



Dunsmuir Flats, 1937.
Photo: collection of Tony Denzer

IN THIS ISSUE

Ain on Tour	1
President's Letter	2
UC Santa Barbara Tour	3
Pond Talk & Book Signing	4
March/April Events	5
SAH/SCC Publications for Sale	7

'A Very Gentle Sternness': Ain in the '30s

SAH/SCC Tour & Talk, Los Angeles
Sunday, March 28, 2010, 1-4PM

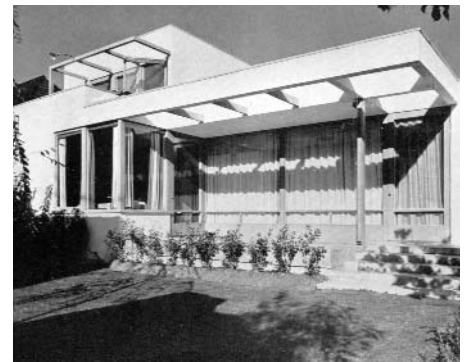
Former SAH/SCC President Tony Denzer will be back in Los Angeles for a special tour of Gregory Ain's residence for A. O. Beckman and of the Dunsmuir Flats project. Denzer, now professor of architecture at University of Wyoming, and author of *Gregory Ain: The Modern Home as Social Commentary* (Rizzoli, 2008), will speak on Ain's inspirations, vision, and projects. Light refreshments and a book signing will follow the presentation at the Beckman house. A tour at Dunsmuir Flats will wrap up the afternoon.

Gregory Ain (1908-88) left Richard Neutra's office in 1935 and designed several important structures as a young man. With strong influences from Neutra, Rudolph Schindler, and Frank Lloyd Wright, he was interested in "cubist" techniques and mathematical "games" to produce three-dimensional forms. Asymmetry, diagonal relationships, overlapping and interlocking elements, and spiral movement mark his finished works. Ain's considerable contribution to Southern California modernism might be summed up by his own statement that he had found "a house could be quite playful, with a kind of starkness, a very gentle sternness, not at all like the Bauhaus sternness."

The Beckman House (1938), designed for pharmacist A.O. Beckman, was more lavish than Ain's other pre-war houses at 2,100 square feet (plus a two-car garage). At \$9,250, it was one of his few residences to include a maid's quarters. One story in front and two stories in back, the Beckman house reveals the influence of Schindler. It features a pinwheel-shaped plan to define multiple courtyards, including a "children's garden."

The unusual saw-tooth plan of the four-unit Dunsmuir Flats (1937), for client "Shy" Kaplan, gives each apartment a private garden and private entrance. Virtually every room in the complex receives daylight from three sides. Ain, himself, said of the Dunsmuir Flats, "I tell you in all modesty I think the plan of that was superb."

'A Very Gentle Sternness': Ain in the '30s: Sunday, March 28, 2010; 1-4PM;
\$30 for SAH/SCC members; \$45 for nonmembers; registration—see order form on Page 8,
call 800.972.4722, or go to www.sahscc.org.



A.O. Beckman Residence, 1938.
Photo: collection of Tony Denzer



Dunsmuir Flats, 1937.
Photo: collection of Tony Denzer

SAH/SCC President's Letter

One of the things that unites the members of SAH/SCC is appreciation for the remarkable built environment that defines Los Angeles. I venture to guess that almost all of us have found ourselves on a street somewhere in the city, marveling at a house or a commercial building we've somehow never seen before: a small craftsman bungalow; a Spanish Colonial duplex; a post-and-beam dentist's office. We may not know the architect. In some cases, there may not have been one. But we recognize the aesthetic value of these buildings and their contribution to Los Angeles' character.

Likewise, many members of SAH/SCC share a fascination with the untold stories that populate the nearly 500 square miles of Los Angeles. Southern California's history is rich with stories of people and places that provide us with a greater sense of the city, as well as its role in the national context. The 1884 Harada House in Riverside tells the story of one Japanese-American family's early-20th-century struggle for civil rights that led all the way to the California Supreme Court. The saga of Chavez Ravine reminds us both of the establishment of the first Jewish cemetery in Los Angeles in 1855, as well as the 1950s removal and relocation of an entire community for the erection of Dodger Stadium. Consider also the house of noted local ceramicist, Glen Lukens, or the little studio of an unknown animator named Walter Elias Disney.

