



Image: The Marina Tower marketing brochure

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# The Marina Tower Display Residence

**SAH/SCC Tour & Talk**

**Saturday, January 23, 2016, 10:30AM-12:30PM**

Join SAH/SCC as we explore the newly restored The Marina Tower Display Residence (Killingsworth, Brady & Associates, 1959) in Long Beach. The model unit was originally designed to showcase future residences for an 11-story, 44-unit tower that was never realized. However, the display model remains as a private, single-family residence.

Designed by Case Study House architect Edward A. Killingsworth, FAIA, the home features high ceilings (some up to nine feet), large expanses of glass to optimize city and ocean views, and access to large outdoor terraces. The project was featured extensively in Jennifer M. Volland and SAH/SCC Member Cara Mullio's monograph, *Edward A. Killingsworth: An Architect's Life* (Hennessy + Ingalls, 2013).

The original marketing materials for the new building proclaimed: "it offers a rich and gracious way of life, an unusual opportunity for ownership of a residence of distinction, with complete freedom from the cares and problems of ownership." The brochure assured potential tenants of "a sparkling tower of beauty with the blue Pacific as 'your front yard.' Here the air is cool, healthful, and smog free—here your horizon is unlimited." The units promised "a starlit setting for gracious indoor-outdoor entertaining. Each residence occupies an entire quarter-floor. The design represents the ultimate achievement in planning and construction that combines lavish beauty with exceptional convenience."



Image: Edward A. Killingsworth Papers, Architecture and Design Collection, AD&A Museum, UCSB

The program will include a dialogue with the current owner/architect responsible for the restoration of The Marina Tower Display Residence.

*The Marina Tower Display Residence—Saturday, January 23, 2016; 10:30AM-12:30PM; Long Beach; \$25 each for SAH/SCC Members; \$35 each for non-members; reservations required; space is limited; address given upon registration confirmation; registration—see order form on Page 6, call 800.972.4722, or go to [www.sahscc.org](http://www.sahscc.org).*



# SAH/SCC President's Letter

I have long had a theory that the truest test of an architect's talent can be found in the smallest of his commissions, rather than the largest. Where budgetary and spatial constraints present themselves as challenges, the architect is asked to distill his or her ideas into their purest forms. There are few better examples of this than R.M. Schindler's Presburger Residence (1945-7), site of a recent SAH/SCC event.

Schindler's brilliance at design and engineering has long been recognized in his numerous works on "unbuildable" hillside lots in and around Los Angeles. The Presburgers, however, presented their architect with a conventional unconventional challenge: build on a small, flat infill lot in the San Fernando Valley. Schindler balked and tried to convince the family to purchase a hillside lot instead. The Presburgers stood firm. And Schindler, who ran in the same progressive political circles as his clients, was moved to build a postwar home on the existing lot.



The home's appearance is conservative from the outside—save for an expressive modern beam detail that appears to be coming out of nowhere on the front façade. Stepping through the front door, however, into the 1,400-square-foot house, the visitor is transfixed by a dynamic display of space and light. The open plan and outdoor rooms make the house feel far larger than its meager square footage would suggest, and the clerestory windows above the datum line bring light and shadow into the space from a variety of angles. As an infill lot, the site afforded no views except upward—and Schindler took full advantage of it.

During the SAH/SCC program, the current owners, who have done a remarkable job of restoration with a sensitive group of craftsmen, remarked at how they are able to lie in bed and have a view of the stars. Schindler gave his clients the gift of architecture—a dialogue between the person, the space, and the landscape (not to mention, the cosmos). Unlike thousands of other San Fernando Valley families who parked their station wagons in the driveways of their modest ranch houses with conveniences from Kelvinators to Can-O-Lectrics, the Presburgers engaged with their house on a daily basis in a way that naturally enhanced their quality of life.

Schindler's larger postwar designs, including the Janson Residence (1948-9) and the Tischler Residence (1949-50), reflect his interest in creating a transparent house on a hillside slope and a multi-functional house on a gently undulating parcel, respectively. It is the little Presburger Residence where the ordinary becomes extraordinary.

In the coming year, SAH/SCC is committed to bringing you more wonders—small and large—of architecture in Southern California.

