Masters of Modernism: Neutra and Wright

SAH/SCC Tour, Bakersfield
Saturday, October 24, 2009, 8AM-6PM

Join SAH/SCC Executive Board Members Sian Winship and John Berley, who will be your guides for a special daytrip to Bakersfield, CA, where we will explore two rarely seen homes by Richard Neutra and one by Frank Lloyd Wright that has not been open to public tours for a generation.

The tour includes round-trip coach transportation to Bakersfield from West Los Angeles, lunch, and a souvenir tour brochure. SAH/SCC member price is $85; non-member is $125. (Participants may provide their own transportation to Bakersfield, however discounted tickets are not available.)

The first part of the tour will take us to Neutra’s remarkable Davis Residence (1937). Just eight years after the creation of the Lovell Health House, Neutra designed this architectural jewel in the International Style for local patron Frank Davis. One of the best-preserved examples of Neutra’s pre-war architecture, the home has been lovingly cared for by its current owner.

For those who are fans of our Modern Patrons program, the next stop will be especially fulfilling. Neutra’s Leddy Residence (1958) will feature a tour of the house and an extended dialogue with the home’s original owner, a former member of the Martha Graham Dance Company. The Leddy “starter home” in the post-and-beam style shares acreage with this Bakersfield pioneer family’s original, late-1890s gothic farmhouse. Both homes will be open for viewing.

Bakersfield is known for its Basque immigrants and traditions. After an authentic Basque lunch at the renowned Wool Growers restaurant, we will make an afternoon visit to Wright’s rarely seen George and Millie Ablin Residence (1958). One of the last houses designed by Wright prior to his passing, the home was completed by Taliesin Associated Architects. This is the first time the house has been open to a group visit in approximately 20 years. In completely original condition, the Ablin Residence is a graciously executed example of Wright’s use of the hexagon and triangle. The house also features textured concrete block.

Don’t miss the opportunity to visit these three inspirational homes. Coach seating is limited to 20 people, so sign up now to avoid disappointment!
SAH/SCC President’s Letter

Julius Shulman, Life Member, 1910–2009

I.M. Pei once said: “architecture is a way of seeing.” If that is true, then the brilliance of Julius Shulman was that Julius gave us the most compelling way of seeing architecture.

In his life’s work, Julius Shulman defined the face of modern architecture for the public. For many of us, the first time we saw modern architecture was in a book or magazine as captured by the lens of Julius. During a recent panel discussion, actress and modern architecture enthusiast Kelly Lynch described being a young person looking through architecture books and being fascinated. “…all the buildings seemed to be done by the same guy, this guy named Julius Shulman…at the time I thought Julius Shulman was a great architect!”

Julius embraced the same values as modern architecture. He loved nature, simplicity, and progressive ideas. His photos became one of the most powerful manifestos that modern architecture could ever had.

Because he was prolific in photographing Southern California, it is sometimes easy to overlook the genius he brought to the entirety of his work. A few years ago, while working on the Phoenix tour, I was in the archives at ASU looking at the papers of modern architect Blaine Drake. I eagerly opened a file marked “photographs” and was confronted with some of the most disappointing images I had ever seen. I knew Drake’s work, and these were somehow not capturing the subtle quality and essence of it. They were by an “architectural photographer” from Tucson.

Flash forward to the Getty Center, where I found a series of images from a trip to Phoenix Julius had taken in the 1940s. Here were the same buildings, only this time captured through Shulman’s lens. The architecture was transformed: elegant, crisp, and inviting. As with all of his photos, you instantly wanted to be there.

This was the brilliance of Julius.

From the iconic Case Study House photos that conveyed the promise of a new and glamorous lifestyle, to a child playing in his bedroom patio, to having Mrs. Kaufmann recline to block that annoying pool light, Julius understood that modern architecture was, at its essence, supposed to be about people.

It was in this spirit that he was a great believer in education and a great supporter of SAH/SCC. He was incredibly generous with his images, his time, and his remarkable oral histories. I like to think of him as being a big supporter of this organization because he was, in reality, one of the greatest educational forces of our time. His way of seeing modern architecture reached millions nationally and internationally. I’m glad he lived long enough to enjoy the world coming to his doorstep—to pay homage and to say thank you.