Having covered thousands of miles in the backs of busses, vans, and cars with members of SAH/SCC, I know that many of you have a wealth of information about the people and places that make Los Angeles special. Whether it has been learned or lived, it is valuable information that should be passed along to future generations.

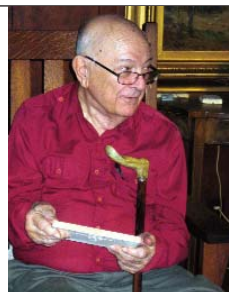
With this in mind, I encourage each of you to participate in My Historic LA. My Historic LA is part of the citywide Survey LA project being undertaken by the Los Angeles Office of Historic Resources. The goal is simple yet daunting: survey 880,000 parcels in the City of Los Angeles to identify our cultural resources. As part of this effort, the City is asking people to provide information about cultural resources that might otherwise go unnoticed.

Survey LA has already integrated the citations from our beloved Gebhard and Winter—*An Architectural Guidebook to Los Angeles* (Gibbs, Smith)—into the database. But we all know that it simply scratches the surface. Let's rally the collective oral history and experience of SAH/SCC members to educate future generations. Participation is simple: Search online for "MyHistoricLA" or visit <http://www.preservation.lacity.org/survey/identify> and fill in the online form. This is your chance to increase awareness of Los Angeles' history and architectural significance in a way that will empower generations of future historians and city planners.

Sian Winship

Winter Wins Tile Heritage Award

For his extraordinary contribution to the tile world, SAH/SCC Advisory Board and Life Member Dr. Robert Winter was presented with the Tile Heritage Award from the Tile Heritage Foundation. This honorary tribute is conferred by the Foundation's board of directors. The award itself, an 8"x 8" custom tile produced especially for Winter by Steve Moon at the Tile Restoration Center in Seattle, commemorates the 100th anniversary of Ernest Batchelder's house, where Winter has resided since the early 1970s. A detailed illustration of Batchelder's bungalow by Marie Glasse Tapp and her daughter Delia Tapp, the founders of the Tile Restoration Center, was incised in clay from which the award tile was produced. Winter's care of the Batchelder legacy and his willingness to share his knowledge and his residence with others embrace the spirit of Tile Heritage, which is dedicated to promoting an awareness and appreciation of ceramic surfaces.



Bob Winter receives the Tile Heritage Award.
Photo: Alan Batchelder



Tile Heritage Award



SOCIETY OF ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIANS
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAPTER

Tour and Event Information:

1.800.972.4722;

info@sahscc.org

SAH/SCC NEWS is published bi-monthly by the Society of Architectural Historians / Southern California Chapter. Subscription is a benefit of membership and provides members with one of the most comprehensive calendars of architectural events in Southern California and advance notice of exclusive SAH/SCC architectural events and tours.

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May/June 2010 issue deadline for newsletter information and ads: April 10, 2010. Please send all ad materials, notices of events, and news to the attention of the editor:

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Designed for Learning/Living

SAH/SCC Tour, Santa Barbara
Saturday, March 20, 2010, 10AM-3PM

Senior Campus Planner, architect, and SAH/SCC board member Dennis Whelan will lead an extensive walking tour of the University of California, Santa Barbara, campus. The 405-acre main campus setting on two miles of ocean bluff features spectacular views of the Channel Islands and the Santa Ynez Mountains.

The collection of notable architects who have designed buildings at UCSB includes William Pereira, Charles Luckman, A. Quincy Jones, Edward Killingsworth, Robert A.M. Stern, Michael Graves, Robert Venturi and Denise Scott Brown, and Antoine Predock, among others. Also noteworthy: the concept of coordinated color, material, and Wrightian blocks; the accommodation of weather and views; the bicycle-friendly layout; and how planners and architects responded to (and shaped) student and faculty use.

