

SOCIETY OF ARCHITECTURAL **HISTORIANS**/ SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAPTER





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Brett Weston in 1930.

## Authors on Architecture: Long on Peters

#### SAH/SCC Zoom Presentation Sunday, January 23, 2022; 1-2:30 PM Pacific Time

Be sure to join us for another dynamic lecture by scholar and historian Christopher Long from University of Texas at Austin, as he turns his attention to the little-known architect and designer Jock Peters (1889-1934). Long's new book, Jock Peters, Architecture and Design: The Varieties of Modernism (Bauer and Dean, 2021),

is the first monograph on the acclaimed architect and designer. Peters, a German-born modernist, immigrated to Los Angeles in 1922 where he gained national recognition for his elegant and lavish interiors of the iconic Bullock's Wilshire department store (John and Donald B. Parkinson, 1928).



Elevator station for motion picture set for "Mars" (not filmed) by Jock Peters, c. 1926 (pencil, pen and ink, and watercolor on paper). Image courtesy of UCSB.

Peters also designed a dynamic sales office building for the shortlived Maddux Air Lines, as well as stores and houses for the developer William Lingenbrink (1870-1949), a major supporter of the burgeoning modernism in Southern California. Aside from his architectural work,



Cottage (Lodge Type B) for Park Moderne (unrealized) by Jock Peters with W. F. Ruck, 1930 (pencil and colored pencil on board). Image courtesy of UCSB.

Peters designed film sets for Famous Players-Lasky (later Paramount Pictures), working in the famed art department of Hans Dreier (1885-1966). Despite his early death, Peters managed to leave his mark on the modernist landscape in Southern California at a time when the new style was just emerging.

This visually rich study includes never-before-published material from the architect's personal archive, still in family hands.

Long-author of ground-breaking studies on Kem Weber (1889-1963), Adolf Loos (1870-1933), and Paul Frankl (1878-1962)—writes another important history to broaden our understanding of modern architecture and design. This book offers 262 historic photographs, etchings, watercolors, and drawings (including floor plans)-many in color-that provide design inspiration for houses, retail spaces, storefronts, furniture, packaging, textiles, and set designs.

Authors on Architecture: Long on Peters—Sunday, January 23, 2022; 1-2:30 PM PST; \$5; go to www.sahscc.org, and pay via PayPal or mail in order form on Page 6 with check; Zoom connection information sent upon registration.

## SAH/SCC President's Letter

At any given moment, it is hard to find something positive in the global pandemic. Yet, SAH/SCC has used the past 20 months to pivot to virtual programming and to bring you presenters from not just all over the U.S., but from all over the world.

We have enjoyed presentations from scholars based in Italy, the UK, and Spain. Other exotic locales included Philadelphia, Baltimore, San Francisco, Connecticut, and Texas. We've learned more about Southern California as well as broadened our understanding of architectural history in cities across America. All without having to wait for speakers to be making a trip to Southern California.

During 2021 alone, SAH/SCC presented 20 programs—approximately one every two weeks—to keep you engaged and stimulate creative thinking.

The pandemic and the available technology have also allowed us to expand our footprint with members in Southern California and all over the world to whom we are truly grateful for their support. The ability to record these programs has also allowed people in other time zones to enjoy the presentations at their leisure (see Page 5 to order any you may have missed).

These virtual programs will continue to be a vital and robust part of our programming. As we edge closer to reinstating in-person programming, it is clear that virtual events have their place, even among the local faithful. We completely understand that traveling to a local in-person lecture within Los Angeles can be an overnight excursion for some members. I remember driving from the Westside to Pasadena late one afternoon for an event with the trip taking close to three hours one way due to traffic. And I'm not going to lie, it is much easer to walk from the living room into the home office to make the events happen.

Our recent in-person behind-the-scenes walk through of the exhibition "From Riggs to Neutra and Niemeyer: Tremaine Houses, 1936-1977" at the University of California, Santa Barbara, however, was a powerful reminder of the benefit of a collective, reallife experience. SAH/SCC Life Member Volker Welter, curator of the exhibition, was able to provide in-depth context and information about the topic in a more emphatic and personal way than was possible in his Zoom program on the same topic. Additionally, having different perspectives in the room in real time was illuminating.

So, thank you to all of our members and friends—new and long cherished—who have supported SAH/SCC during the past two years. I truly look forward to seeing every one of you in person, as well as in your Zoom boxes. Here's to a happy and healthy 2022.

