



Southern California Music Company / Singer Building

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# DTLA Adaptive Reuse Hard-Hat Tour

**SAH/SCC Tour, Los Angeles**  
**Saturday, March 23, 2019, 9:30-11:30 AM**

SAH/SCC is excited to offer an exclusive hard-hat tour in the historic core of Downtown Los Angeles. Participants will go behind the façades of the Broadway Trade Center and the Singer Building to get a peek at two adaptive reuse projects by Omgivning Architects. Along with partner Chattel Associates, the architects will provide history on the buildings and insight into the renovations and how their future use will transform the corner of 8th Street and Broadway.

The Singer Building (Meyer and Holler, 1922) is an eight-story, Beaux-Arts structure originally occupied by the Southern California Music Company, which sold musical instruments and hosted concerts by international musicians in the top-floor auditorium. Later, the building became a warehouse for the Singer sewing machine company, as noted in the painted signage still visible on the northern side of the building.

Six live/work lofts and new ground-floor retail will bring it back to life. Restoration of the façade adheres to the Broadway Historic District Guidelines, while interior renovations will bring the building up to code for seismic strengthening and residential use. New interventions allowing for modern use of live/work spaces complement the existing original elements.

The 10-story, Beaux-Arts Broadway Trade Center, formerly known as Hamburger's Department Store (Rosenheim & Curlett, 1906), consists of more than 1 million square feet as a result of three additions in its lifetime. Its use as a department store transitioned in the 1980s and the building has been underutilized through the past decade. The building will be revitalized as a mixed-use complex and become a signature landmark again to the historic core.

Components of the future project include creative offices, hotel, retail, restaurants, and a food hall, as well as significant rooftop amenities. The historic elements became a central generator for the design as the project strategically coordinated elements for the building reuse.



Before and after: 801 Broadway historically (above), and as envisioned by Omgivning Architects (below)



Join us for a walking tour of these two signature buildings and projects that will contribute to the revitalized historic core of Downtown Los Angeles.

**NOTE:** As these projects are active construction sites, hard-soled closed-toe shoes (such as hiking boots or construction boots) will be required; hard hats will be provided for all attendees. We regret that this tour is not suited for those with difficulties walking or standing.

*DTLA Adaptive Reuse Hard Hat Tour: Saturday, March 23, 2019; 9:30-11:30AM; Broadway Trade Center, 801 S. Broadway; \$35 each for SAH/SCC members; \$45 for non-members; space is limited; registration—see order form on Page 6, call 800.972.4722, go to [www.sahscc.org](http://www.sahscc.org), or email [info@sahscc.org](mailto:info@sahscc.org).*



Singer Building residential adaptive reuse.

Images: courtesy Omgivning Architects

# SAH/SCC President's Letter

## Farewell John Blanton and Gene Leedy

Over the holidays SAH/SCC lost two dear friends of the organization. Southern California architect John Blanton, AIA (1928-2018), and Florida-based Gene Leedy, FAIA (1928-2018). Blanton was a Life Member of the organization, frequent attendee at events and tours, and a periodic contributor/writer to the *SAH/SCC News*. Leedy's work was celebrated during the 2001 SAH/SCC travel tour "On Parallel Lines: The Sarasota School and the Case Study House Movement."

John Arthur Blanton was born and raised in Houston, earning a B.S. in architecture and a B.A. from Rice University, both in the late 1940s. For years he worked in the office of Richard Neutra, FAIA, becoming a lead project architect in the office. Although his work in Neutra's office was interrupted by service in the U.S. Army from 1951 to 1952, his tenure at the firm spans what Neutra scholar and author Barbara Lamprecht, PhD, refers to as the "Golden Era" of Neutra's residential architecture. In 1964, Blanton established his own practice. Blanton has won local and national awards for his work and his projects were widely published. Like his mentor, Blanton enjoyed writing as part of an active dialogue on architecture and ideas. He often wrote book reviews in the *AIA Journal* and maintained a newspaper column, "Better Buildings," for many years. He retired in 2012 and moved to Northern California to be closer to family. His plans and drawings are now held in Special Collections at UCLA.

Gene Leedy was born and raised in Florida. After military service during World War II, Leedy attended the University of Florida, where he earned an Associate of Arts in 1947 and Bachelor of Architecture in 1950. Similar to Blanton, Leedy worked in the office of another modern master architect, Paul Rudolph, FAIA. In 1955, Leedy established his own practice in Winter Haven, FL. His numerous awards include honors from the American Institute of Architects, Florida

Association of Architects, and *Architectural Record*. He was widely published in the architectural trade and home magazines. Leedy designed hundreds of buildings throughout the state of Florida, but he is best remembered for his neighborhood of elegant post-and-beam houses in Winter Haven. In his later years he became fascinated with the structural and design opportunities presented by the pre-fabricated concrete double-T.

