



Eames House, Pacific Palisades (Charles and Ray Eames, 1949).
Photo: Francois Dischinger/Herman Miller, Inc.

IN THIS ISSUE

Michigan Modern	1
President's Letter	2
Authors on Architecture: Buckner	4
SAH/SCC Publications for Sale	5
Photo Quiz!	6

Authors on Architecture: Michigan Modern

SAH/SCC Panel & Book Signing, Culver City
Saturday, September 23, 2017, 2-4PM

SAH/SCC will take a virtual trip to the Midwest to explore the Great Lakes State's contributions to design and architecture, hosted by the Herman Miller showroom (Lynch/Eisinger/Design, 2009) in Culver City. Brian D. Conway, Michigan's State Historic Preservation Officer, and Amy L. Arnold, Preservation Planner for the Michigan State Historic Preservation Office, will be joined by contributing authors Alan Hess and SAH/SCC Member Emily Bills for a tour of Michigan's contributions to modern design in architecture, automobiles, furniture, and education. Their new book, *Michigan Modern: Design That Shaped America* (Gibbs Smith, 2016), will be available for sale and signing.



From a July 1961 *Playboy* article titled "Designs for Living," featuring significant designers and their signature work, including (left to right) George Nelson, Edward Wormley, Eero Saarinen, Harry Bertoia, Charles Eames, and Jens Risom. Photo: Marvin Koner/Marvin Koner Archive

And what could be a more perfect setting? At the Herman Miller showroom, we will be surrounded by iconic furniture designs from mid-century, as well as contemporary products that show that the spirit of good design is still alive and well in Zeeland, MI.

A lushly illustrated tome, *Michigan Modern* begins with the state's role in modernism's development, with the acknowledgment that "the synergy of industry, prosperity, and educational leadership in Michigan produced and attracted some of the most important Modern architects and designers of the twentieth century." The book heralds both the designers and the designs, and duly acknowledges



edited by AMY L. ARNOLD and BRIAN D. CONWAY

the classic American businesses that helped spur the innovations. Southern California plays its part, the authors note, with General Motors' head of design, Harley Earl, hailing from Los Angeles, and the Eames House's use of pre-fab steel joists developed in Albert Kahn's Detroit office.

Turn to Page 3 for more info on the panelists.
Authors on Architecture: Michigan Modern—Saturday, September 23, 2017; 2-4PM; Herman Miller, 3641 Holdrege Ave., LA; free; registration strongly requested—call 800.972.4722, email info@sahscc.org or go to www.sahscc.org.

SAH/SCC President's Letter

It doesn't take a message delivered by an Amazon drone to realize the retail industry is undergoing a seismic shift. The *Los Angeles Times* reported that in the first three months of 2017, nearly 3,000 stores closed in the U.S.—and took 60,600 retail jobs along with them.

A recent drive along Main Street North in Jacksonville, FL—similar to Lincoln Boulevard, here—exposed the sad tale. Shopping centers formerly anchored by large supermarkets lie fallow with few occupied storefronts. One closed shopping center suffered the same fate that I've witnessed in the Inland Empire: transformation into a social services center. Since social services centers do not require display windows, these transformations include removal or enclosure of the large expanses of glass in these modern-style buildings. The result is an expressionless bunker, which is exactly what you don't need to encounter when you are seeking social services.

The exercise, however, made me ask: as retail makes this transition, what will happen to all of our suburban shopping centers? These large, single-owner parcels surrounded by residential neighborhoods are destined to be

purchased by developers and turned into high-density mixed-use residential projects. I can already think of one large block on Santa Monica Boulevard in West Los Angeles that has suffered this fate. Commercial strips, which might require negotiation with multiple property owners, may be less likely to suffer this fate.

While it may be hard to get nostalgic for the supermarket shopping center, it is a feature that feels uniquely Californian—a reflection of the suburban idyll and love affair with the automobile. How many of these centers used to also have some form of a drive-in kiosk? Say a Fotomat, where you could pick up your vacation photos? Oh, I guess we haven't needed those for more than a decade now. Or, how about a glassed-in donut shop displaying a wide array of tantalizing morsels?

As architectural historians, it behooves us to observe a built environment that is facing more rapid changes presently than during the industrial revolution to see what is worth documenting and celebrating.

I'll contemplate that some more—right after the drone delivers my donuts.