-Sian Winship

## Trends in Architectural History



The Society of Architectural Historians (SAH) has released *Architectural History in the United States: Findings and Trends in Higher Education*, a 263-page print and PDF publication of the SAH Data Project Report. Funded by The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the SAH Data Project is the first in-depth, data-driven study designed to assess the health of the fields of architectural, landscape, and urban history at institutions of higher education in the U.S.

Some of the findings include:

• Almost none of the respondents reported encountering architectural history in a meaningful

way through K-12 curricular or extracurricular educational experiences.

• Three-quarters of faculty and students reported that the most common "pipeline" for some type of meaningful encounter with architectural history before college was touring buildings, historical societies, and museums.

• The vast majority of programs where architectural history is taught offer some courses with broad geographic scope and with content that includes global/non-Eurocentric traditions.

• There is a notable gap between what institutions and faculty reported about architectural history courses with social justice themes and what students reported about taking such courses. This suggests the existence of a significant generational difference in perception about what constitutes a social justice-related architectural history course.

Click <u>here</u> to delve into more data found in Architectural History in the United States: Findings and Trends in Higher Education.

#### Tour and Event Information: ph: 1.800.972.4722 e:info@sahscc.org

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## Authors on Architecture: <u>Wyeth on Welz</u>

SAH/SCC Zoom Presentation Sunday, January 30, 2022, 12-1:30 PM Pacific Time



Author and filmmaker Peter Wyeth.

Join SAH/SCC for a virtual program with author and filmmaker Peter Wyeth, whose string of discoveries excavated from the most fragmentary evidence has uncovered the architecture career of perhaps the leading South African painter, Jean Welz. *The Lost Architecture of Jean Welz* (DoppelHouse, 2022) chronicles the mystery of Welz's virtual absence in the architectural record and Wyeth's decade-long quest, which gradually assembled an extraordinary picture of Welz's twelve years in Paris.



Jean Welz standing atop the flats designed by Ginsberg & Lubetkin at 25 Ave de Versailles, Paris, 1931. *Photo courtesy RIBA*.

Born in 1900 and trained in Vienna, Welz was sent to Paris for the 1925 "Art Deco" exhibition by his influential employer, the renowned Josef Hoffmann. As a result, he met preeminent modern architects Le Corbusier and Adolf Loos. The latter employed him to supervise the construction of Loos's only Paris house, for the founder of Dada, Tristan Tzara. At the Café Dôme in Montparnasse they formed one of the avant-garde, including Welz's classmate from Vienna, later Chicago-based architect Gabriel Guevrekian; Welz's future employer Raymond Fischer, whose archive was 80% destroyed by the Nazis; and the photographer (and Welz's best friend) André Kertész.



The Austrian Pavilion proposal plans and sketches were for the 1937 Paris international exhibition. Image courtesy Welz family.

Through Welz's South African family archive, Wyeth retrieves stories, letters, portfolios, and photographs to unravel Welz's heroic designs and reveals his unique critique of Corbusier's "Five Points of Architecture," tracking the many ways that Welz was disappeared, intentionally and not. Wyeth explores why Jean Welz did not become a famous name in architecture and takes us through Welz's art-dealer brother's Nazi-dealings, Welz's own illness, betrayals, and self-destruction as an artist, born of an uncompromising artist's vision, while sifting through every scrap of evidence of Welz's buildings and visionary, unrealized designs.



Maison Zilveli in a photo possibly by André Kertész, 1933. Photo courtesy Welz family.

The protracted, losing battle to save Welz' Maison Zilveli (on the book cover) has been covered by *Le Monde, The Modernist, Le Journal des Arts,* and *Iconic Houses,* climaxing in the French Minister of Culture urging preservation over destruction, signed by leading experts from around the world, including Kenneth Frampton and Jean-Louis Cohen. The fate of Welz's littleknown masterpiece (the Villa Savoye of today, 60 years after Corbusier's chef d'oeuvre was saved by another Minister of Culture, André Malraux) is the ultimate price of his anonymity.

Authors on Architecture: Wyeth on Welz— Sunday, January 30, 2022; 12-1:30 PM PST; \$5; go to <u>www.sahscc.org</u> and pay via PayPal or mail in order form on Page 6 with check; Zoom connection information sent upon registration.

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## Authors on Architecture: Oest on LA <u>Public Housing</u> SAH/SCC Zoom Presentation Sunday, February 13, 2022,



Home near Watts, 1945. Photo by Esther Mipaas; courtesy Esther Lewittes Mipaas Collection.

