



Interior detail. Photo:
Julie D. Taylor, Hon. AIA

IN THIS ISSUE

At Home With PRW	1
Goodbye to Hines	2
Hello to Sklarek	3
Around the World	4
Meet the Vanguard	6

Paul R. Williams at Home

SAH/SCC Members Celebration
Saturday, October 10, 2026, 10 AM to 12 PM

SAH/SCC will celebrate you—our members—at a special behind-the-scenes look at the house that Paul Revere Williams, FAIA, called home. This was not a house he designed for his family, but a modest 1905 Craftsman bungalow in South Los Angeles where Williams (1894-1980) lived for the first 30 years of his career. Because he was Black, racial covenants prohibited him from moving to a neighborhood of his choosing, even as his reputation and wealth grew as the premier architect for LA's wealthy elite.

As Williams wrote in his 1937 essay "I am a Negro," published in *American Magazine*: "Today I sketched the preliminary plans for a large country house which will be erected in one of the most beautiful residential districts in the world... Sometimes I have dreamed of living there. I could afford such a home. But this evening...I returned to my own small, inexpensive home...in a comparatively undesirable section of Los Angeles. Dreams cannot alter facts; I know...I must always live in that locality, or in another like it, because...I am a Negro."

In 1951, with racial covenants recently abolished nationwide, the Williams family finally moved to a new house he designed in a formerly restricted neighborhood, leaving the bungalow behind.

Located a few blocks from USC in LA's Exposition Park neighborhood, the house was subsequently besieged by time, weather, and deferred maintenance for 70 years until it was placed on the market as a development site for student housing in 2021. Local residents and historic preservationists, aware of the house's provenance, alerted the LA Conservancy and other organizations, which led to the house becoming a Los Angeles Historic-Cultural Monument in 2022. While the designation protected the house from demolition, it remained uninhabitable and in desperate need of rehabilitation.



The 1905 bungalow in process of renovation by KFA Architecture.

John Arnold, AIA, a partner at KFA Architecture and longtime local resident, purchased the house in 2023 because he felt "the house has a significant story to tell." Arnold is renovating the home and rear accessory building, which was designed by Williams and known as the "Playhouse," as a living document of the Williams family. John will tour us through the renovation (some of which is still in progress) and relay the planned future for the home. As always, our Members Celebration will include time to catch up with old friends, get updated on SAH/SCC business, and have a worthwhile experience in an unforgettable place.



Photo from 1939 shows guests at dinner party in front of the "Playroom".



Paul R. Williams, FAIA, in front of fireplace that still exists.



Fireplace detail today.
Photo: Julie D. Taylor,
Hon. AIA



John Arnold, AIA



The Playroom when purchased in 2023.

SAH/SCC Members Celebration—
Saturday, October 10, 2026;
10 AM-12 PM; Exposition Park.
Advanced tickets required; free for current SAH/SCC Members (RSVP to info@sahscc.org); \$55 for non-members (includes one-year membership). Address sent upon registration. Go to www.sahscc.org, and pay via PayPal or mail in order form on Page 6 with check.

SAH/SCC President's Letter

It is with great sadness that we report the passing of author and architectural historian Thomas S. Hines (1936-2026). Hines was perhaps best known for his seminal work, *Richard Neutra and the Search for Modern Architecture* (Oxford University Press, 1982). His importance to the world of architectural history was well known and evidenced by the recent obituary in the *New York Times*.

Hines was born in Mississippi and educated in the Midwest, but it was in Southern California that he felt and made the greatest impact. As a young academic, he settled in at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), where he taught architectural history and influenced a generation of historians, architects, and preservationists.

The first time I heard Hines speak was at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA). The topic was Rudolph Schindler (1887-1952) and Richard Neutra, FAIA (1892-1970). The charismatic Hines made the topic come alive and his affection for the two modernists was evident. SAH/SCC members may remember Hines' lecture on Irving Gill (1870-1936) for our tour, using his book *Irving Gill and the Architecture of Reform* (The Monacelli Press, 2000) as the touchstone for the keynote engagement.

Hines also authored *Architecture of the Sun: Los Angeles Modernism 1900-1970* (Rizzoli, 2010). In that book, he coined the term "mineshaft modern" to describe the late regional Modernism of Sea Ranch and revealed his preference for the rigorous designs of modernists, such as Neutra. (Read SAH/SCC Member Barbara Lamprecht's review in [SAH/SCC News](#).)