The tour will focus on the collection of buildings as they are sited within the campus master plan. Some interiors may be included, depending upon access. Additionally, the tour includes a visit with Alex Hauschild, an archivist at the University Art Museum's Architecture & Design Collection (ADC). ADC is a repository of more than 750,000 original drawings and records focusing on Southern California-based architects, such as Irving Gill, Rudolph Schindler, Kem Weber, and George Washington Smith, among many others.

You may choose to enhance your experience by staying overnight at the Faculty Club, designed by Charles Moore and William Turnbull in 1968. Space is very limited; reserve through the Club. <http://www.faculty-club.ucsb.edu/>



Frank House by Edward Killingsworth.
Image courtesy: Architecture & Design Collection, University Art Museum, University of California, Santa Barbara



Concept drawing for Art Center School by Kem Weber.
Image courtesy: Architecture & Design Collection, University Art Museum, University of California, Santa Barbara

Designed for Learning/Living: Saturday, March 20, 2010; 10AM-3PM; \$40 for SAH/SCC members; \$60 for non-members; includes box lunch from noted Santa Barbara bistro Pierre Lafond; does not include transportation to UCSB or parking (\$3); please bring comfortable walking shoes; registration—see order form on Page 8, call 800.972.4722, or go to www.sahscc.org.

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continues

Authors on Architecture: Swan on Pond

SAH/SCC Lecture, Westwood

Saturday, April 10, 2010, 2-3:30PM

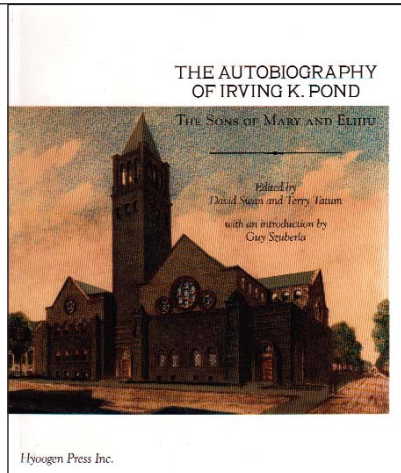
SAH/SCC welcomes David Swan, editor of the new book *The Autobiography of Irving K. Pond* (Hyoogen Press, 2009) for a presentation of the life and work of this Chicago architect. The event will be held in the Board Room of the Westwood Branch of the Los Angeles Public Library (Ehrlich Architects, 2005).

Irving K. Pond and his brother Allen Pond practiced architecture in Chicago and were contemporaries of innovative local architects, such as Frank Lloyd Wright, Dwight Perkins, Myron Hunt, Marion Mahoney, Robert Spencer, Walter Burley Griffin, Adamo Boari, and Jules Guerin.

In addition to learning more about the contributions of these two architects, attendees will enjoy this visit to one of Los Angeles' architecturally significant branch libraries. Designed by architect Steven Ehrlich, FAIA, in 2005, the Westwood Branch was conceived of as an "urban oasis for learning." A thoughtfully designed urban infill project, the library building is worthy of a visit on its own.

This event is free to SAH/SCC members and the public. Reservations are not required. Up to 60 attendees will be accommodated on a first-come, first-served basis. Light refreshments will be served and a limited number of books will be available for purchase and signing by the author.

Authors on Architecture: Swan on Pond: Saturday, April 10, 2010; 2-3:30PM; Westwood Branch Library, 1246 Glendon Ave., LA; parking in library lot is free for the first 90 minutes with active LAPL library card validation, \$1 per 30 minutes thereafter; metered street parking available; no reservations needed.



Westwood Branch Library by Ehrlich Architects. Photo: Tom Bonner

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Aleks Istanbulu
Eileen Magno
Paul & Dorie Markovitz
Barbara Whitney

New Student Member

Katherine Papineau

1, Monday

Restoration of an Icon: Japanese Garden at 100. Lecture with Botanical Gardens director James Folsom. Huntington Library (Hunt & Grey 1910), San Marino; 3:30 & 7:30PM. 626.405.2100. huntington.org.

