be inducted into the Institute's College of Fellows. "Our profession desperately needs more architects like Paul Williams," wrote William J. Bates, FAIA, in his support of Williams' nomination for the AIA Gold Medal. "His pioneering career has encouraged others to cross a chasm of historic biases. His recognition demonstrates a significant shift in the equity for the profession and the Institute."



Photos: courtesy American Institute of Architects

Williams opened his practice in the early 1920s when Southern California's real estate market was booming. His early work focused both on small, affordable houses for new homeowners and revival-style homes for his more affluent clients. As his reputation swelled, so, too, did his client list. Williams' practice expanded and among the 2,000 homes he designed included graceful private residences for legendary figures in business and entertainment, such as Lucille Ball and Desi Arnaz, Lon Chaney, Frank Sinatra, and Barron Hilton.