In recent years, Hines could regularly be found in the reading areas of the Getty Research Institute library, surrounded by the greatest texts in the world—curious until the very end. Included in those texts were his very own contributions to legitimizing and celebrating a distinctive Southern California Modernism that long played second fiddle to the buildings of Europe and the east coast.

Hines will be missed. His scholarship and his legacy will live long after him.

—Sian Winship



Thomas S. Hines (1936-2026)

Photo: Dan Chavkin

Authors on Architecture: Trafton on LA & Film

SAH/SCC In-Person & Zoom Program
Sunday, October 4, 2026, 1-2:30 PM Pacific

SAH/SCC is delighted to welcome back John Trafton for his follow-up book, *Los Angeles and Film* (Bloomsbury Academic, 2026). Many of you will remember Trafton from his previous Authors on Architecture program for his book *Movie Made Los Angeles* (Wayne State University Press, 2023). In the first book, Trafton explored how Hollywood, an industry based on world-building, was the product of the unique iconography, architecture, and art forms in the land of sunshine. (Order the video [here](#).) The new work expands this investigation across the 20th century, exploring the reciprocal relationship between Los Angeles and cinema through architecture, visual art, popular music, theme parks, and the city's diverse filmmaking traditions.

As Charlie Keil, Professor at Cinema Studies Institute, Department of History, University of Toronto, has said, "Studying both films and what he terms 'cinema-adjacent art forms,' including architecture and fine art, but also popular music and theme parks, Trafton deepens our appreciation of how a history of Los Angeles on film can also serve as a sociocultural study of American cinema in all of its diversity, from noir to the L.A. Rebellion, from disaster films to Chicano Cinema."

John Trafton

A native of Southern California, Trafton teaches film and media studies at Chapman University (Orange, CA) and Occidental College (Los Angeles). His research and public-facing work explore the intersections of cinema, history, architecture, visual culture, and the urban landscape. He is also co-host of the podcasts "Moving Histories" and "This Movie Saved My Life" and is a frequent invited speaker on film history and Los Angeles culture.

A dynamic and thoughtful presenter, Trafton is sure to engage audience members in his palpable love of all things Los Angeles, including his interest in the cinematic arts.

Authors on Architecture: Trafton on Los Angeles & Film—Sunday, October 4, 2026; 1-2:30 PM Pacific. In-person at Neutra Office Building, 2379 Glendale Blvd., LA, or virtually via Zoom. We regret that this venue is not ADA accessible. Tickets required, \$5. Go to www.sahscc.org, and pay via PayPal or mail in order form on Page 6 with check. Zoom link sent upon registration.

Tour and Event Information:

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SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAPTER

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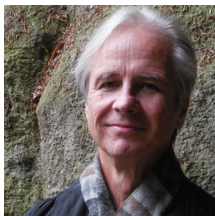
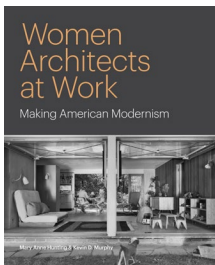
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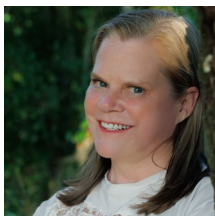
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Kevin D. Murphy



Mary Anne Hunting

Authors on Architecture: Women Architects at Work

SAH/SCC Zoom Program

Sunday, October 11, 2026, 1-2:30 PM Pacific

Join SAH/SCC for an afternoon with the two authors of *Women Architects at Work: Making American Modernism* (Princeton University Press, 2025), Mary Anne Hunting and Kevin D. Murphy, who will share their research.

In the decades preceding World War II, professional architecture schools enrolled increasing numbers of women, but career success did not come easily. The authors will describe how the Cambridge School of Architecture and Landscape Architecture in Massachusetts evolved for the professional education of women between 1916 and 1942. *Women Architects at Work*

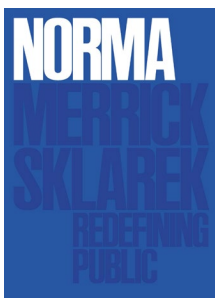
tells the stories of the resilient and resourceful women who surmounted barriers of sexism, racism, and classism to take on crucial roles in the establishment and growth of Modernism across the United States.

Hunting is an architectural historian and the author. Murphy is professor and chair in the Department of the History of Art and Architecture at Vanderbilt University (Nashville) and author of several books.