2, Tuesday

Keith Mitnick. Lecture with Mitnick Roddier Hicks principal. Julius Shulman Institute (Rios Clementi Hale Studios 2008), Woodbury U, Burbank; 6:30PM. 818.252.5121. architecture.woodbury.edu.

4, Thursday

Architecture in Two Dimensions. Panel with Frances Anderton, Mario Violich, Peter Hales & Stephen Murray. Getty Center (Meier 1997), LA; 7PM; res. req. 310.440.7300. getty.edu.

4, Thursday

Shanghai's Jews: Art, Architecture & Survival. Lecture with curator Nancy Berliner. Contemporary Jewish Museum (Polk 1907/ Libeskind 2005), 736 Mission St., SF; 7-8:30PM. 415.655.7800. thecjm.org.

5, Friday

From City Beautiful to New Urbanism. Talk with City of Glendale urban designer Alan Loomis. Woodbury U, 7500 Glenoaks Blvd., Burbank; 11AM. 818.252.5121. architecture.woodbury.edu.

9, Tuesday

Paul Lewis. Lecture with Lewis Tsurumaki Lewis principal. Julius Shulman Institute (Rios Clementi Hale Studios 2008), Woodbury U, Burbank; 6:30PM. 818.252.5121. architecture.woodbury.edu.

10, Wednesday

Driven by Dilemma. Lecture with IDEA Office architects Russell Thomsen & Eric Kahn. SCI-Arc (Paige 2000), LA; 7PM. 213.613.2200. sciarc.edu.

13, Saturday

Art & Architecture: Merging the Contemporary & the Historical. Panel discussion. Center for the Arts Eagle Rock (1914), 2225 Colorado Blvd., LA; 4-6PM. 323.226.1617. centerartseaglerock.org.

13, Saturday

Everlasting Tile: The Life & Work of Rufus B. Keeler. Lecture with Brian Kaiser. Art Center (Ellwood 1977), 1700 Lido St., Pasadena; 10AM; \$15-25; res. req. 626.793.3334. gamblehouse.org.

16, Tuesday

DnA: Design & Architecture. Radio broadcast hosted by Frances Anderton. KCRW 89.9FM; 2:30-3:00PM. kcrw.org.

17, Wednesday

Agnus Dei & the Dirt of Tomorrow. Lecture with Commonwealth designers Zoe Coombes & David Boira. SCI-Arc (Paige 2000), LA; 7PM. 213.613.2200. sciarc.edu.

18, Thursday

Ecology.Design.Synergy. Opening of exhibit by Behnisch Architekten & Transsolar. Cisco Home, 440 N. La Brea Ave.; 7-9PM. 323.932.1155. behnisch.com.

19, Friday

London Eight. Exhibit discussion with architects Peter Cook & Eric Owen Moss. SCI-Arc (Paige 2000), LA; 6PM. 213.613.2200. sciarc.edu.

24, Wednesday

Social Connections, Cultural Landscapes & Architecture. Lecture with UC Berkeley Cultural Landscape History professor Paul Groth. USC, Harris Hall (Flewelling 1939), LA; 6PM. 213.740.2723. arch.usc.edu.

24, Wednesday

Publishing Practices. Lecture with architectural historian Michael Kubo. SCI-Arc (Paige 2000), LA; 7PM. 213.613.2200. sciarc.edu.

24, Wednesday

The Sixties Turn 50. Lecture with landscape architect Charles Birnbaum & author Alan Hess. Los Angeles Conservancy; res. req. 213.623.2489. laconservancy.org.

25, Thursday

Ahbe Landscape. Lecture by Culver City landscape architect Calvin R. Abe. Otis College of Art and Design (Noyes 1963), 9045 Lincoln Blvd., LA; 7PM. 310.665.6867. otis.edu.

26, Friday

The Sentient City. Lecture with Urban Operations principal John Southern. Woodbury U, 7500 Glenoaks Blvd., Burbank; 11AM. 818.252.5121. architecture.woodbury.edu.

28, Sunday

The Art of Modernism. Self-driven tour of private residences by architects Conrad Buff & Donald Hensman. Pasadena Heritage; 9AM-4PM; \$32-40; res. req. 626.441.6333. pasadenaheritage.org.