—Sian Winship

## Dingbat 2.0: The Iconic Los Angeles Apartment

### SAH/SCC Panel Discussion & Book Signing Saturday, March 26, 2016, 2-4PM

SAH/SCC is hosting an event that will explore one of the most misunderstood architectural phenomena in Los Angeles... the Dingbat Apartment.

*Dingbat 2.0: The Iconic Los Angeles Apartment as Projection of a Metropolis* (DoppelHouse Press, 2016) is the first critical study of the dingbat apartment, the most ubiquitous and mundane building type in Los Angeles. The dingbat grew out of Los Angeles's rapid postwar expansion period, and for more than half a century has been vilified, praised, studied, and often misunderstood—as much for being ugly and ordinary as for being innovative, iconoclastic, and distinctly "LA." As a housing type, the dingbat has enabled the sprawl for which Los Angeles is infamous, while simultaneously creating a consistency of urban density achieved by few other 20th century cities.



Photo: James Black

This event will feature a moderated panel discussion with several of the book's contributing authors and photographers. Books will also be available for sale at the close of the program. Watch for more information in the March/April issue of SAH/SCC News.

*Dingbat 2.0—Saturday, March 26, 2016; 2-4PM; Santa Monica Central Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd., Santa Monica; free; seating is available on a first-come, first-served basis; 310.458.8600.*

### Tour and Event Information:

1.800.972.4722

info@sahscc.org



SOCIETY OF ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIANS  
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAPTER

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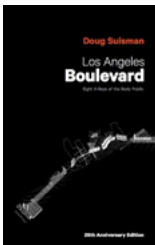
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Questions: Call 800.9SAHSCC.



SAH/SCC's "Authors on Architecture" series took us to Disneyland, into the minds of Charles and Ray Eames, along Los Angeles' boulevards, and through historic downtown. Home tours focused on European Modernists, with trips to two R.M. Schindler projects and a revisit to a home by Jock Detlof Peters. And, events concerning three Wrights (Frank Lloyd, Lloyd, and Eric) were anything but wrong!



## January 31—Authors on Architecture: Suisman on the Boulevards

Architect and urban planner Doug Suisman, FAIA, gave a fascinating look at the history and possible future of LA. On its 25th anniversary, *Los Angeles Boulevard: Eight X-Rays of the Body Public* (ORO Editions, 2014) was re-issued with new projects and foreword by *Los Angeles Times* architecture critic Christopher Hawthorne. The first "A on A" of the year took place at the Santa Monica Central Library (Moore Ruble Yudell, 2006), which co-sponsors all our events there.



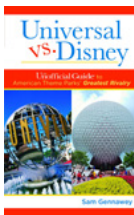
## March 29—Authors on Architecture: Downtown Details

Sumptuous details of Downtown LA's historic architecture tell the hidden stories of buildings and the dreams behind them through the photography Tom Zimmerman. Discussing his book *Downtown in Detail* (Angel City Press, 2009) at SM Central Library, Zimmerman shared some of his most beloved images and anecdotes about one of his favorite topics: LA architecture. (Left: Pacific Electric Building by Thornton Fitzhugh, 1903-05. Photo: Tom Zimmerman)



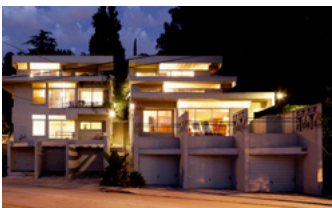
## April 18—Exiles & Émigrés Revisited: Jock Detlof Peters

We revisited the Alfred Gilks Residence (Jacob "Jock" Detlof Peters, 1933-4)—a house first toured back in 1997 as part of one of SAH/SCC's more successful tours, "Exiles and Émigrés." We talked about and toured the architecture during an intimate, salon-like event in the home originally designed for Gilks, an Oscar-winning cinematographer, by Peters, who is best known for the interiors of Bullock's Wilshire (John and Donald Parkinson; Feil and Paradise, 1928). (Left: Gilks Residence. Photo: PJ McMullan/Shooting LA)



## April 25—Authors on Architecture: Universal vs. Disney

Disney historian Sam Gennaway's talk about *Universal vs. Disney: The Unofficial Guide to American Theme Parks' Greatest Rivalry* (Unofficial Guides, 2014) shed light on the differences between the two theme-park juggernauts. Co-sponsored by Glendale Library, Arts, and Culture, the entertaining program took place at the Brand Library & Art Center (Nathaniel Dryden, 1904; Raymond Jones, 1956; Gruen Associates and Offenhauser/Mekeel Architects, 2014).