Authors on Architecture: Hunting & Murphy on Women Architects—Sunday, October 11, 2026; 1-2:30 PM Pacific. Tickets required, \$5. Go to www.sahscc.org, and pay via PayPal or mail in order form on Page 6 with check. Zoom link sent upon registration.



Women students making a model, perhaps at the Cambridge School of Architecture and Landscape Architecture in Cambridge, MA. Photo: Robert Tilton Coolidge



Norma Merrick Sklarek, FAIA



Mónica Ponce De León

Authors on Architecture: Ponce de León on Sklarek

SAH/SCC Zoom Program

Sunday, October 25, 2026, 1-2:30 PM Pacific

Join SAH/SCC as we continue to celebrate women in architecture as Mónica Ponce de León discusses her new book, *Norma Merrick Sklarek: Redefining Public* (Princeton University Press, 2026).

This is the first book about Norma Merrick Sklarek, FAIA (1926–2012), who was the first Black woman to be licensed as an architect in New York and California. Still too little recognized, Sklarek defied the notion of the genius architect and demonstrated the reality of how buildings come together: through constant collaboration. This groundbreaking monograph features original photographs, essays, interviews, and oral histories, as well as biographical information, architectural documentation, and a chronology of Sklarek's work.

Sklarek was a remarkable designer with a passion for large-scale projects, yet her impact on the field has remained mostly hidden, often revealed only in construction drawings and correspondence with clients and consultants. However, as an advocate, educator, and mentor, Sklarek provided a roadmap for women and people of color to obtain licensure, one that has influenced many designers practicing today.

Ponce de León is the dean at the School of Architecture at Princeton University. She is founding principal of MPdL Studio, with offices in Boston, Princeton, NJ, and Ann Arbor, MI.

Authors on Architecture: Ponce de León on Sklarek—Sunday, October 25, 2026; 1-2:30 PM Pacific via Zoom. Tickets required, \$5. Go to www.sahscc.org, and pay via PayPal or mail in order form on Page 6 with check. Zoom link sent upon registration.

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The Grand Tour

SAH/SCC In-Person & Zoom Program Saturday, October 31, 2026, 10 AM-12 PM Pacific

Join student participants in the Architecture Travel Program (Viaje de Arquitectura) from the Facultad de Arquitectura, Diseño y Urbanismo (FADU) at University of the Republic in Uruguay (UDELAR), Montevideo, as they share their adventures in architecture from around the world. It is an extensive journey undertaken by advanced architecture students, lasting approximately eight to nine months. The primary objective is to bridge theoretical classroom learning with direct spatial experience, allowing students to analyze firsthand masterpieces of classical and contemporary architecture, urban developments, and diverse sociocultural contexts across dozens of countries in Europe, Asia, and the Americas.



Students at Fallingwater, Mill Run, PA (Frank Lloyd Wright, FAIA, 1935).

"The Grand Tour" was the name given in the 18th century—during the Age of Enlightenment—to the journey to Italy increasingly undertaken first by the aristocracy and later by members of the upper-middle class. This destination was the "key with which you can decipher the secret of Europe," as stated in one of the guidebooks for what was later termed the European Tour.

Leading the Architecture Travel Program are Alvaro Marques and Andres Santin. Marques holds a Master's degree in the History and Culture of Architecture and the City from School of Urban Studies, Torcuato Di Tella University (UTDT), Buenos Aires, and is a doctoral candidate in Architecture at FADU-UDELAR. Santin is currently pursuing continuing education courses focused on research within architectural design and is a Grade 1 instructor for Design and Representation courses at the Taller Schelotto at FADU and for the introductory elective "Architecture and Light Design."

Hosted by the Neutra Institute for Survival Through Design, this event will take place at the historic Neutra Office Building (Richard J. Neutra, 1950) in Silver Lake. The Neutra Institute works to preserve and share the Neutra legacy while promoting new research, scholarship, and design that serve people and the planet.

This event is curated by SAH/SCC Board Member David Coffey, founder of Montevideo Modern, an annual celebration of modern architecture in Montevideo, Uruguay.

The Grand Tour—Saturday, October 31, 2026; 10 AM-12 PM Pacific. In-person at Neutra Office Building, 2379 Glendale Blvd., LA, or virtually via Zoom. We regret that this venue is not ADA accessible. Tickets required, \$5. Go to www.sahscc.org, and pay via PayPal or mail in order form on Page 6 with check. Zoom link sent upon registration.



