



IN THIS ISSUE

Authors on Architecture: Dingbat 2.0	1
President's Letter	2
Authors on Architecture: Lilian Rice	3
Bookmarks: Krisel's Palm Springs	4
SAH/SCC Publications for Sale	5

Authors on Architecture: Dingbat 2.0

SAH/SCC Panel Discussion & Book Signing
Saturday, March 26, 2016, 2-4PM

SAH/SCC and the Santa Monica Public Library (Moore Ruble Yudell, 2006) are co-hosting an event that will explore one of the most misunderstood architectural phenomena in Los Angeles—the dingbat apartment.

Dingbat 2.0: The Iconic Los Angeles Apartment as Projection of a Metropolis (DoppelHouse Press, 2016) is the first critical study of the dingbat apartment, the most ubiquitous and mundane building type in Los Angeles. The dingbat grew out of Los Angeles's rapid postwar expansion period, and for more than half a century has been vilified, praised, studied, and often misunderstood—as much for being ugly and ordinary as for being innovative, iconoclastic, and distinctly "LA." As a housing type, the dingbat has enabled the sprawl for which Los Angeles is infamous, while simultaneously creating a consistency of urban density achieved by few other 20th-century cities.

This event will feature a moderated panel discussion with several of the book's contributing authors and photographers, including the book's editors, Thurman Grant and Joshua G. Stein, who will be joined by architectural historian Steven Treffers and architect Barbara Bestor, AIA.

Books will also be available for sale at the close of the program.

Dingbat 2.0—Saturday, March 26, 2016; 2-4PM; Santa Monica Central Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd., Santa Monica; free; seating is available on a first-come, first-served basis; 310.458.8600.



Photos: James Black



SAH/SCC President's Letter



Pterodactyl (2015) at Conjunction Points by Eric Owen Moss, FAIA.

Photo: Tom Bonner

It is time for the National SAH Conference, and this year it is in our own backyard! From April 6th to 10th, the nation's finest architectural historians will converge in Pasadena to discuss everything from the "Architecture of Early Modern Catholicism" to "Coded Architecture and the Paradoxes of Control."

Too academic for you? Try the session on "Reappraising California Counterculture" or "Food and Architecture." See the full schedule of programming at <http://www.sah.org>.

A great way to experience the conference is to volunteer. SAH National needs people to help with everything from stuffing conference packets to staffing the registration desk, assisting with one of 42 paper sessions, checking-in tour-goers and session participants, or even working on the Saturday morning Los Angeles Seminar on "Surveying L.A.: Past, Present, Future," presented by SAH/SCC Life Member Trudi Sandmeier. Commitments range in time from 2-¼ to 7-¾ hours. If you are free on Saturday or Sunday, you might consider assisting with one of the bus tours—you'll get to tag along for free! Use this link to sign up to be a volunteer: www.volunteersignup.org/XBQKL.

Speaking of tours, SAH/SCC will be conducting three of them. A reprise of my *Bakersfield: Masters of Modernism* tour will be featured, along with Jay Platt's excellent Culver City tour of *Eric Owen Moss: Conjunction Points*, as well as his *Brand Library Restoration* tour and

panel discussion. Other weekend tours focus on the work of architects Myron Hunt, John Lautner, FAIA, Paul Revere Williams, FAIA, RM Schindler, and AIA National Gold Medalist Richard Neutra, FAIA, and neighborhoods and cities of Irvine, Chinatown, Pasadena, Boyle Heights, Frogtown, and Claremont.

Several SAH/SCC members are on panels and chairing sessions: Emily Bills presents "Imagining a Telephoned City: Bell Telephone Ads and the LA House" and Christine O'Hara presents "LA Parkways: An Ecological Study of Politics and Culture" during the session on "LA Infrastructure: Design, Aesthetics, Publics." Life Member Michael Gibson's paper on "Sacred Spaces for the Suburbs: Catholic Architecture in Postwar LA" is part of "Pushing the Envelope: American Mid-Century Sacred Architecture." Life Member Volker M. Welter chairs the session "Styles, Revival Styles, California Styles."