## June 13—Bubeshko Apartments Reborn

SAH/SCC paid a special visit to R.M. Schindler's Bubeshko Apartments in Silver Lake, which was restored by DSH/architecture. The two neighboring apartment buildings were built between 1938 and 1941 for mother-and-daughter clients, who envisioned a salon for artists, architects, and musicians. We toured the owners' unit and heard about the research, challenges, and process of bringing the property back to life. (Left: Bubeshko Apartments. Photo: Jessica Hays-Clark Hsiao)



## June 14—Authors on Architecture: Arenson on Sheets

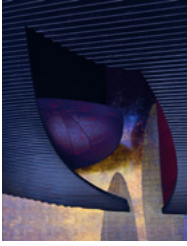
A work in progress, *Privately Sponsored Public Art: The Millard Sheets Studio, Home Savings and Loan, and the Corporate Creation of a New American Urban History* was previewed by author Adam Arenson at SM Central Library. His painstaking research will prove an asset to this future tome on the work of the artist and designer Sheets, whose studio designed more than 40 Home Savings and Loan branches throughout California between 1955 and 1968. (Left: Torrance Home Savings, 1979, detail. Photo: Adam Arenson)

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Continued on Page 4



**August 2—Authors on Architecture:  
Howard on ‘The Thickening of Time’**

Coy Howard showed his beautiful and enigmatic work at SM Central Library, demonstrating the fluid boundary between art and architecture, as exhibited in his book, *The Thickening of Time* (SCI-Arc Press, 2015). A teacher at SCI-Arc, Howard was also a member of the seminal “LA School” of architecture—an informal group of avant-gardists centered around the late-1970s Venice art scene that shaped the course of architectural design in Southern California.



**August 16—Lloyd Wright Heifetz Studio**

This event combined all the elements that make SAH/SCC’s programs so special: big ideas, personal connections, spectacular architecture, and an element of discovery. The visit to the Jascha Heifetz Studio (Lloyd Wright, 1946) within the Colburn School (Hardy Holzman and Pfeiffer, 1998) included a panel discussion with Eric Wright, Dana Hutt, and Sel Kardan. After the event, SAH/SCC Member Anita Weaver uncovered additional information about the studio. (See November/December 2015 President’s Letter for more.) (Left: Heifetz Studio.

*Photo: Philip Pirolo)*



**September 19—Authors on Architecture:  
Ostroff on Eames**

Author and Eames aficionado Daniel Ostroff spoke about *An Eames Anthology* (Yale University Press, 2015) in front of around 90 people—all seated in Eames-designed chairs. Hosted by Herman Miller in its Culver City headquarters (Lynch/Eisinger/Design, 2009), the event included time to socialize and experience the architecture and furniture. This was our second event with Ostroff, who toured us through the exhibition “Collecting Eames: The JF Chen Collection” in 2011. (Left: Eames Kite Design.)



**October 10—Walter S. White:  
Inventions in Mid-Century Architecture**

SAH/SCC Life Member Volker M. Welter led a tour of his exhibition “Walter S. White: Inventions in Mid-Century Architecture” at UCSB’s AD&A Museum (Levin & Associates Architects, 2000 renovation). White was noted for designs in Palm Desert, Indio, La Quinta, and Palm Springs in the 1940s and 1950s. Tour-goers also got a special hard-hat tour of the renovation progress of the UCSB Faculty Center (Moore, Lyndon, Turnbull, Whitaker, 1967-8; Moore Ruble Yudell, 2016). (Left: Alexander House, c. 1955. *Photo: Architecture and Design Collection, AD&A Museum, UCSB*)



