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Authors on Architecture: Bills on Rand

SAH/SCC Lecture & Book Signing

Sunday, October 14, 2018, 2-4PM



Author Emily Bills.

Join SAH/SCC and the Santa Monica Public Library (Moore Ruble Yudell, 2006) as we celebrate the legendary architectural photographer and native Angeleno Marvin Rand (1924-2009). Author, architectural historian, and

SAH/SCC member Emily Bills, Ph.D., will give a dynamic presentation featuring rarely seen images from the Rand archive, based on the new book *California Captured* (Phaidon, 2018), which she co-authored with Sam Lubell and Pierluigi Serraino, AIA.

Los Angeles photographer Rand created iconic images of some of the most celebrated architectural creations of his time, photographing buildings by modern masters Craig Ellwood (1922-1992), Louis Kahn, FAIA (1901-1974), and Frank Lloyd Wright, FAIA (1867-1959), among so many others, to capture the essence of their work. In doing so, he played a critical role in shaping the mid-century California style now worshiped the world over. Long overshadowed by other photographers, such as Julius Shulman (1910-2009) and Ezra Stoller (1915-2004), Rand was the photographer of choice for architectural historian Esther McCoy (1904-1989). Rand was also active in early preservation efforts in Los Angeles, including the campaign to save the Dodge House (1916-1970) by Irving Gill, AIA (1870-1936).

Bills received her Ph.D. in the history of architecture and urban planning from the Institute of Fine Arts at New York University. She is Participating Adjunct Professor and Coordinator of the Urban Studies Program at Woodbury University. Her work on architecture and urbanism has been published in many journals and books, including *Michigan Modern: Design That Shaped America* (Gibbs Smith, 2016); *Women and Things, 1750-1950: Gendered Material*



Office of and by Killingsworth, Brady & Smith (1957), Long Beach

Photo: Marvin Rand

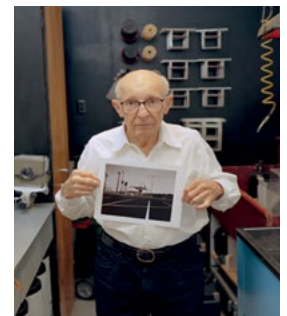
Strategies (Routledge, 2016); *Visual Merchandising: The Image of Selling* (Routledge, 2016); and *Engagement Party: Social Practice at MOCA, 2008-2012* (Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, 2013). She has curated exhibitions on photographers H el ene Binet (b. 1959), Pedro E. Guerrero (1917-2012), Catherine Opie (b. 1961), and Richard Barnes (b. 1959), among others.

The new book *California Captured*, featuring some of Rand's most treasured images of Southern California modernism, will be available for sale and signing by the author.

Authors on Architecture: Bills on Rand—Sunday, October 14, 2018; 2-4PM; Martin Luther King Jr. Auditorium, Santa Monica Central Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd.; free; seating is available on a first-come, first-served basis; 310.458.8600.



Steeves Residence (1963), Los Angeles, by Frank O. Gehry, FAIA
Photo: Marvin Rand



Marvin Rand in 2004.
Photo: Kwaku Alston

SAH/SCC President's Letter



Los Angeles Polytechnic High School
(Burnham & Bleisner, 1905).
Photo: Los Angeles Public Library

It's back-to-school time, so I thought I would share some recent research about an important Los Angeles institution that was responsible for turning out many of the draftsmen and architects that shaped Southern California: Los Angeles Polytechnic High School.

Polytechnic High School was this city's double-down bet on the vocational education wave that was reshaping public education during the early 20th century. Meant to provide a practical alternative to Los Angeles High School, which was training students for college, Polytechnic provided the commercial and technical training students needed to be employable immediately upon graduation. The school was officially founded in 1904. A large new facility designed by Burnham & Bleisner was erected in 1905 to accommodate the numbers of students who wished to attend. An architecture program was established in 1906. By 1909, architecture was one of 17 curriculum tracks of study, alongside machine drafting, commercial (business), forging, and dressmaking.