Already registered for the conference or plan on attending? Volunteers who complete more than six hours of volunteering are eligible to receive a 50% refund on their conference registration fee.

This will be the final conference event for SAH National President Ken Breisch, a Life Member and Advisory Board Member of SAH/SCC. So, please come out and support him this April in Pasadena.

—Sian Winship



Brand Library (Nathaniel Dryden, 1904; Raymond Jones, 1956; Gruen Associates and Offenhauser/Mekeel Architects, 2014). Photo: Nico Marques/Photek



SAH National President Ken Breisch. Photo: University of Southern California

Tour and Event Information:

1.800.972.4722

info@sahscc.org



SOCIETY OF ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIANS
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAPTER

SAH/SCC NEWS is published bi-monthly by the Society of Architectural Historians Southern California Chapter. Subscription is a benefit of membership.

Editor: Julie D. Taylor, Hon. AIA/LA

Internet Editor: Brent Eckerman

Art Director: Svetlana Petrovic

Administration: Arline Chambers

May/June 2016 issue deadline for newsletter information and ads: April 10, 2016. Please send all ad materials, and news to the attention of the editor:

Julie D. Taylor, Editor
SAH/SCC News P.O. Box 56478
Sherman Oaks, CA 91413
Newsletter telephone: 310.247.1099
Newsletter fax: 310.247.8147
Newsletter e-mail: julie@taylor-pr.com

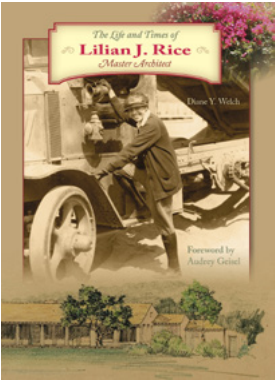
SAH/SCC Executive Board

Sian Winship (President)
John Ellis (Vice President)
Rina Rubenstein (Membership)
John Berley (Treasurer)
Brent Eckerman (Internet)
Jean Clare Baaden
Merry Ovnick
Mark Piaia
Jay Platt
Alice Gates Valania

SAH/SCC Advisory Board

Ted Bosley
Ken Breisch
Stephen Harby
Elizabeth McMillian
Rochelle Mills
Claire Rogger
Richard C. Rowe
Ann Scheid
Nancy Smith
Ted Wells
Robert Winter

Questions: Call 800.9SAHSCC.



Authors on Architecture: Welch on Rice

SAH/SCC Lecture & Book Signing

Sunday, April 17, 2016, 2-4PM, Pasadena

Architect to some of the nation's wealthiest achievers in the first half of the 20th century, Lilian Rice has posthumously become a controversial figure. A woman in a man's world, she was given an unprecedented opportunity in 1923, when her employer asked her to oversee the design of Rancho Santa Fe, a master-planned community catering to the rich and famous.

In recent years, critics have depicted her as deceptive, leading her clients in Rancho Santa Fe to believe she was a licensed architect to gain their trust and lucrative commissions. Did Rice misrepresent herself on her way to architectural fame, or is she being unfairly labeled to discredit and devalue the work? Author Diane Welch's new book, *Lilian Rice: Master Architect* (Schiffer, 2015), uncovers the truth about the obscure architect, introduces her clients, which include some of Hollywood's brightest stars, and tells of the exciting times in which she lived.

Join SAH/SCC in the Donald R. Wright Auditorium at the Pasadena Central Library (Myron Hunt and H.C. Chambers, 1927) for a lecture and book signing by the author. Welch, an award-winning journalist and best-selling author based in Solana Beach, previously penned *Lilian J. Rice: Master Architect of Rancho Santa Fe* (Schiffer, 2010), a first-place winner in the San Diego Book Awards for Biography in 2011.

Lilian Rice—Sunday, April 17, 2016; 2-4PM; Pasadena Central Library, 285 East Walnut St., Pasadena; free; seating is available on a first-come, first-served basis. Lecture attendees must park in the free University of Phoenix lot at 299 Euclid Avenue (enter on Garfield); the Library parking lot is reserved for patrons only. Violators will be cited. This program is not sponsored by the Pasadena Public Library.