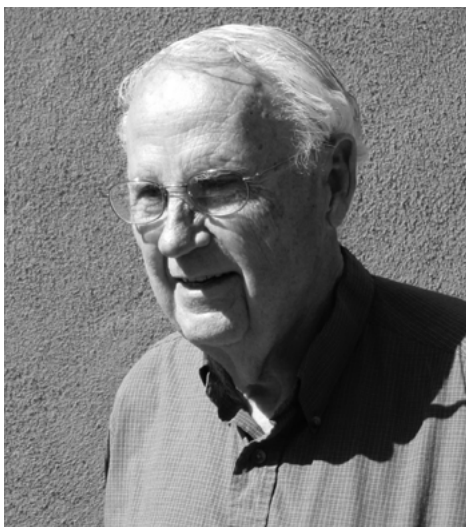
In support of his nomination for AIA Fellowship, Rudolph wrote a letter of recommendation acknowledging Leedy's "interest in the psychology of space and the appropriateness of that space to human use is obviously deeply felt and leads to the poetic aspect of his work. This understanding of use of space is in short supply today and should be celebrated when found in such splendid works."

Rudolph was writing about Leedy, but he might as well have been writing about Blanton as well. The work of both men shared an honesty, clarity, and artful problem solving that was grounded in ideas about architecture and its effect on the human condition. I fondly remember spending, as guests in one another's homes, long hours talking with both of these architects about the ideas behind good architecture within the spaces they created. Truly one of the highlights of my life was driving through the neighborhoods of Winter Haven with Gene Leedy behind the wheel, martini on the dashboard, as he pointed out his work. I thought I might die during this experience, but quickly recognized there were few better ways to go.

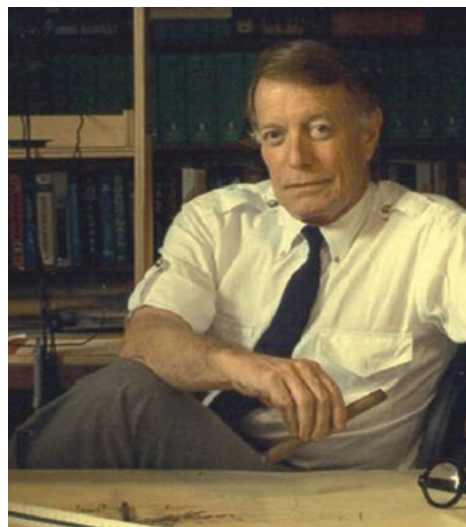
I will miss both John Blanton and Gene Leedy profoundly. Not only as my friends but as members of a dwindling generation of architects who chose to reflect the optimism of what society and humanity *could be*, rather than reflect the chaos and dystopia of some realities.

Please drink a toast to these exceptional men and the built legacies they left behind. Cheers!

—Sian Winship



John Blanton, AIA.  
Photo: Raymond Neutra




Gene Leedy, FAIA

### Tour and Event Information:

ph: 1.800.972.4722 e:info@sahscc.org

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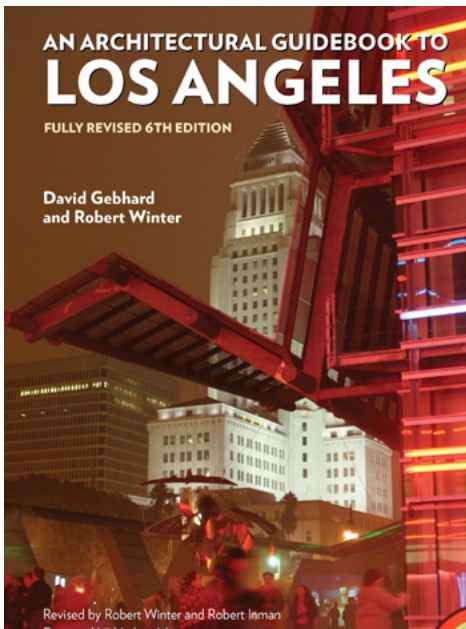
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Questions: Call 800.9SAHSCC.





# Authors on Architecture: Inman on the LA Guidebook

**SAH/SCC Lecture & Book Signing  
Sunday, March 3, 2019, 2-4PM**

Join SAH/SCC and Glendale's Brand Library & Art Center as we look at the latest incarnation of the seminal Gebhard and Winter guide to architecture. The sixth edition of *An Architectural Guidebook to Los Angeles* (Angel City Press, 2018) has been fully revised by the late Robert W. Winter and Robert Inman. At this event, Inman will lecture about the guide and its new additions—as well as working alongside the legendary Dr. Winter—at a location featured

within its revered pages: the Brand Library & Arts Center in Glendale (Page 342 in the *Guidebook*).