We cannot say it enough. Thank you, Julius. You will be sorely missed.

Sian Winship

Julius & Julie: During the Modern Patrons session at this Raphael Soriano home, ‘Uncle Julius’ is interviewed by SAH/SCC News editor Julie D. Taylor, in a photograph by SAH/SCC Vice President John Ellis.
Annual Members’ Celebration: Annenberg Community Beach House

SAH/SCC Event, Santa Monica
Saturday, November 7, 2009, 2-5PM

We are excited to present this year’s SAH/SCC Members’ Celebration at the recently opened Annenberg Community Beach House on Santa Monica State Beach. Docents will provide free guided tours of the property, including the historic guest house designed by Julia Morgan. A slide show presentation on the five-year, $30-million rehabilitation project that transformed a dilapidated, derelict site into the nation’s first public beach club will be given by the project manager, SAH/SCC Executive Board Member John Berley, an associate at Frederick Fisher and Partners Architects (FFPA), the principal designer of the project.

The Annenberg Community Beach House—recently granted LEED Gold certification—is a multi-use public beach recreation facility that occupies the site of the historic Marion Davies Estate designed by Morgan and built in 1928 by William Randolph Hearst. The original five-acre estate on Pacific Coast Highway included a 110-room mansion, seven-bedroom guest house, gardens, pool, and tennis courts. Only the Morgan-designed guest house and pool, both city landmarks, remain.

FFPA conceived the project as a series of indoor/outdoor recreation and event spaces, both formal and informal, woven through the historic and new structures of the site. “The site provides a rare combination of a dramatic natural setting, historic cultural and architectural assets, and a public space of regional importance,” says architect Frederick Fisher. The primary images for the project were formulated in response to three compelling aspects of the Beach House site: its natural setting, its social history, and the architectural remains of its heyday. The Beach House setting is a powerful combination of ocean, beach, and palisades with dramatically changing weather conditions and iconic sunsets. At the Beach House, Hearst, Davies, and Morgan created a significant place in California history. “This beach has a long and colorful history of social and recreational life,” continues Fisher. “Our goal was to call on all these elements to reactivate the site as a community resource for posterity.”

As always, this special SAH/SCC event is free to members in good standing. We encourage you to bring friends who might want to join the SAH/SCC member roster. Guests are $10, which is applicable to new membership dues. Space is limited, so call 800.9SAHSCC for member reservations, or use Order Form on back page.
Architecture in Film: Greene & Greene

SAH/SCC Screening and Talk, Santa Monica
Saturday, September 12, 2009, 1PM

Part two of SAH/SCC’s Architecture in Film series at the Santa Monica Public Library features Greene & Greene: The Art of Architecture. Emmy-Award-winning producer Paul Bockhorst created the first comprehensive study of Charles and Henry Greene’s work. The film chronicles their creative development, beginning with early efforts to blend American, European, and Asian design concepts into an architectural vocabulary suited to the culture and landscape of California. The brothers’ achievements in residential design come alive in the one-hour documentary. Bockhorst will provide Q&A after the screening.

Greene & Greene was produced by Paul Bockhorst Productions in cooperation with SAH/SCC. The event is free and open to the public. Reservations are not required, however seats will be available on a first-come, first-served basis. The screening is in the MLK Jr. Auditorium at Santa Monica Public Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd.; 310.458.8600; www.smpl.org.

Cliff May’s Modern Ranch Houses

Tour and Book Signing, Encino
Saturday, September 12, 2009, 4-7PM

SAH/SCC members are invited to celebrate the work of Cliff May and the publication of the monograph Cliff May and the Modern Ranch House (Rizzoli, 2008), by Daniel P. Gregory (see SAH/SCC News, May 2008, for Bookmarks review). This event—organized and sponsored by the Institute of Classical Architecture (ICA)—takes place on Saturday, September 12th, 4-7PM, and is open to SAH/SCC members for the ICA member price.

Watch the sunset in one of May’s classic California Ranch-style homes on a stunning hillside lot in Encino, and hear author Gregory, former Senior Home Editor of Sunset Magazine, discuss the career and life of this influential architectural figure. Copies of the book will be available and signed by the author. In addition to a private tour of the home, the group will view home movies from architect Marc Appleton of his childhood growing up in a Cliff May home.