Students at the Farnsworth House, Plano, IL (Mies van der Rohe, 1951).



Students at Johnson Wax Building, Racine, WI (Frank Lloyd Wright, FAIA, 1939).

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Architecture: Inside and Outside: 5"x5" folded color brochure featuring Santa Barbara's Lotusland, Casa del Herrero, and Val Verde. \$3

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

Designed for Learning: 11"x17" walking tour map and brochure of the University of California, Santa Barbara, campus. \$4

David Gebhard Review: essays on the Works Project Administration by Robert W. Winter, Orville O. Clarke, Jr., and Mitzi March Mogul. \$5

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

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

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

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

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

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. \$4

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

Meet Me At the Carousel: Large tri-fold brochure and docent scripts for self-guided tour of South Coast Plaza. \$5.

Modernism for the Masses: tri-fold brochure with inserts of detailed floor plans of Eichler homes visited on the Orange County tour. \$10

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

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. \$8

Union Station and MTA Transit Center: bi-fold map for a self-guided walking tour including historical facts and photos. \$2

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

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



■ **Gregory Ain:** Anthony Fontenot on *Notes From Another Los Angeles: Gregory Ain and the Construction of a Social Landscape*.

■ **Architectural Pottery:** Dan Chavkin, Jeffrey Head, and Jo Lauria on Mid-Century Modern designs.

■ **Architecture Unbound:** Joseph Giovannini on *Architecture Unbound: A Century of the Disruptive Avant-Garde*.

■ **Arts & Crafts:** Arnold Schwartzman on *Arts & Crafts: From William Morris to Frank Lloyd Wright*.

■ **Avatar:** Victoria Lautman discusses complex motion-capture technology with artists from the film.

■ **Bakersfield:** David Coffey on the city's hidden legacy of modern architecture.

■ **Reyner Banham:** Todd N. Gannon and Richard J. Williams discuss the writer of *Los Angeles: Architecture of Four Ecologies*.

■ **Behind the Iron Curtain:** John Ellis on visiting the Russian Constructivists and Alvar Aalto.

■ **Blueprints for Modern Living:** Victoria Lautman with Elizabeth A.T. Smith on the 1989 MOCA exhibition on Case Study Houses.

■ **Bowlarama:** Chris Nichols on *Bowlarama: The Architecture of Mid-Century Bowling*.

■ **Brains Meet Buildings:** Michael A. Arbib on the connection between neuroscience and architecture.

■ **Ella Briggs:** Despina Stratigakos on *Finding Ella Briggs: The Life and Work of an Unconventional Architect*.

■ **Brutalists:** Owen Hopkins on *The Brutalists: Brutalism's Best Architects*.

■ **Bunker Hill:** Nathan Marsak on LA's early residential neighborhood.

■ **Gordon Bunshaft:** Nicholas Adams on *Gordon Bunshaft and SOM: Building Corporate Modernism*.

■ **Robert Byrd:** Chris Lukather on the fairytale ranch houses designed by Byrd.

■ **California Capitol:** Dick Cowan, Wayne Donaldson, and Paula Peper on preserving California's Capitol building.

■ **California Eden:** Susan Chamberlin and Christine Edstrom on O'Hara on beautiful landscapes.

■ **California Living:** Michael Webb on *California Houses: Creativity in Context*.

■ **California Modernism:** Todd Cronan on *Nothing Permanent: Modern Architecture in California*.

■ **Church of the Epiphany:** Sian Winship and Escher GuneWardena on the oldest Episcopal church in LA.

■ **Elizabeth Scheu Close:** Author Jane King Hession on this little-known modern architect.

■ **William F. Cody:** Catherine Cody, Jo Lauria, and Don Choi on the Palm Springs architect.

■ **Common Ground:** Frances Anderton on multifamily housing in LA.

■ **Conservation:** Miguel Caballero on *The Monument of Tomorrow: Creative Conservation and the Spanish War*.

■ **Designing for Space:** Victoria Lautman with JPL's Krys Blackwood on the field of UX.

■ **Detroit/Moscow:** Christina E. Crawford and Claire Zimmerman compare and contrast.

■ **Disneyland:** Cindy Mediavilla and Kelsey Knox on *The Women Who Made Early Disneyland*.

■ **Driving Force:** Stephen Gee and Darryl Holter on *Driving Force: Automobiles and the New American City, 1900-1930*.

■ **Tony Duquette:** Victoria Lautman with Hutton Wilkinson on the Hollywood designer and artist.

