



SOCIETY OF ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIANS
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAPTER

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NEWS



Casa del Herrero
Photo: Jurgen Hiltne

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ARCHITECTURE [INSIDE] and [OUTSIDE]

One of the primary elements of architectural design in Southern California is the ability to incorporate the exterior environment. This convention of Moorish traditions—rooms arranged around a courtyard joined by an arcade around a central space—blur the separate typologies of “inside” and “outside.” Filtered through Spanish settlements, this design practice came to define the California style.

Join SAH/SCC executive board member Dennis Whelan for “Architecture Inside and Outside,” on Saturday, May 3rd, in Montecito. We will examine these ideas through three superb examples of Spanish Colonial Revival architecture and landscape. Some of the most notable work of the 1920s will be revealed.

This day-long coach tour departs from a central location in the Santa Barbara area at 9:15 AM, and returns to the same location at approximately 5 PM. A gourmet box lunch and event brochure are included in the tour price. Participants will be responsible for their own transportation to and from the Santa Barbara area. Coach capacity is limited, so register early to avoid disappointment. Member price is \$139/Non-Member price is \$159. See back page for order form.

Lotusland

The day begins with an insider’s tour of Lotusland, where Ralph Kinton Stevens, an important early nurseryman, had his family home and commercial nursery. Many of the large palms and other trees on the estate date back to Stevens’ time, between 1882 and 1896.

In 1916, the property was acquired by the Gavit family, which hired architect Reginald Johnson to design a residence for them in 1919. During the 1920s, George Washington Smith remodeled the home and designed additional buildings. The Gavits landscaped their estate, which they called Cuesta Linda, with extensive gardens, described in 1929 as “semi-formal Italian.” Landscape designers were Paul Theine and Lockwood de Forest, Jr., along with horticulturist Peter Reidel.

Madame Ganna Walska, who purchased the estate in 1941, made no major changes to the buildings. She did, however, make extensive and dramatic changes to the grounds. During the 43 years that she lived at Lotusland, Madame Walska redesigned most of the Gavit-period landscaping and created many wonderful new gardens.

Most of her energy and resources were poured into making a botanical garden of rare plants using her natural artistic talents to create a fantasy world of exquisite beauty. To accomplish this she worked with a number of landscape architects and designers, including de Forest, Ralph T. Stevens, William Paylen, Oswald da Ros, and Charles Glass.

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Lotusland
Photos: John Ellis

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SAH/SCC

President's Letter



Tour and Event Information: 1.800.972.4722; sahscc-info@sahscc.org

SAH/SCC NEWS is published bi-monthly by the Society of Architectural Historians / Southern California Chapter. Subscription is a benefit of membership and provides members with one of the most comprehensive calendars of architectural events in Southern California and advance notice of exclusive SAH/SCC architectural events and tours.

Every spring, the national organization with which we're affiliated, the Society of Architectural Historians, holds its annual conference—an opportunity for academics and practitioners in architectural history to present the most recent research to their peers. In addition to the conference sessions, SAH conferences include many half-day and a few all-day architectural tours in and around the city where the conference is taking place. In April 1998 Los Angeles was the site of SAH's 50th Annual Meeting. It was held at the Biltmore Hotel in Los Angeles. More than 600 people attended the event, which was marked by interesting papers, good tours, a memorable cocktail party in the Bradbury Building, and—the highlight—a dinner and exclusive evening at the newly opened Getty Center. Some 75 volunteers, including local university students, librarians, museum professionals, city planners, and three members of the current SAH/SCC board, staffed the registration tables and the slide projectors in the paper sessions at the conference.

Last year the SAH Annual Meeting was in Pittsburgh. In 2008, it will be in Cincinnati. And in April 2009, the 62nd Annual Meeting will take place in Pasadena. Once again, there will be a need for many local volunteers. This time, skill in operating slide projectors is no longer needed; as all sessions will use PowerPoint projectors—technology has come a long way in 10 years! Those volunteers who put in six hours of service will get to attend the conference at no charge (a value of \$270 for registration fee, along with \$115 membership to the national organization).