Join us for a new lens on public housing history in Los Angeles, as scholar Nicole Krup Oest shares her PhD thesis for the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, University of Zurich.

1-2:30 PM Pacific Time

Her fascinating thesis-turned-book, *Photography and Modern Public Housing in Los Angeles* (Heidelberg University Library, 2021), looks at how photography shaped public perceptions of public housing projects in Los Angeles and nationally. The book includes dozens of seldom seen images from offline collections, which illuminate how the narrative for public housing was shaped, for better or for worse, by the local housing authority.

Oest's training in art history (she is a lecturer in art history at City College of San Francisco) helps bring to light the important role that commercial photographers, such as Luckhaus Studio, played in crafting the narrative. Photography, graphic design, and exhibition design also played key roles.

This program is another installment in SAH/SCC's ongoing series examining how photography and architecture shape our perceptions of the built environment. Past programs on Wayne Thom (see Page 5 to purchase video) and Marvin Rand by Emily Bills have been extremely popular.

Oest's Photography and Modern Public Housing in Los Angeles is made available as an open-source document, free to those who wish to read <u>online</u>.

Authors on Architecture: Oest on LA Public Housing—Sunday, February 13, 2022; 1-2:30 PM PST; \$5; visit <u>www.sahscc.org</u> and pay via PayPal or mail in order form on Page 6 with check; Zoom connection information sent upon registration.



Near Culver City—Shacks, shades, c. 1945. Photo by Esther Mipaas; courtesy Esther Lewittes Mipaas Collection.

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New mailing address is P.O. Box 491952, Los Angeles, CA 90049.

(We are no longer accepting mail at Sherman Oaks address.)

SOCIETY OF ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIANS / SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAPTER NEWS

Winter 2022

# SAH/SCC **PUBLICATIONS & VIDEOS**

Catch up on previous SAH/SCC tours and Zoom programs. Go here to order.



Masters of Modernism: eight-page, two-color brochure featuring works of Richard Neutra and Frank Lloyd Wright in Bakersfield. \$5

Val Verde. \$3



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



Irving Gill: Los Angeles: 10page booklet featuring photos and articles on Gill and three residential projects in LA. \$6



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. \$8



Greta Magnusson Grossman: 3.5" x 8" 2-page color brochure featuring two residences by Greta Grossman. \$4



Space and Learning: eightpage, 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. \$8



#### 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. \$5



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. \$5



Kesling Homes: bi-fold, two-color brochure from the "Kesling Modern Structures" tour. \$2



#### Union Station and MTA Transit Center: bi-fold map

for a self-guided walking tour including historical facts and photos. \$2

Modernism for the Masses:

detailed floor plans of Eichler

homes visited on the Orange

David Gebhard Review: essays on

the Works Project Administration

County tour. \$10

Mogul. \$5

tri-fold brochure with inserts of







The Historic and Modern Spirit of Ventura: 20-page guide from Ventura tour. \$10

Killingsworth: A Master Plan for

Learning: 11"x17", four-color walking

master plan development by architect Edward A. Killingsworth, FAIA. \$4

Ray Kappe-Apotheosis:

eight-page brochure features

five Kappe Houses from 1959

to 1966 in the Royal Woods

development of the San

Fernando Valley. \$8

tour brochure of the Cal State Long

Beach campus features history of

by Robert W. Winter, Orville

O. Clarke, Jr., and Mitzi March





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. \$8



Arts & Crafts Movement: Arnold Schwartzman shares about his book Arts & Crafts: From William Morris to Frank Lloyd Wright. \$5

Reyner Banham: Authors Todd N. Gannon and Richard J. Williams discuss their books about Banham, writer of Los Angeles: The Architecture of Four Ecologies. \$5

Behind the Iron Curtain in 1969: John Ellis, FAIA, retraces his steps as a student at Cambridge to visit the work of the Russian Constructivists and Alvar Aalto, Hon. FAIA. \$5

Bunker Hill: Author Nathan Marsak traces the architectural and cultural history of Los Angeles' early residential neighborhood, best known for its appearance in film noirs. \$5

Church of the Epiphany: SAH/SCC President Sian Winship and preservation architects Escher GuneWardena introduce viewers to the oldest Episcopal church in LA. \$5

William F. Cody: Authors of a new book on the Palm Springs architect explore his modern works in the west and southwest. \$5