*An Architectural Guidebook to Los Angeles*, hailed by many as the “Bible of built LA,” explores the manmade structures, gardens, parks, and other physical features of Los Angeles. With singular wit and brio, the authors artfully steer readers through all regions and styles, from the missions to projects completed in 2017. It now contains 96 sections organized in 13 geographic chapters.

Inman, author of *A Guide to the Public Stairways of Los Angeles* (2008) and *Finding Los Angeles by Foot: Stairstreet, Bridge, Pathway, and Lane* (2013), will talk about the new finds in the guide and his collaboration with Dr. Winter, co-author of the original guides with architectural historian David S. Gebhard (1927-1996). (See Page 4 for more on Dr. Winter.)

Glendale's Brand Library & Art Center was designed by Nathaniel Dryden in 1904 as El Miradero, the home of energy magnate Leslie C. Brand. Modeled after the East Indian pavilion at the World's Columbian Exposition of 1893 in Chicago, this exotic—now iconic—landmark is one of the more fascinating structures in Southern California. It was recently restored by Debra Gerod, FAIA, Partner at Gruen Associates, in close collaboration with preservation architect Fran Offenhauser, Principal of Offenhauser/Mekeel Architects.

Whether you own all six previous versions, or the guide is new to you, this event is sure to inspire every architecture lover. After the presentation at the Brand Library, the book will be available for sale and signing by the author.

*Authors on Architecture: Inman on the LA Guidebook—Sunday, March 3, 2019; 2-4PM; free: Brand Library & Art Center, 1601 West Mountain St., Glendale; 818.548.2051; seating is available on a first-come, first-served basis.*



On November 20, 2018, Dr. Winter saw the first copies of the sixth edition of his legendary *Guidebook*.  
Photo: courtesy Robert Inman

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# The End of an Era

## Hail and Farewell to Dr. Robert W. Winter

Robert W. Winter, whom I first met at UCLA in 1962, passed away on February 9, 2019. He will be missed by all of us. We've titled this set of tributes "The End of an Era," but, more accurately, this is an era that Bob launched, and it will last long after his passing. Bob Winter, more than anyone else, brought Southern California's noteworthy architectural heritage into the spotlight, taught us to understand and appreciate it, and pestered us to preserve it. As an academic, first at UCLA then at Occidental, he guided three generations of students into the field of architectural history. He reached the wider public as one of the founders of the Southern California Chapter of the Society of Architectural Historians, in public talks and tours, through his support of local museums, and especially as the co-author (with David Gebhard) of six editions of the variously titled guidebook to the architecture of Los Angeles. He inspired an Era of Appreciation for Los Angeles-area architecture that is still young and thriving. We'll miss Bob, but his influence is firmly in place.

*Merry Ovnick, Past President of SAH/SCC, Editor of Southern California Quarterly, Professor of History Emerita at CSUN*

Bungalow Bob, as he was affectionately known by many, particularly after the publication of his book *The California Bungalow*, was not shy about playing to an audience with his populist humor. His sense of humor was among his many great gifts, along with the ability not to care what anyone thought of him as long as he got important points across about architecture, great and small. He wanted us to know that architectural history could be fun, as well as an important way to understand culture and society. At the same time, Bob didn't want us to take architecture too seriously. He knew that buildings were ultimately the product of flawed human beings, some of whom sincerely hoped their designs for living would provoke an honest emotional response. Bob's scholarly knowledge was prodigious, but it was his humor, and its humanity, that made us care about his love of the built world. Let us now celebrate and miss Bob Winter, and feel the privilege of having had him among us.

*Ted Bosley, former Director of The Gamble House*

I can barely remember a time before Dr. Winter's *Guide*. I was eight when he and David Gebhard published the first one in 1965. I have had—and still have—every edition since. When I began to restore houses, I took the plunge of knocking on Dr. Winter's door to meet him. I was scared to death! After all, Dr. Winter was the Rolling Stones, Bob Dylan, and Eric Clapton of architectural history all in one guy. He was very happy to open his door, show me his Batchelder home, the small ADU where Batchelder died, and to talk to this young odd person for hours about architecture. Over many years, even when I would just pop in to say hi, Dr. Winter seemed to enjoy having a visitor and was gracious to a fault. We were blessed to have him and his loss to architecture, and to Pasadena in particular, is immeasurable.