What an opportunity to discover the most current scholarship in architectural history and meet the nation's (and the world's) leading authors and researchers! We all want to roll out the red-carpet hospitality that will make this conference as memorable as the last one held in Southern California. If you're interested in volunteering, and have some experience operating PowerPoint projectors, save your spot on the volunteer roster now. Contact me at merry.ovnick@csun.edu. You can check out the national organization and its upcoming Cincinnati event at www.sah.org.

Merry Ovnick

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Postcard From Laguna Beach

On Saturday, January 19th, SAH/SCC hosted the first Contemporary Patrons event featuring a tour and interview with both client and architect that detailed the process of design, construction, and living in a custom residence.

The beautiful day featured the home of Jan and Paul Muñoz in Laguna Beach, designed by former SAH/SCC board president Ted Wells. The Muñozes opened their home to 40 members who explored the distinctive geometry and setting on a steep lot on the Pacific Coast Highway.

An informal interview led by board member John Ellis revealed the decade-long odyssey the homeowners endured to achieve their vision. Their charismatic personalities were attracted to architect Wells who was called upon to shepherd a previous architect's design through the labyrinthine local approval process. Impressed by his verve, the Muñozes embarked upon a new design with Ted, resulting in a home that radically challenged common notions of construction and form.

The result is a testament to the role of architects' extensive planning and programming to realize clients' wishes, ambitions, and aspirations. What impressed tour members was the connection of the owners to their home. Acting as contractor, Jan was on the site daily, even doing work herself, such as laying the radiant heating coils in the slab floor forms. Paul taught himself to produce the extensive shop drawings needed for the Cor-ten steel panels used inventively instead of conventional braced wood framing.

The day concluded with many tour guests lingering late to witness a glorious Pacific Ocean sunset that infused the interior with the orange glow of a California dream. Despite an arduous decade-long journey, the clients ardently attest they wouldn't have changed a thing.

—Dennis Whelan



Photos: John Ellis

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Val Verde

Val Verde

The second stop on the tour will be the rarely seen Val Verde estate (c.1915), planned by Boston architect Bertram Grosvenor Goodhue. Beaux-Arts formal gardens, reflecting pool, and a spare, near-modernist house influenced by Colonial Mexican village architecture grace the property. Val Verde was already an extraordinary place when C.W. Ludington bought it in 1924.

De Forest worked on a new landscape plan for Val Verde, leaving Goodhue's geometry and much of the wilderness intact. Of the 1,500 gardens created by de Forest, this is the only one remaining in its original form. Unaltered for almost 100 years, the garden is groundbreaking for its time and is just as relevant today. The garden is a designated national treasure by the American Society of Landscape Architects, and a national, state, and county landmark.

Casa del Herrero

The day will conclude with a tour of the Steedman Residence by George Washington Smith, as well as the surrounding gardens and workshop. After purchasing eleven acres in Montecito in 1922, George Steedman selected the area's premiere architect, Smith, to design this splendid example of an Andalusian-style country house surrounded by artfully planned grounds and gardens.

The house was completed in 1925, and is noted for its extensive use of Mediterranean tile, as well as splendid examples of 13th- to 18th-century Spanish furniture, antique architectural detail, and artwork. Much was purchased by Steedman on buying trips to Spain.

Few of Montecito's fabled estates have remained essentially unchanged. The Casa del Herrero has been in the hands of the original family since it was first constructed more than 75 years ago. It provides visitors with a glimpse into Montecito life as the Steedmans lived it in the 1930s. The gardens were designed by landscape architects Stevens, de Forest, and Reidel. Completed in 1933, seven acres of gardens are formally designed and maintained in a Spanish Moorish style.

"Architecture Inside and Outside" is a rare opportunity to experience the flora and foundations of California style.

Casa del Herrero
Photo: Jurgen Hilme

Design Conferences and Confabs

March brings a wealth of opportunities to discuss, display, debate, and dissect design and architecture. Please check with each sponsor for registration requirements, costs, and other details.

CA Boom 5

March 14th-16th | caboomshow.com | 818.735.8803

CA Boom—a multi-discipline design trade fair and exhibition—features contemporary architecture, furnishings, and prefab. Located in Santa Monica Airport's Barker Hangar, the festival showcases what's next in how we live and how we work. In conjunction with the show, CA Boom's Design + Architecture Tour series will showcase contemporary residential projects.