—Sian Winship



Photo: Fotomat.com

Tour and Event Information:

1.800.972.4722

info@sahscc.org



SOCIETY OF ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIANS
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAPTER

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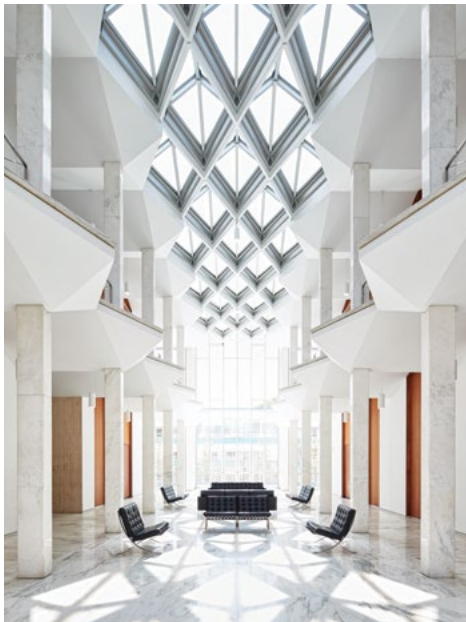
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Questions: Call 800.9SAHSCC.

Meet the Michigan Modern Team

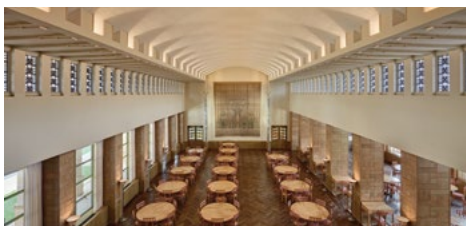
Join this stellar group of experts at **Authors on Architecture on September 23, 2017.**

Brian D. Conway was appointed Michigan's state historic preservation officer in 1997. Trained as an architect, he has been involved with historic preservation and the rehabilitation of historic buildings throughout the state since 1980. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Michigan's Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning (Ann Arbor, MI) and a master of architecture degree from the University of Florida (Gainesville, FL). He served on the board of the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers and is an adjunct professor in the historic preservation graduate program at Eastern Michigan University (Ypsilanti, MI).



McGregor Memorial Conference Center, Wayne State University, Detroit (Minoru Yamasaki & Associates, 1958).
Photo: James Haefner/Michigan State Historic Preservation Office.

Amy L. Arnold is the preservation planner for the Michigan State Historic Preservation Office. She earned her bachelor's degree in history from Western Michigan University (Kalamazoo, MI) and studied at Duke University (Durham, NC), before returning to Michigan to obtain her master's degree in historic preservation from Eastern Michigan University (Ypsilanti, MI). She has served as the project manager for The Michigan Modern Project, which documents and promotes Michigan's architectural heritage from 1940 to 1970, since its inception in 2008.



Kingswood Dining Hall, Cranbrook Educational Community, Bloomfield Hills (Eliel Saarinen, 1931).
Photo: James Haefner/Michigan State Historic Preservation Office



Meyer May House, Grand Rapids (Frank Lloyd Wright, 1908).
Photo: Tyler Merkel/©2016 Mid-Century Michigan

Emily Bills received her PhD in the history of architecture and urban planning from the Institute of Fine Arts at New York University (New York City). She holds dual positions as coordinator of the Urban Studies Program in the College of Transdisciplinarity and managing director of the Julius Shulman Institute in the School of Architecture at Woodbury University (Burbank, CA). Her work on telephone infrastructure and the development of Los Angeles received a Graham Foundation Carter Manny Award Citation of Special Recognition. She's also received fellowship and grant support from the Smithsonian, the American Council of Learned Societies, the Huntington Library, and the Society of Architectural Historians. Recent curatorial projects include "Pedro E. Guerrero: Photographs of Modern Life," "Catherine Opie: In & Around L.A.," and "Richard Barnes: Unnatural Spaces." She writes on the history of photography, urban infrastructure, and modern architecture.