27, Saturday

Annenberg Community Beach House. Lecture with SAH/SCC Treasurer & Frederick Fisher Partners project architect John Berley with SAH/SCC Life Member & Historic Resources Group managing principal Christy McAvoy. Santa Monica Conservancy; Memorial Park, SM; \$10; res. req. 310.496.3146. smconservancy.org.

30, Tuesday

Locals Only: Griffin Enright. Lecture with architect Margaret Griffin. Julius Shulman Institute (Rios Clementi Hale Studios 2008), Woodbury U, Burbank; 6:30PM. 818.252.5121. architecture.woodbury.edu.

SAH/SCC EVENT

28, Sunday

Ain in the '30s

SAH/SCC Tour & Talk. See Page 1 for details.



A.O. Beckman Residence, 1938.
Photo: collection of Tony Denzer

31, Wednesday***Matter as the Substance of Everything***

That Exists. Lecture with artist, theoretician, architect Gail Peter Borden. USC, Harris Hall (Flewelling 1939), LA; 6PM. 213.740.2723. arch.usc.edu.

31, Wednesday

The Center Cannot Hold. Lecture with Chicano Studies professor Eric Avila. SCI-Arc (Paige 2000), LA; 7PM. 213.613.2200. sciarc.edu.

April

2, Friday

Vivarium. Exhibit discussion with Juan Azulay & Eric Owen Moss. SCI-Arc (Paige 2000), LA; 7PM. 213.613.2200. sciarc.edu.

5, Monday

On the Cusp. Lecture with TOPOTEK 1 Berlin principal Martin Rein-Cano. UCLA Architecture, LA; 6:30PM. 310.267.4704. aud.ucla.edu.

6, Tuesday

Locals Only: Ball-Nogues Studio. Lecture with Benjamin Ball. Julius Shulman Institute (Rios Clementi Hale Studios 2008), Woodbury U, Burbank; 6:30PM. 818.252.5121. architecture.woodbury.edu.

7, Wednesday

Recent Work. Lecture with landscape architect Adriaan Geuze. USC, Harris Hall (Flewelling 1939), LA; 6PM. 213.740.2723. arch.usc.edu.

9, Friday

Urban Skin. Lecture with architect Ingalill Wahlroos-Ritter. Woodbury U, 7500 Glenoaks Blvd., Burbank; 11AM. 818.252.5121. architecture.woodbury.edu.

11, Sunday

LA Heritage Day. Festival featuring greater LA's cultural institutions & resources. LA Heritage Alliance; Heritage Square Museum, 3800 Homer St., LA. 323.225.2700. heritagessquare.org.

11, Sunday

Ugly & Ordinary? Symposium with professor Edward Dimendberg, architect Jeffery Inaba, & professor Cécile Whiting.

MOCA; Pacific Design Center (Pelli 1975-88); 3PM. 213.621.1745. moca.org.

12, Monday

On the Cusp. Lecture with Hirsuta principal Jason Payne & Xefirotarch principal Hernan Diaz-Alonzo. UCLA Architecture, LA; 6:30PM. 310.267.4704. aud.ucla.edu.

13, Tuesday

Locals Only: Radical Craft. Lecture with Joshua Stein. Julius Shulman Institute (Rios Clementi Hale Studios 2008), Woodbury U, Burbank; 6:30PM. 818.252.5121. architecture.woodbury.edu.

13, Tuesday

William Krisel, Architect. LA debut of new documentary followed by talk with architect Krisel and Getty Research Institute's Wim de Wit. Getty Center (Meier 1997), LA; 7PM; res. req. 310.440.7300. getty.edu.

15, Thursday

Architecture in Illuminated Manuscripts. Talk with manuscripts curator Christine Sciacca. Getty Center (Meier 1997), LA; 1:30PM; res. req. 310.440.7300. getty.edu.

15, Thursday

Revitalizing Historic Corridors. Panel with developers, planners, & architects. ULI-LA, Alexandria Hotel (Parkinson 1906), 501 S. Spring St., LA; 6-8:30PM; res. req. 213.213.2245. uli-la.org.