California Modern, Irvine Style: Campus Architecture, City Planning, and the Legacy of William Pereira

April 18-22, 2016

The legacy of William Pereira, FAIA (1909-1985), who designed the original campus of UC Irvine, as well as many iconic buildings of Southern California, including Los Angeles County Art Museum, Los Angeles Zoo, Geisel Library at UCSD, and Theme Building at LAX, will be explored as part of UCI's 50th anniversary celebration.

Pereira was deeply influenced by science fiction and worked on several motion pictures as an art director. The conference and accompanying exhibits and activities will examine the history of UCI's master plan and the city of Irvine in relation to American modernism and early 1960s Utopianism. For info: bit.ly/1SRA8nD.

Symposium:

"Pereira and UCI: The View From the City" with Alan Hess, Grace Kook-Anderson, and Kevin Staniec

"Keynote" with Elizabeth Diller

"Pereira and UCI: Architectural Perspectives" with Jean-Louis Cohen and Nicholas Olsberg

"Celebratory Roundtable and Reception" with foundational faculty and the Pereira family

Talks:

"What Happened to UCI's Centrum?" with Laura Uglean Jackson and Christine Kim

"50th Anniversary Video Interviews With William Pereira Jr. and Others" with Krystal Tribbett

"Around the Campus in 60 Seconds: Celebrating Student Films About UCI" with Peter Krapp

"Hands-On Workshop: What is Urban Planning?" with faculty from UCI's Department of Planning, Policy, and Design

SAH/SCC Members

Life Members

GRANT BARNES
 KYLE C. BARNES
 MATT BERKLEY
 KATHLEEN BIXLER
 JOHN BLANTON, AIA
 MARY DUTTON BOEHM
 MARIE BOTNICK
 BILL BOWLING
 RUTH BOWMAN
 KEN BREISCH & JUDY KELLER
 CHARLOTTE ROSE BRYANT
 BONNIE BURTON
 PAMELA BURTON, FASLA
 DENIS CAGNA & CARLOS MEDINA
 JOHN & RHONDA CANO
 WENDY CARSON
 EDWARD CELLA
 ROBERT JAY CHATTEL, AIA
 NEIL CLEMMONS & LAURITA GUAICO HARRISON
 TRACY CONRAD
 ELIZABETH COURTIER
 BILL DAMASCHKE & JOHN McILWEE
 PATRICK TIMOTHY DAY
 CROSBY DE CARTERET DOE & LINDA SOLLIMA DOE
 HEINZ E. ELLERSIECK
 J. RICHARD FARE, AIA, CCS, CSI
 CAROL FENELON
 DONALD R. FERGUSON
 RON FIELDS, ASID
 GILBERT & SUKEY GARCETTI
 DR. & MRS. KENNETH GEIGER
 ROBERT GELINAS
 MICHAEL J. GIBSON
 LAMBERT GIESSINGER
 GORDON GILLIAM
 LISA GIMMY, ASLA, & CLAUDIA BEST, AIA
 RAYMOND GIRVIGIAN, FAIA
 STEVE GLENN
 PROF. PAUL GLEYE
 GWYNNE GLOEGE
 GEORGE GORSE
 ANDY & LISA HACKMAN
 PEYTON HALL, FAIA
 BRUCE & BETH HALLETT
 STEPHEN HARBY
 ELIZABETH HARRIS
 EUGENE & SHIRLEY HOGGATT
 JAMES HORECKA
 ALISON R. JEFFERSON
 WILLIAM H. JOHNSTON
 PAULA JONES
 JONATHAN S. JUSTMAN
 REBECCA KAHN
 DIANE KANE
 STEPHEN A. KANTER, MD
 VIRGINIA ERNST KAZOR
 MARILYN KELLOGG
 LAMAR KERLEY
 THEODORA KINDER
 SALLY KUBLY
 CHARLES A. LAGRECO, AIA
 RUTHANN LEHRER
 YETTA LEVITAS
 PAMELA LEVY
 PATRICIA LEVY
 MARTIE LIEBERMAN
 ROBERT LOWER
 JOYCE P. LUDMER
 LAURA MASSINO & ANDREW SMITH
 VITUS MATARÉ & ASSOCIATES
 CHRISTY JOHNSON McAVOY
 ELIZABETH L. McCAFFREY
 MARLENE McCOY
 JUDITH McKEE
 KELLY SUTHERLIN McLEOD, FAIA
 ELIZABETH McMILLIAN
 IRIS MINK
 LE ROY MISURACA
 SUSAN W. MONTEITH
 DOUGLAS M. MORELAND
 ANNELESE MORROW
 SARA G. MULLER CHERNOFF
 DANIEL T. MUÑOZ
 RONALD NESTOR, AIA
 THAO NGUYEN
 MARK NICHOLS
 PETER A. NIMMER
 JOHN M. NISLEY
 PETER NORTON
 REGINA O'BRIEN
 THOMAS O'CONNOR