The early curriculum followed that of the Society of Beaux-Arts Architects, which was quite popular throughout the US at that time. It included not only architectural drawing, but also architectural history, as well as a class on the strength of materials. In 1914, Los Angeles Polytechnic High School expanded available courses in architecture with a beginner's three-day-per-week class on architectural design. By 1919, Polytechnic's architecture curriculum was expanded with additional requirements in the final two years of study, which included classes in detailing, plan reading, rendering, specifications, architectural styles, and landscape architecture. Claude A.

Faithfull, AIA (1875-1948), ran the program from 1906 to 1939, heading the department of architecture with two to three other instructors.

The emphasis on practical training was evident in the construction of students' designs. The school district realized it could leverage this resource as well. Students designed three new educational facilities in 1908. According to the yearbook, the *Polytechnic Student*, by 1912, several student-designed structures were nearing completion, including an eight-room house for Vice Principal W.L. Richter at 1506 Crenshaw Boulevard, a six-room home for a Mrs. Riddle of Hollywood, and a five-room bungalow in Alhambra.

At a time when women were not regularly educated in the profession of architecture, but were steered into the domestic arts curriculum, Penelope Murdoch—along with fellow students Alfred S. Nibecker, Jr., Homer Tuttle, and Ervin Smith—designed a school at Vernon and Ascot Avenues (razed). Although Murdoch did not go on to become a practicing architect, around 1913, she joined the architecture department under Faithfull and taught for three years until she married and had a family.

By the mid-1920s, the architecture department of the school was sponsoring student competitions for small house designs in conjunction with the Los Angeles Architectural Club. The top four winners for 1928—selected from 160 entries—were all rendered in the period revival styles of the time.

Los Angeles Polytechnic High School turned out a number of graduates who would go on to successful architectural careers, many of whom were future graduates of the architecture program at the University of Southern California. Most notably, AIA Gold Medal recipient Paul R. Williams, FAIA (1894-1980), Walter Louis Reichardt, AIA (1908-1995), Rowland Crawford (1902-1973), and Richard Dorman, FAIA (1922-2010), were all graduates of Polytechnic High School.

Polytechnic continues to this day as Francis Polytechnic Senior High School in Sun Valley. The architecture department has since been replaced by computer science and other vocational curricula. Few know or remember the important early role played by Polytechnic High School in training the architects and draftsmen of the early 20th century.

—Sian Winship




Welcome New SAH/SCC Board Member, David Coffey

SAH/SCC is pleased to introduce you to our newest Board Member at Large, David Coffey. David is the owner of Richard Neutra's Davis House (1937) in Bakersfield, CA, as well as the steward/caretaker of Frank Lloyd Wright's Ablin House (1959). He has curated and produced multiple historical architecture events in Bakersfield, including "Masters of Modernism: Neutra & Wright in Bakersfield" with SAH/SCC's Sian Winship in October 2009, and "Bakersfield Built: 1930s" in conjunction with CSUB's celebration of the 75th anniversary of the publication of John Steinbeck's *The Grapes of Wrath*. He is currently working on a program with the Bakersfield Museum of Art, CSUB Library Special Collections Department, and the Kern County Museum to curate and produce "Bakersfield Built: 1960s" for Fall 2019. He is a former board member of the Bakersfield Museum of Art and is currently on its Exhibition Committee. David grew up in Cincinnati, OH, and graduated from the University of Cincinnati College Conservatory of Music with a BA in electronic media.

Tour and Event Information:

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SOCIETY OF ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIANS
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAPTER

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Voices From the Modern Past: CBS Columbia Square

SAH/SCC Tour & Talk, Hollywood

SAH/SCC is offering a rare opportunity to visit one of Hollywood's jewels of the International Style, CBS Columbia Square (1937) by William Edmond Lescaze (1896-1969). Participants will have the opportunity to tour the development—the radio and television studio complex for CBS West Coast until 2007—and see how the setting has been transformed to accommodate new uses for today's Hollywood. The event will take place in September, so watch your email for details on date and time.

Inclusive of the site tour will be a presentation by John LoCascio, AIA, Principal of Historic Resources Group, who was the preservation architect for the rehabilitation project. LoCascio's lecture will provide a behind-the-scenes look into the many historic features of the property, and how obstacles and challenges were overcome to transform the historic complex into a vibrant, mixed-use setting. The project won the 2016 Preservation Design Award in the Rehabilitation category from the California Preservation Foundation.