Highlights include:

Friday, March 14th

Post-Hurricane Katrina: Architecture, Art, and Design in New Orleans. Panel with New Orleans Artists in Exile organizer Jonathan Ferrara and CA Boom manager Charles Trotter.

Pacific Palisades. Tour of homes by Built Inc., Felderman Keatinge + Associates, GRAYmatter Architecture, and Mehmoosh.

Saturday, March 15th

The Four Women of Prefab. Panel featuring designer Michelle Kaufmann, Office of Mobile Design founder Jennifer Siegal, "modern prefab movement" leader/founder and LV series designer Rocio Romer, and "PREFAB" author and former Dwell magazine editor-in-chief Allison Arieff.

Westside Homes. Tour of homes by Delta H Design, DU Architects, NMDA - Neil Denari Architects, and Sander Architects.

Sunday, March 16th

Dream Homes Los Angeles. Book signing with architectural photographer Julius Shulman and more than 20 featured architects.

Beach Cities. Tour of homes by Lee + Mundwiler, Michael Folonis, and Office of Mobile Design.

Westweek

March 26th-28th | pacificdesigncenter.com | 310.657.0800

An internationally recognized trade event, Westweek welcomes thousands of design professionals to the annual home furnishings and design market and symposium at West Hollywood's Pacific Design Center. More than 80 show-room programs will be hosted focusing on new product showcases, trends, and design elements, in addition to keynote and seminar programs.

Highlights include:

Wednesday, March 26th

Robert A.M. Stern. Discussion with architect and Yale School of Architecture dean Robert A.M. Stern, with *Architectural Digest* editor Paige Rense.

Enduring Design. Panel on interior design with David Easton, Jack Lenor Larsen, Suzanne Tucker, and Kazumi Yoshida, moderated by *Architectural Digest* executive director Margaret Dunne.

Inside Architecture. Tour of exhibit "Inside Architecture: Selections from the Permanent Collection" with MOCA curator of architecture and design Brooke Hodge.

Thursday, March 27th

How to Become a Star: Maximizing Your PR Potential. Seminar for design professionals with *SAH/SCC News* editor Julie D. Taylor, HON. AIA/LA.

The Hollywood Comeback. Lecture on multi-unit housing with architect Johannes Van Tilburg, FAIA.

Julius Shulman Book Signing. Book signing with eminent architectural photographer Julius Shulman featuring his latest book, *Julius Shulman: Palm Springs*.

Perfecting the Design Formula: Classical Architecture Meets Modern Interiors. Lecture with architect Andrew Skurman on designing interiors for 21st century clients.

Designer Wendell Castle. New York-based home furnishings designer Wendell Castle discusses contemporary art and design.

"Red Carpet" Exposure: Get noticed—be seen—get published! Panel with designer James Magni, interiors photographer and SAH/SCC board member John Ellis, and branding expert Penelope Francis.

Brilliant Bad Taste: Manufacturing Glamour from Vulgarity and Excess. Lecture with design critic Mayer Rus on a century of design in the movies.

SAH

scc publications order form

For those of you who missed out on recent SAH/SCC tours, or would like more information for your reference, here's an opportunity to get your hands on the publications printed especially for SAH/SCC events. Don't let another chance pass you by.

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

_____ at \$12 each

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

_____ at \$3 each

Rodney Walker 3 30 90: 12-page brochure exploring the architect's usage of the three-foot module and features nine homes on five sites

_____ at \$8 each

Edward Killingsworth: Setting a Modern Standard: 20-page, black-and-white brochure featuring seven Long Beach houses and an article by the architect

_____ 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 \$8 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 \$5 each

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

_____ at \$2 each

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

_____ 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 \$10 each

Reconsidering Lloyd Wright: 21-page, four-color booklet from "Reconsidering Lloyd Wright" house tour

_____ at \$10 each

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

_____ at \$2 each

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

_____ at \$5 each

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Montecito Tour—May 3rd

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 Free Members' Celebration

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