16, Friday

Strategies & Tactics in the Public Realm. Lecture with architect Jeanine Centuori. Woodbury U, 7500 Glenoaks Blvd., Burbank; 11AM. 818.252.5121. architecture.woodbury.edu.

17, Saturday

Live + Work. Talk & book signing with Shubin + Donaldson Architects. Edward Cella Art + Architecture, 6018 Wilshire Blvd., LA; 6:30-8PM. 323.525.0053. edwardcella.com.

18, Sunday

The Sixties Turn 50. Tour of 1960s residential architecture. Los Angeles Conservancy; LA; res. req. 213.623.2489. laconservancy.org.

20, Tuesday

DnA: Design & Architecture. Radio broadcast hosted by Frances Anderton. KCRW 89.9FM; 2:30-3:00PM. kcrw.org.

22, Thursday

Urban Panoramas. Talk with photograph curator Virginia Heckert. Getty Center (Meier 1997), LA; 1:30PM; res. req. 310.440.7300. getty.edu.

23-25, Friday-Sunday

From Alexander to Trousdale: Creating the Palm Springs Modern Life Style. Tours, talks, films. Palm Springs Modern Committee. 760.320.5393. psmodcom.com.

24, Saturday

Little Tokyo. Walking tour. Japanese American National Museum (HOK 1999), LA; 10:15AM; \$9-14; res. req. 213.625.0414. janm.org.

26, Monday

On the Cusp. Lecture with MOS Cambridge principals Michael Meredith & Hilary Sample. UCLA Architecture, LA; 6:30PM. 310.267.4704. aud.ucla.edu.

28, Wednesday

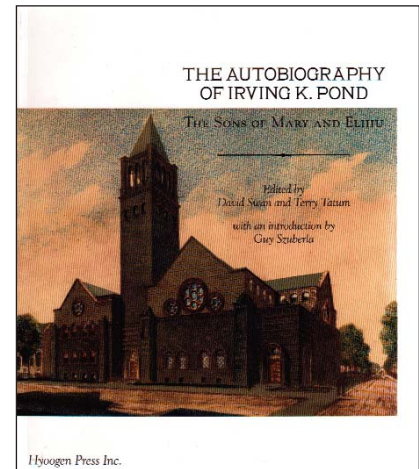
When Buildings Become Symbols. Lecture with manuscripts curator Christine Sciacca. Getty Center (Meier 1997), LA; 7PM; res. req. 310.440.7300. getty.edu.

SAH/SCC EVENT

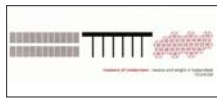
28, Sunday

Authors on Architecture

SAH/SCC Lecture. See Page 4 for details.



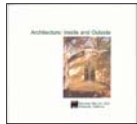
SAH/SCC PUBLICATIONS



_____ at \$5 each
Masters of Modernism: 8-Page, two-color brochure featuring works of Richard Neutra and Frank Lloyd Wright in Bakersfield.



_____ at \$3 each
Paul Tay, Architect: 4"x 8" color brochure featuring five modern ranch-style homes in Long Beach



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



_____ at \$12 each
Out of the Shadow: 24-page, two-color brochure from Phoenix travel tour featuring the work of Frank Lloyd Wright, Al Beadle, Blaine Drake, Paolo Soleri, Edward B. Sawyer, Bennie Gonzales, and Will Bruder



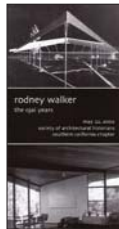
_____ at \$3 each
A Block in Glendale: pocket-size fandeck of cards featuring five diverse properties—including a Paul Williams residence—plus historical background information on the Brockmont Heights subdivision



_____ 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



_____ 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



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



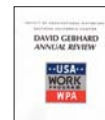
_____ at \$10 each
Modernism for the Masses: tri-fold brochure with inserts of detailed floor plans of Eichler homes visited on the Orange County tour



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Reconsidering Lloyd Wright: 21-page, four-color booklet from "Reconsidering Lloyd Wright" house tour



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



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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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