CBS Columbia Square's historical structures include the Radio Building/Studio A and the Business Building. It is the only Lescaze project on the west coast. The Swiss-born architect is best known as the designer of the first International Style skyscraper in the US, the Philadelphia Saving Fund Society (PSFS) in 1932. Impressed with PSFS, Columbia Broadcasting System executive William S. Paley (1901-1990) hired Lescaze to reconstruct the Hammerstein Theater (Herbert J. Krapp, 1927; Lescaze, 1936; James Stewart Polshek, 1993) in New York for use as a CBS radio studio. (Among its several names, the site has been known as the Ed Sullivan Theater since 1967.) Lescaze completed several other projects for CBS and was granted the commission for the network's flagship west coast complex.

For Columbia Square, Lescaze and his local associate architect Earl T. Heitschmidt, FAIA (1894-1972), designed an International Style corporate statement softened by elements of the Streamline Moderne. The finished project met national acclaim and was published in *Architectural Forum*, *Architectural Record*, and *California Arts and Architecture*. CBS Columbia Square symbolized all that was modern, glamorous, and innovative.

Memorable classic radio programs by Jack Benny, Orson Welles, Bing Crosby, Burns and Allen, Gene Autry, and Art Linkletter were aired from there. It was where the pilot episode of "I Love Lucy" was filmed, and where Bob Dylan and Carlos Santana recorded classic songs.

For years, the dynamic nature of the architectural design was masked by a series of unfortunate alterations, and the property was shuttered from 2007 to 2013. Kilroy Realty brought on Historic Resources Group, along with design architect, planner, and landscape architect Rios Clementi Hale Studios, and executive architect House & Robertson, to restore key design elements, rehabilitate dramatic interior spaces, add new creative office and residential buildings, design communal landscape areas, and include new eateries to offer an amenity-rich mixed-use development to new Hollywood.

Join us as we learn more about the history, architecture, and rehabilitation of this showplace of Hollywood entertainment—old and new—and jewel of architectural design.

Voices From the Modern Past—September TBD; CBS Columbia Square, 6121 Sunset Blvd.; \$40 each for SAH/SCC members; \$55 for non-members; space is limited; reservations are required; tickets will be made available on a first-come, first-served basis; registration—watch your email and www.sahscc.org for updates. We regret that this tour is not suited for those with difficulties walking or standing.

Please note: CBS Columbia Square is not the same as CBS Television City.



Images: Los Angeles Public Library

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Architects of a Golden Age

SAH/SCC Tour, San Marino

Saturday, November 3, 2018



Roger Hayward (1899-1979), *Los Angeles Stock Exchange, façade*, ca. 1929. Samuel E. Lunden, architect, John & Donald Parkinson, consulting architects. ©Courtesy of Dr. James and Mrs. Miriam Kramer, 2018. The Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens



Wallace Neff (1895-1982), architect, *Airform concept rendering for Manuel Reachi, Mexico*, ca. 1945. ©Courtesy of Mr. Arthur M. McNally Neff, on behalf of Wallace Neff, 2018. The Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens



Electrical Products Corp. (artist unknown), *Neon study for You Chung Hong buildings, Chinatown, Los Angeles*, ca. 1936-37. ©Courtesy of Federal Signal Corporation, on behalf of Electrical Products Corporation, 2018. The Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens

Save the date for an insider look at “Architects of a Golden Age: Highlights from The Huntington’s Southern California Architecture Collection.” The exhibition at the Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens (Hunt, Grey, Pope, Fisher, et. al, 1909-2015) documents one of the most creative and influential periods in Southern California architecture—from 1920 to 1940. Erin Chase, Assistant Curator of Architecture and Photography at The Huntington, will be our guide for this special behind-the-scenes tour.

About 20 carefully selected original drawings and plans depicting elegant, powerful, whimsical, and iconic buildings will tease out the story of a place and time that was ripe for architectural innovation. “Architects of a Golden Age” highlights renderings that helped bring into existence some of the most extraordinary buildings in the greater LA area, including Downtown’s Union Passenger Terminal (John & Donald Parkinson, 1934), Mayan Theater (Morgan, Walls & Clements, 1927), LA Stock Exchange (Samuel E. Lunden, John & Donald Parkinson, 1931), and Chinatown structures, as well as seminal examples of the California bungalow.