Harley Earl: SAH/SCC Member Richard Stanley reveals how Harley Earl invented the modern automotive design studio. \$5

Elizabeth Gordon: Author Monica Penick introduces viewers to one of the most influential magazine editors of the mid-20th century. \$5

Griffith Observatory: SAH/SCC Member William "Stuart" Leslie talks about the architecture of a Los Angeles icon: Griffith Park Observatory and Planetarium. \$5

Growing up Modern: Authors Julia Jamrozik and Coryn Kempster discuss their new book, Growing up Modern: Childhoods In Iconic Homes, \$5

Florence Knoll: Dr. Ana Arujo talks about her book No Compromise: The Work of Florence Knoll, about a leading force of modern design. \$5

Neutra in Latin America: Catherine Rose Ettinger discusses her 2018 book Richard Neutra: Encounters with Latin America, \$5

New West: SAH/SCC Life Members Wolfgang Wagener, AIA, RIBA, and Leslie Erganian explore history through hand-tinted postcards. \$5

John Parkinson: Author Stephen Gee discusses the unsung genius of architect John Parkinson, designer of many LA icons. \$5

Preserving Los Angeles: Author Ken Bernstein and photographer Stephen Schafer reveal how LA's preservation programs saved architectural and cultural jewels of the city. \$5

Will Price: Author George E. Thomas makes the case for Will Price as an early modern architect working in Philadelphia. \$5

David Wyn Roberts: Architect, author, and SAH/SCC Member Cory Buckner provides a rare and very personal look at the work of Cambridge modernist David Wyn Roberts. \$5

Millard Sheets: Author Adam Arenson discusses the work of Millard Sheets and his association with Home Savings and Loan, \$5

The Stepwells of India: Author Victoria Lautman conducts a personal tour of the mysterious and magnificent stepwells in India. \$5

**Wayne Thom:** Author and SAH/SCC Member Emily Bills examines the architectural photography of Wayne Thom, who documented SoCal modern architecture. \$5

Warner Bros.: Former Warner Bros. archivist Steven Bingen takes you behind the gates at the famed studio. \$5

Paul R. Williams, FAIA: Author Stephen Gee, realtor Bret Parsons, and architect Marc Appleton, AIA, discuss the early residential work of the noted "architect to the stars." \$5



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## 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
- 20-30% discounts on tour and event ticket prices
- Quarterly E-news with printable newsletter
- FREE tickets to our annual Members' Celebration event
- Special Members-Only E-Alerts about upcoming events
- A tax deduction for your membership dues
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#### MEMBERSHIP LEVELS THAT FIT YOUR NEEDS!

Fill out the order form below or join online at www.sahscc.org.
\$45 Individual - All the membership benefits above for a single individual.
\$65 Dual - All the membership benefits for two names at the same address.

\$125 Patron – All the membership benefits above, plus priority reservation at our popular and exclusive "Patrons Only" programs, such as "Modern Patrons" and "Contemporary Patrons." Includes two names at the same address.

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**\$30 Student** (requires scan of valid Student ID) – All the benefits of Individual membership at a 30% discount.

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### SAH/SCC EVENT TICKETS

#### Long on Peters—Sunday, January 23, 2022

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Wyeth on Welz—Sunday, January 30, 2022

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#### LA Public Housing—Sunday, February 13, 2022

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## <u>Bookmarks</u>

#### Frank Gehry: The Masterpieces

by Jean-Louis Cohen and Cahiers d'Art

Is every piece created by a master a bona fide masterpiece? That's the guestion I asked in regard to professor and author Jean-Louis Cohen's sumptuous review of 38 of Gehry's projects, ranging from a 1962 Santa Monica apartment building to the Luma Foundation finished in 2021. No one would begrudge LA's greatest architectural export his absolute masterpieces, but the book could have pared down the projects by half and presented each with its place in architectural and societal history along with an illustrative process (some sections and Gehry's wonderfully seductive sketches would help) that shows the workings behind the genius. But that would have been a different book. This one will certainly delight Gehry fans from all over with its size and heft and full-bleed photos accompanied by the architect's guotes on his work. To his credit. Cohen addresses the dubious use of "masterpiece" at the end of his essay, citing an arcane 13th-century definition as "crucial work." Maybe not as market-driven a term, but crucial work makes more sense with the project selections and the descriptive text.

Flammarion, 2021, 400 pages, hardcover, \$85.

—Julie D. Taylor, Hon. AIA



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