■ **Harley Earl:** Richard Stanley on how Harley Earl invented the modern automotive design studio.

■ **Early LA:** Antonio Gonzalez on 15 early LA architects.

■ **Craig Ellwood:** Keith York shares his research on iconic designer Craig Ellwood.

■ **Leopold Fischer:** Volker M. Welter on *Exiled in L.A.: The Untold Story of Leopold Fischer's Domestic Architecture*.

■ **Freemasonry:** Victoria Lautman on the world of the Freemasons and their architectural imprint on LA.

■ **Buckminster Fuller:** Alec Nevala-Lee on the visionary life of "the inventor of the future."

■ **Germans in the Desert:** Luke Leuschner delivers the Merry Ovnick Fellowship Lecture: "Beyond Amerikanismus in the American Southwest, 1914-1934".

■ **Irving Gill:** Mark Hargreaves on Gill's sacred architecture in San Diego.

■ **Golden 1:** Rob Rothblatt on the story of Golden 1 Center in Sacramento, CA.

■ **Googie:** Michael Murphy and Alan Hess on the drawings of Googie masters Armet Davis Newlove.

■ **Elizabeth Gordon:** Monica Penick on the influential magazine editor.

■ **Grand Central Air Terminal:** John Berley on the renovation of LA's first commercial airport.

■ **Griffith Observatory:** Stuart Leslie on the architecture of an LA icon.

■ **Growing up Modern:** Julia Jamrozik and Coryn Kempster on *Growing up Modern: Childhoods In Iconic Homes*.

■ **Havana Modern:** Rubén Gallo and Miguel Caballero on *Havana Modern: Critical Readings in Cuban Architecture*.

■ **Hitchcock:** Christine Madrid French on *The Architecture of Suspense*.

■ **Jack Rogers Hopkins:** Jeffrey Head and Katie Nartonis on *California Design Maverick: Master Mid-Century Designer Craftsman*.

■ **Irvine Ranch:** C. Michael Stockstill and H. Pike Oliver on *Transforming the Irvine Ranch: Joan Irvine, William Pereira, Ray Watson, and the Big Plan*.

■ **Japanese Architecture:** Victoria Lautman with Takashi Yanai and Sian Winship on LA's Japanese architects.

■ **Kappe House:** A special trio, whose roots extend back over six decades, each representing an important segment of this SoCal architecture masterpiece.

■ **Hugh Kaptur:** Steve Keydon on the architect's work—with a guest appearance by Kaptur himself.

■ **Florence Knoll:** Ana Arujo on *No Compromise: The Work of Florence Knoll*.

■ **A. Lawrence Kocher:** Luis Pancorbo Crespo and Inés Martín Robles on Kocher's overlooked work.

■ **Latin America:** Maristella Casciato and Idurre Alonso on Iberian cities in America.

■ **James Leonard:** Peter Wyeth on the British industrial designer of the X202 chair.

■ **Lovell Health House:** Edward Dimendberg and Nicholas Olsberg on the making of Neutra's iconic house.

■ **Manifesto Houses:** Owen Hopkins discusses *The Buildings That Changed the Future of Architecture*.

■ **Cliff May:** Katie Kaford Papineau on the evolution of the ranch house.

■ **MGM Studios:** Steven Bingen on the effect of the movie studio on LA.

■ **Modern Gardens:** Beth Dunlop on garden inspiration for modern homes.

■ **Julia Morgan:** Kimberly Perette on the life of the trailblazing architect.

■ **Movie-Made LA:** John Trafton on the nexus of film and architecture in LA.

■ **Richard Neutra:** Catherine Rose Ettinger on *Richard Neutra: Encounters with Latin America*.

■ **New West:** Wolfgang Wagener and Leslie Erganian explore history through hand-tinted postcards.

■ **Newport Cottages:** Michael C. Kathrens on cottages between 1835 and 1890.

■ **John Parkinson:** Stephen Gee on the architect of many LA icons.

■ **Jock Peters:** Christopher Long on architect's work in LA.

■ **Playhouses:** Abigail A. Van Slyck on *Playhouses and Privilege: The Architecture of Elite Childhood*.

■ **Alfred Preis:** Axel Schmitzberger, Laura McGuire,

and August Sarnitz on Preis' tropical modernism.

■ **Preserving LA:** Ken Bernstein and Stephen Schafer on results of LA's preservation programs.

■ **Will Price:** George E. Thomas on an early modern architect working in Philadelphia.