The Huntington’s focus on collecting architectural documentation coincided with the inception of LA’s preservation movement, which sprang into action around 1978. “For curators at The Huntington, that was the time to actively seek out and salvage as much of the architectural record as possible, as dozens of significant buildings fell to the wrecking ball and the downtown skyline was forever changed,” said Chase.

There was a dire need to rescue the records of local architects in the late 1970s, as archives were being destroyed and buildings demolished to make way for redevelopment. The Huntington joined in the cause and committed to collecting these records with a concentration on projects in most jeopardy of being lost: those created in Southern California between 1920 and 1940. In the past 40 years, the collection has grown to include thousands of plans, renderings, photographs, and project records that cover not only work created between World Wars I and II, but also before and after that period—representing the evolution of architects’ work over time.

Watch your email and www.sahscc.org for exact time and cost.

Architects of a Golden Age—November 3, 2018; The Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens, 1151 Oxford Rd., San Marino; registration—go to www.sahscc.org for updates.

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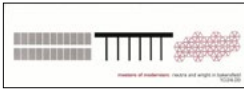
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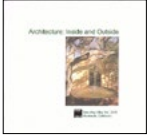
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SAH/SCC PUBLICATIONS



_____ at \$5 each

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



_____ at \$3 each

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



_____ at \$6 each

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.



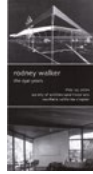
_____ at \$8 each

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 \$5 each

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.



_____ at \$5 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 \$2 each

Kesling Homes: bi-fold, two-color brochure from the "Kesling Modern Structures" tour.



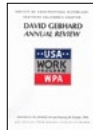
_____ at \$2 each

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.



_____ at \$4 each

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.



_____ at \$8 each

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.



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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

September/October 2018

5

SAH/SCC MEMBERSHIP FORM

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.
*SAH/SCC PRIVACY POLICY: The SAH/SCC never sells, rents, or shares your mailing or email address. Electronic communications enable us to operate economically and efficiently.

SAH/SCC EVENT TICKETS

Buckminster Fuller—October 7, 2018

_____ SAH/SCC member ticket(s) at \$15 each = \$ _____

LIMIT: 2 TICKETS AT MEMBER PRICE

_____ non-member ticket(s) at \$20 each = \$ _____

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R. Buckminster Fuller: Inventions & Models

SAH/SCC Gallery Tour & Talk Sunday, October 7, 2018, 3-5PM

SAH/SCC Life Member Ed Cella takes us on a behind-the-scenes tour of the new exhibition "R. Buckminster Fuller: Inventions and Models" at the Edward Cella Art & Architecture Gallery in Los Angeles.

The exhibition features models and drawings typically kept in private collections, and represents an opportunity to reflect upon Fuller's comprehensive perspective on the world and humanity. The show will focus on the AIA Gold Medal-winning architect's "Inventions Portfolio," a limited-edition print collection of pioneering design innovations.

"Bucky" Fuller, FAIA (1895-1983), is best known as the architect associated with popularizing Geodesic dome homes and buildings in the postwar period. He achieved notoriety with his design for the Dymaxion House during the mid 1940s. He was also a theorist and prolific author, who published more than 30 books.

One of his best-known buildings is the US Pavilion for Expo '67 in Montreal, Canada. The iconic structure, known now as the Biosphere, came to represent the modern age.

SAH/SCC members will remember Cella from a similar program in 2017 featuring the work of Lawrence Halprin, FASLA (1916-2009). Cella is a dynamic presenter who makes complex ideas and material accessible—the perfect guide to Fuller's genius. Enjoy a thoughtful discussion and light refreshments.

R. Buckminster Fuller: Inventions & Models—October 7, 2018; 3-5PM; Edward Cella Art & Architecture, 2754 S. La Cienega Boulevard, LA; \$15 for SAH/SCC members; \$20 for non-members; registration—see order form on Page 6, call 800.972.4722, go to www.sahscc.org, or email info@sahscc.org.



"Biosphere" US Pavilion (1967), by R. Buckminster Fuller, FAIA.

Photo: John Berley