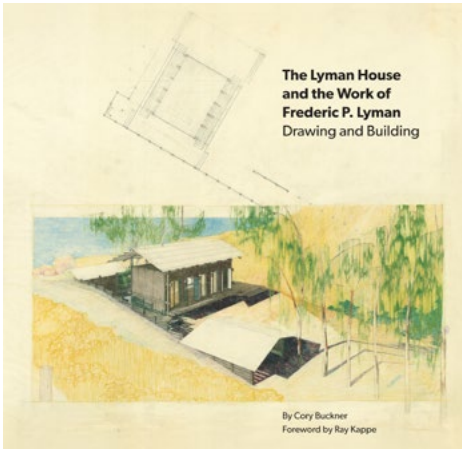
Styling (Design) Building, General Motors Technical Center, Warren (Eero Saarinen and Associates, 1956).
Photo: James Haefner/Michigan State Historic Preservation Office

Alan Hess, architect and historian, is the architecture critic of the *San Jose Mercury News*. Hess has written monographs on architects Oscar Niemeyer, Frank Lloyd Wright, and John Lautner, as well as architectural histories of Las Vegas and Palm Springs. His latest book is *Frank Lloyd Wright: Natural Design, Organic Architecture* (Rizzoli, 2012). Among Hess' 20 books on mid-century modern architecture and urbanism are *Googie Redux: Ultramodern Roadside Architecture* (Chronicle, 2004), *Forgotten Modern* (Gibbs Smith, 2007), and *The Ranch House* (Abrams, 2005). He is currently researching the 1960s and 1970s architecture of Irvine, CA, one of the largest U.S. master-planned communities. Hess was a National Arts Journalism Program fellow at Columbia University's Graduate School of Journalism (New York City), and received a grant from the Graham Foundation. Active in the preservation of post-World War II architecture, he has qualified several significant mid-century modern buildings for the National Register of Historic Places, including the oldest McDonald's drive-in restaurant.

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Authors on Architecture: Buckner on Lyman

**SAH/SCC Talk & Book Signing, Santa Monica
Saturday, July 8, 2017, 1-3PM**

Please join SAH/SCC and the Santa Monica Public Library (Moore Ruble Yudell, 2006) as we celebrate the work of architect Frederic P. Lyman, FAIA (1927-2005). SAH/SCC member Cory Buckner will discuss the little-known work of this inventive and skilled architect who practiced in Los Angeles during the 1960s and 1970s. The work is detailed in Buckner's new book, *The Lyman House and the Work of Frederic P. Lyman* (Crestwood Hills Press, 2017).

After receiving his M.Arch from Yale University, Lyman returned to California where he purchased a lot in Malibu and built his iconic residence. Buckner's presentation will feature a treasure trove of Lyman's perspective drawings—all carefully rendered in colored pencil. Lyman's use of color is abstract rather than naturalistic, and the viewer feels the grain of wood and weight of the rocks in his compositions.

An architect as well as an author, Buckner is well known for her books *Crestwood Hills: The Chronicle of a Modern Utopia* (Angel City Press, 2015) and *A. Quincy Jones* (Phaidon, 2002). She has also written for *LA Architect*, *The Los Angeles Times*, *Dwell*, *Metropolitan Home*, and many other publications.

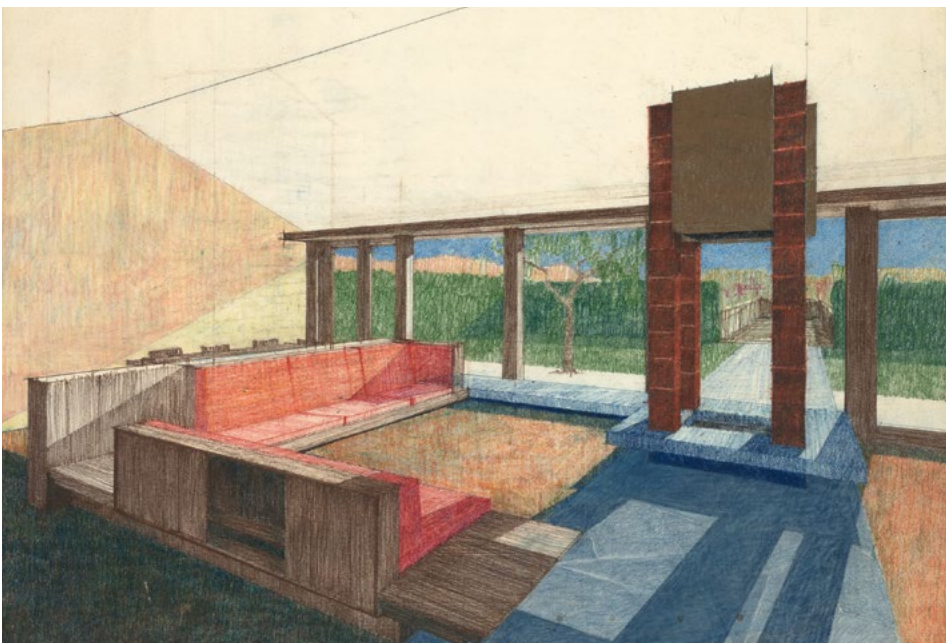
Buckner knew Lyman personally. "During my first year at what is now CalArts, I met Frederic P. Lyman," writes Buckner. "He was to become the major influence of my life introducing me to classic literature, Wagner, and architecture. I changed my focus from art to architecture two years after graduating and apprenticed with Lyman in order to get my license." *The Lyman House and the Work of Frederic P. Lyman* will be available for sale and signing by the author.