Bookmarks

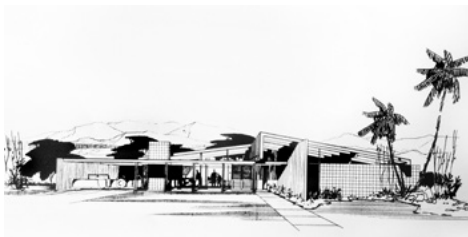


william krisel's palm springs
THE LANGUAGE OF MODERNISM

William Krisel's Palm Springs: The Language of Modernism

Edited by Chris Menrad and Heidi Creighton

Leafing through this long-deserved volume on William Krisel, AIA, is uplifting for the display of work and spirit, and heartwarming for this writer recalling how lucky I'd been to spend just a bit of time with Bill and his wife, Corrine. I revere Bill and Corrine. I love Krisel's work. I'm grateful for this book.



Valley of the Sun house, Rancho Mirage, c. 1957.
Image: West-Prinzmetal Architectural Archives, Palm Desert



Twin Palms landscape, 2011.

Image: Danny Heller

Starting with Krisel's emphatic declaration "I am not a modern architect," the book reveals his passion for real work for real people. His resistance to style and adherence to his philosophies refreshingly come not from ego, but from principle in service to people. He is a model architect.

Essays by many scholars familiar to SAH/SCC—including Alan Hess, Wim de Wit, Jake Gorst, SAH/SCC member Barbara Lamprecht, and our very own SAH/SCC President Sian Winship—approach the subject from various angles. Some essays are on the language of Krisel's work and his everyday modernism, while others are about typologies or individual projects.



A new version of the butterfly-roof house, Palm Springs, 2009.
Photo: Darren Bradley

"Ingredients for an Extraordinary Career" is the biographical essay tracing Krisel's unusual international upbringing, his wartime experience, USC architecture school, early work with Victor Gruen, FAIA, and the founding of several namesake firms. Throughout, one sees how his principles emerged. Recalling his time in the military, Krisel says: "I met men from all over the USA and from all walks of life...all of which I had not previously experienced. From this experience I became even more dedicated to creating well-designed modern homes for the masses."

Krisel's down-to-earth, populist outlook helped establish his practice as "one of the few firms in the nation that managed to bridge the worlds of architectural high design, merchant builders, and homebuyers," writes Winship. Given Krisel's life-long dedication to creating for the everyday person, it's fitting that the book itself was instigated by two Krisel homeowners.

Visually, the book is replete with wonderful photos that capture the work in time, but also convey its timelessness. Plans, brochures, ads, and other ephemera are also on display. But the drawings truly captivate, and—as described by de Wit—"show a total joy of producing" and "express a feeling of excitement."

Notes Gorst in "William Krisel, An Everyday Modernist": "There is a movement to document the work of twentieth-century architects who worked hard and touched the lives of large populations, but who had little desire for fame. This history is being recounted with a human touch." This book is a great step forward in documenting an architect with a particularly human touch.

Gibbs Smith; 224 pages; hardcover; \$45.