■ **Public Housing:** Nicole Krup Oest on *Photography and Modern Public Housing in Los Angeles*.

■ **Reading Design:** Craig Hodgetts and Alan Hess on *The Visual Language of Common Objects*.

■ **Rebuilding Cities:** Andrew Demshuk looks at *Three Cities After Hitler: Redemptive Reconstruction*.

■ **Regarding Paul Williams:** Photographer Janna Ireland discusses the expanded version of her book.

■ **David Wyn Roberts:** Cory Buckner on the Cambridge (UK) modernist.

■ **Saarinens:** Eva Hagberg on *When Eero Met His Match: Aline Louchheim Saarinen and the Making of an Architect*.

■ **Santa Monica Pier:** James Harris on the rich history of the Santa Monica Pier.

■ **Millard Sheets:** Adam Arenson on the designer's association with Home Savings and Loan.

■ **Stepwells:** Victoria Lautman on the mysterious and magnificent stepwells in India.

■ **Louis Sullivan:** Patrick F. Cannon on the work of the Chicago architect.

■ **Synagogues:** Anat Geva on *The Architecture of Modern American Synagogues*.

■ **Wayne Thom:** Emily Bills on the architectural photographer.

■ **3D-Printed Houses:** Victoria Lautman with Babak Zareiyani and Gene Eidelman on new technology.

■ **Warner Bros.:** Steven Bingen on the secrets of the famed studio.

■ **Water:** Anat Geva on architectural representations in sacred spaces.

■ **Jean Welz 1:** Peter Wyeth on the little-known architecture career of a leading South African painter.

■ **Jean Welz 2:** Peter Wyeth on the demolition of Welz's masterpiece Maison Zilveli.

■ **Paul R. Williams:** Stephen Gee, Bret Parsons, and Marc Appleton on the architect's early residences.

■ **Wrights:** Jennifer Golub on Dragon Rock at Manitoga, the home of the famed industrial designers Russell and Mary Wright.

■ **Wrigley Building:** Robert Sharoff, William Zbaren, and Tim Samuleson on the Chicago landmark.

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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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Authors on Architecture: Stern & Long on The Vanguard

SAH/SCC Zoom Program
Sunday, November 15, 2026, 1-2:30 PM Pacific



Join SAH/SCC for a thoughtful program with authors Christopher Long and Jewel Stern discussing *The Vanguard: Central European Émigrés and American Modern Design, 1910-1940* (Yale University Press, 2025).

While the history of Modernism in the United States is often seen as having roots in French *art moderne*, Stern and Long instead argue that Central European émigré designers had an outsized impact on the formation of a uniquely American Modernism. *The Vanguard* examines the lives and careers of nearly 50 designers from Austria, Germany, and Hungary—including Paul T. Frankl (1886-1958), Ilonka Karasz (1896-1981), Winold Reiss (1886-1953), and Joseph Urban (1872-1933)—who contributed to the early rise of Modernism in America. From 1910 to 1940, these figures played a vital role in bringing to the fore the discussion of Modernism and contributed to its ascendancy through their designs, writings, and exhibitions. Stern and Long reveal how this Modernism reflected distinct American realities and tell a comprehensive new story of Modernism's émigré roots.

The Vanguard examines the lives and careers of these designers, many of whom are hazily known at best, and argues that they had a significant influence on the new Modernist aesthetic. Deeply researched and lavishly illustrated with nearly 300 color and black-and-white images, this book offers a full reorientation of our understanding of American Modernism and the role of Central Europeans in its formation.

Stern is an artist, independent curator, and art historian specializing in modern American design and architecture. He is the Martin S. Kermacy Centennial Professor in Architecture at the University of Texas at Austin. Long has participated in numerous SAH/SCC talks throughout the years and is always a fan favorite (check Page 5 for videos to order).

Authors on Architecture: Stern & Long on the Vanguard—Sunday, November 15, 2026; 1-2:30 PM Pacific. Tickets required, \$5. Go to www.sahscc.org, and pay via PayPal or mail in order form on Page 6 with check. Zoom link sent upon registration.



Frankl Galleries, Los Angeles
(Paul T. Frankl, ca. 1940).
Photo: Collection Paulette Frankl



Busy Lady Bakery, New York
(Winold Reiss, 1915).
Photo: Reiss Archives, New York



Film set for "Unseeing Eyes"
(Joseph Urban, 1923).
Photo: Urban Collection, Columbia University