SAH/SCC member price for the event is $125 ($50 less than the regular non-member price). To register, contact ICA chapter coordinator Diane Sipos directly for tickets at 310.396.4379 or diane@classicist-socal.org. To receive the discount, be sure to let her know that you hold SAH/SCC membership.
1, Tuesday  
Victorian ‘Tract Homes’ of the Mission.  

3, Thursday  

7, Monday  
Sensate: Bodies and Design. Lecture with architects Andrew Kudless and Alex Schweder. San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, 151 Third St., SF; 7PM; $7-10. 415.538.2693. sfmoma.org.

8, Tuesday  

9, Wednesday  
Work. Lecture with Los Angeles/Zurich architect Sarah Graham. USC School of Architecture, Gin D. Wong Conference Center, LA; 6PM. 213.740.2092. arch.usc.edu.

12, Saturday  
Secrets of San Pedro. Scavenger hunt for discovering historic San Pedro. Los Angeles Conservancy, Out of the Box Events; San Pedro; 2PM; $30; res. req. 323.799.1374. outoftheboxevents.net.

12, Saturday  
Guardians of the Bridge. Gala fundraiser honoring those involved in the ongoing preservation of Pasadena’s historic bridge. Pasadena Heritage; $150; res. req. 626.441.6333. pasadenaheritage.org.

12-13, Saturday-Sunday  
San Francisco Living. Tours of 10 Bay Area homes plus more events throughout the weekend. AIA San Francisco; 10AM-4PM; $60-85; res. req. 415.362.7397. aiasf.org/hometours.

16, Wednesday  
Is Traffic Curable? Lecture with author and design writer Tom Vanderbilt. Zócalo Public Square; The Actors’ Gang, 9070 Venice Blvd., Culver City; res. req. 213.381.2541. zocalopublicsquare.org.

17, Thursday  

18, Friday  

24, Thursday  
Design Trajectory. Lecture on interior architecture with principals of New York architecture firm Lewis Tsurumaki Lewis. Otis College of Art and Design; MOCA, 250 S. Grand Ave., LA; 7-8:30PM. 310.665.6867. otis.edu.

24, Thursday  
Visual Acoustics: The Modernism of Julius Shulman. Showing of 2008 documentary on photographer and SAH/SCC Life Member Julius Shulman. Orange County Museum of Art, 850 San Clemente Dr., Newport Beach; 8PM. 949.759.1122. ocma.net.

30, Wednesday  

30, Wednesday  

30, Wednesday  
Sixties Turn Fifty. Panel on preserving architecture from the 1960s at DWP Building (AC Martin, 1963) includes architecture writers Frances Anderton and Alan Hess. Los Angeles Conservancy; 111 N Hope St., LA; 8PM; res. req. 213.623.2489. laconservancy.org.
1, Thursday

2, Friday

4, Sunday
AIA/LA Home Tour: A Day in Manhattan (Beach). Tour of four homes by KAA Design Group, Michael Lee Architects, LeanArch, and MAKE Architecture. American Institute of Architects/LA; 11AM-4PM; $65-75; res. req. 213.639.0777. aialosangeles.org.

14, Wednesday
It’s Called Landscape Architecture, Not Landscape Gardening for a Reason. Lecture with landscape architect Laurie Olin. SCI-Arc, 960 East 3rd St., LA; 7PM. 213.613.2200. sciarc.edu.

24, Saturday
Masters of Modernism. See Page 1 for details.

28, Wednesday
The Other Project. Lecture with Chinese architect and Peking University Graduate Center of Architecture founder Yung Ho Chang. SCI-Arc, 960 East 3rd St., LA; 7PM. 213.613.2200. sciarc.edu.

29, Thursday
Ruins Between East and West. Lecture on ruins as material signs of transience with professor Alain Schnapp. Getty Villa, 17985 Pacific Coast Hwy., Malibu; 7:30PM; res. req. 310.440.7300. getty.edu.

30, Friday
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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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Masters of Modernism—October 24th

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Members’ Celebration—November 7th

______ Member ticket(s) FREE = $_______

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