*Authors on Architecture: Buckner on Lyman—
Saturday July 8, 2017; 1-3PM; Santa Monica
Central Library; 601 Santa Monica Blvd.; free;
seating is available on a first-come, first-served
basis; 310.458.8600.*



The Lyman House, 1960.

Photo: Marvin Rand



Interior of Park Hill Estates, 1961.

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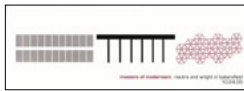
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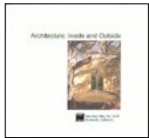
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_____ at \$5 each

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.



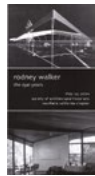
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Space and Learning: eight-page, four-color brochure on the historical and contemporary legacy of LA school architecture, featuring projects by Richard Neutra, Thom Mayne, Rios Clementi Hale Studios, and others.



_____ 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.



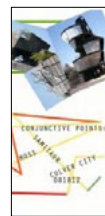
_____ at \$4 each

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.



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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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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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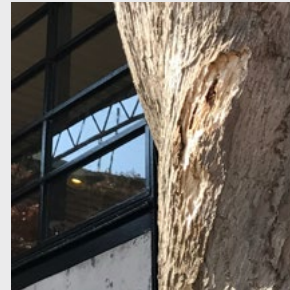
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All event ticket sales are final. We are sorry, refunds cannot be accommodated.

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'God Is in the Details' Architecture Quiz

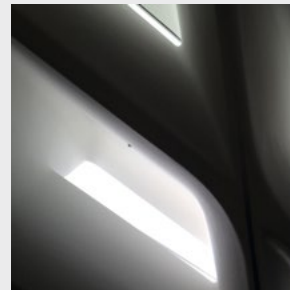
Test your belief in Mies' credo and see if you can identify the architects and structures detailed here. Dates of the buildings are included. Hint: they are all in Southern California. (Answers will appear in next issue.)



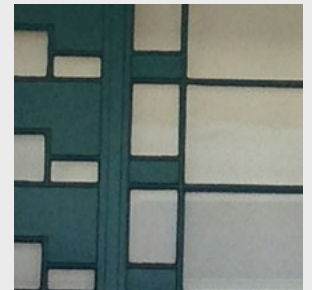
1949



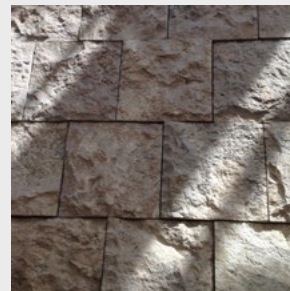
1924



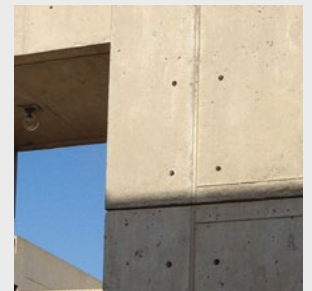
2015



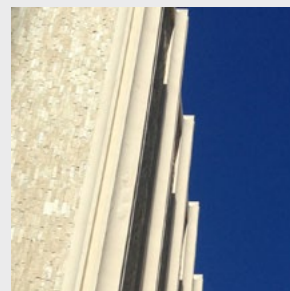
1929



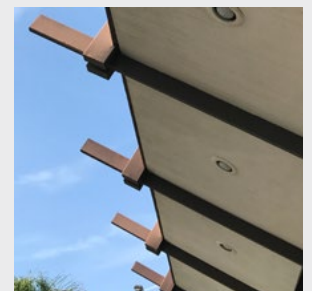
1997



1963



1964



1958

Photos: Julie D. Taylor