**October 17—SAH/SCC Members’ Celebration**

The South Pasadena Public Library (Marsh & Russell, 1908, 1916, 1930) was the site of SAH/SCC’s Members’ Celebration, our annual opportunity to gather and thank our members for their gracious support. In addition to touring the Classical Revival building, members enjoyed a presentation by Chelsea Clark on “Where Old Meets New: The History, Art, and Architecture of South Pasadena and its Library.” (Left: South Pasadena Public Library. *Photo: Courtesy Creative Commons*)



**November 15—Presburger Reborn**

SAH/SCC Life Members and Patrons visited another Schindler home, the Presburger Residence (1945-47) in Studio City. An Historic Cultural Monument for the City of LA, the Presburger Residence is a small project, but one packed with story and ideas. (See President’s Letter on Page 2 for more.)



**December 6—‘A Photographer’s Journey:  
The Work of Pedro E. Guerrero’**

We rounded out the year with a viewing of the PBS documentary film “American Masters—Pedro E. Guerrero: A Photographer’s Journey” at SM Central Library. Guerrero is known for his photographs of artists Alexander Calder and Louise Nevelson, but mostly for chronicling Frank Lloyd Wright. SAH/SCC Member Emily Bills, who curated Guerrero’s last exhibition, provided personal insights into the artist’s work. (Left: Taliesin West, Frank Lloyd Wright, 1940. *Photo: Pedro E. Guerrero*)

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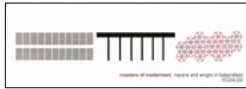
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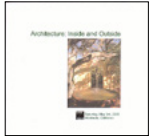
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**Masters of Modernism:** eight-page, two-color brochure featuring works of Richard Neutra and Frank Lloyd Wright in Bakersfield.



\_\_\_\_\_ at \$3 each

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



\_\_\_\_\_ at \$3 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 \$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.



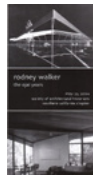
\_\_\_\_\_ at \$8 each

**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.



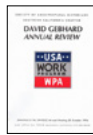
\_\_\_\_\_ at \$2 each

**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.



\_\_\_\_\_ at \$4 each

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

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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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_____ Student membership at \$30 each	= \$ _____
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### Marina Tower—January 23, 2016

_____ SAH/SCC member ticket(s) at \$25 each =	\$ _____
_____ non- member ticket(s) at \$35 each =	\$ _____

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 All event ticket sales are final. We are sorry, refunds cannot be accommodated.  
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## Authors on Architecture: Lilian Rice

### SAH/SCC Lecture & Book Signing Sunday, April 17, 2016, 2-4PM, Pasadena

Architect to some of the nation's wealthiest achievers in the first half of the 20th century, Lilian Rice has posthumously become a controversial figure. A woman in a man's world, she was given an unprecedented opportunity in 1923 when her employer asked her to oversee the design of Rancho Santa Fe, a master-planned community catering to the rich and famous.

In recent years, critics have depicted her as deceptive, leading her clients in Rancho Santa Fe to believe she was a licensed architect to gain their trust and lucrative commissions. Did Rice misrepresent herself on her way to architectural fame, or is she being unfairly labeled to discredit and devalue the work? Author Diane Welch's new book, *Lilian Rice: Master Architect* (Schiffer, 2015), uncovers the truth about the obscure architect, introduces her clients that include some of Hollywood's brightest stars, and tells of the exciting times in which she lived.

Join SAH/SCC in the Donald R. Wright Auditorium at the Pasadena Central Library (Myron Hunt and H.C. Chambers, 1927) for a lecture and book signing by the author. Welch, an award-winning journalist and best-selling author based in Solana Beach, previously penned *Lilian J. Rice: Master Architect of Rancho Santa Fe*, a first-place winner in the San Diego Book Awards for Biography in 2011.

*Authors on Architecture: Rice*—Sunday, April 17, 2016; 2-4PM; Pasadena Central Library, 285 East Walnut St., Pasadena; free; seating is available on a first-come, first-served basis. Lecture attendees must park in the free University of Phoenix lot at 299 Euclid Avenue (enter on Garfield); the Library parking lot is reserved for patrons only. Violators will be cited. This program is not sponsored by the Pasadena Public Library.