*Steve Lamb, Principal of Steven S. Lamb, Residential Designs*

There are not many people in our community who influenced so many for so long. Bob's reach extended to students, activists, decisionmakers, and the public through his lectures, public service, and publications. That reach was an embrace, a comfort that he would know the answer to a question, and unfailingly have an opinion. I will miss his wise counsel, his humor, his hospitality, and his friendship.

*Christy McAvoy, Founding Principal of Historic Resources Group*

There is never a good time, but it was fitting that, as I learned of Dr. Winter's passing, I was engaged in something that I will always associate back to him. I had more than 60 participants on a walk that I led up the Arroyo Seco from Heritage Square to Pasadena. We visited the Lummis House. We passed hundreds of lovely bungalows, including one that Bob wrote of in the *Guide* that was "a marvelous misinterpretation of Vitruvius on a small scale."

I stopped the group and delivered the sad news in front of Irving Gill's Miltimore House on South Pasadena's Chelton Way. That is a street that Bob described in the *Guide* as having "many live oaks being saved by curving the streets around them, a perverse twist dear to the hearts of ecologists, old and young."

Bob leaves behind a gigantic assembly of friends and fans who have special personal memories of their time with him. We have lost a great man.

*Bob Inman, author, tour guide*

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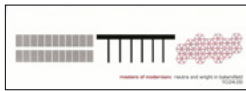
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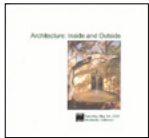
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**Masters of Modernism:** eight-page, two-color brochure featuring works of Richard Neutra and Frank Lloyd Wright in Bakersfield.



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



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**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.



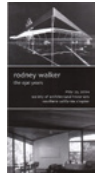
\_\_\_\_\_ at \$8 each

**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.



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**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.



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**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.



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

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## SAH/SCC EVENT TICKETS

### DTLA Tour—March 23, 2019

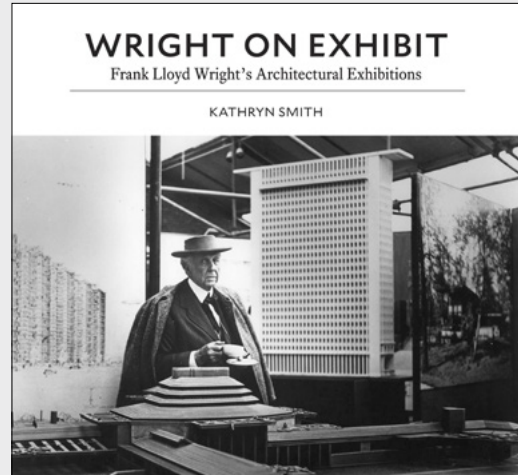
\_\_\_\_\_ SAH/SCC member ticket(s) at \$35 each = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

LIMIT: 2 TICKETS AT MEMBER PRICE

\_\_\_\_\_ non-member ticket(s) at \$45 each = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

check enclosed (Make checks payable to SAH/SCC)

charge my credit card:  VISA  MC



## Authors on Architecture: Smith on Wright

### SAH/SCC Lecture & Book Signing, Santa Monica Sunday, March 17, 2019, 2-4PM

Join SAH/SCC as we explore a fascinating aspect of the legacy of Frank Lloyd Wright, FAIA. Author Kathryn Smith will deliver a lecture on her latest book, *Wright on Exhibit* (Princeton University Press, 2017), at Santa Monica Public Library (Moore Ruble Yudell, 2006).

More than 100 exhibitions of Frank Lloyd Wright's work were mounted between 1894 and his death in 1959. Wright organized the majority of these exhibitions himself and viewed them as crucial to his self-presentation, as he did his extensive writings. He used them to promote his designs, appeal to new viewers, and persuade his detractors. *Wright on Exhibit* presents the first history of this neglected aspect of the architect's influential career.

Drawing extensively from Wright's unpublished correspondence, Smith shows how Wright was an artist-architect projecting an avant-garde program, an innovator who expanded the palette of installation design as technology evolved, and a social activist driven to revolutionize society through design.

Smith—an architectural historian who specializes in all things Wright—is the author of *Frank Lloyd Wright—Hollyhock House and Olive Hill* (Rizzoli, 1992), *Frank Lloyd Wright's Taliesin and Taliesin West* (Harry N. Abrams, 1997), and *Frank Lloyd Wright: American Master* (Rizzoli 2009), among others. *Wright on Exhibit* will be available for sale and signing by the author.

*Authors on Architecture: Smith on Wright; Sunday, March 17, 2019; 2-4PM; Martin Luther King Jr. Auditorium, Santa Monica Central Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd.; 310.458.8600; free; seating is available on a first-come, first-served basis.*