—Julie D. Taylor, Hon. AIA/LA, Editor

CINDY OLNICK & TOM DAVIES
KEVIN ORECK
POLLY OSBORNE, FAIA
ANNE OTTERSON
FRANCIS PACKER
HELEN PALMER
JOHN PAPADOPOULOS & STEPHANIE FAILLERS
GEORGE PENNER
AUDREE PENTON
RON RADZINER, FAIA
TOM & PEGGY REAVEY
JOHN AUGUST REED, AIA
STEVE & SARI RODEN
CLAIRE ROGGER
ARTHUR & GLORIA ROSENSTEIN
ROB ROTHBLATT, AIA
RICHARD CAYIA ROWE
JEFFREY B. SAMUDIO
TRUDI SANDMEIER
STEVEN SAUTE
LAWRENCE SCARPA, FAIA
ELEANOR SCHAPA
ANN SCHEID
JAMES M. SCHWENTKER III
PATRICIA SIMPSON
CECILIA SINGER
MARK SLOTKIN
CORBIN SMITH
GIBBS M. SMITH
NANCY & KYLE SMITH
CAROLYN STRAUSS
LYNN MARIE SULLIVAN
VERN SWANSEN
MARIE TARTAR & STEVE EILENBERG
REGINALD THATCHER
RAUN THORP, AIA
M. BRIAN TICHENOR, AIA
A. TISCHLER
JULIE TSENG
SARAH FLYNN TUDOR
MAGGIE VALENTINE
DANIEL VISNICH
WOLFGANG WAGENER & LESLIE ERGANIAN
ROBERT D. WALLACE
QUINCY WARGO
JOHN & LORI WARNKE
ERIC & KAREN WARREN
RON WATSON
DAVID R. WEAVER
JOHN H. WELBORNE, Hon. AIA/LA
TED W. WELLS
VOLKER M. WELTER
DR. ROBERT WINTER
TERI SUE WOLF
MR. & MRS. DAVID YAMADA
BOB YOUNG
JOYCE ZAITLIN, AIA
DAWN SOPHIA ZIEMER
STEVEN ZIMBELMAN
ANNE ZIMMERMAN, AIA, & MARK PIAIA, AIA

Patron Members

HARRIET BORSON
DIANE & ALLAN CHILDS
ROBERT CRAFT
CHAVA DANIELSON, AIA, & ERIC HAAS, AIA
STEVE & MARIAN DODGE
PAUL DOLANSKY
KIMBERLY DUDOW
ENID & GARY FREUND
ALBERT GENTLE
LARRY LAYNE
ALVIN Y. LEE, AIA
CAROL LEMLEIN & ERIC NATWIG
ROXANNE MODJALLAL
SUSAN RIFKIN
MICHAEL R. SOMIN, AIA
JOHN C. & KIM TERELL
DELL UPTON
DENNIS WHELA

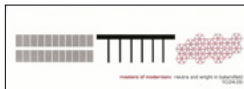
New Patron Member

SUSAN RIFKIN

New Members

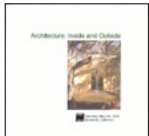
JANET CHAPMAN
KEN DUNCAN
JAMES B. GUTHRIE
TED HYMAN, FAIA, & KELLY HYMAN
J. SPENCER LAKE
VINCENT MARSH
CHANDLER MCCOY
ALISON PERCHUK
ERIKA THOST
WILLIAM WYNNE

SAH/SCC PUBLICATIONS



_____ 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 \$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.



_____ \$4 each

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



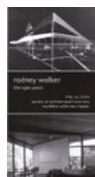
_____ at \$8 each

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.



_____ 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.



_____ 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.



_____ at \$4 each

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

check enclosed (Make checks payable to SAH/SCC)

charge my credit card: VISA MC

SUB-TOTAL

(\$1 postage fee will be added to all orders)

Street _____

City _____

State Zip _____

Daytime phone _____ Evening phone _____

Send to: SAH/SCC, P.O. Box 56478, Sherman Oaks, CA 91413

TOTAL

Card Number _____ Expiration Date _____

Signature _____

Name _____

E-mail Address* (PLEASE PRINT) _____



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!

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS:

- Advance notice of all SAH/SCC events—important because they usually sell out just to members
- 20-30% discounts on tour and event ticket prices
- Bi-monthly E-news with printable newsletter
- FREE tickets to our annual Members' Celebration event
- Special Members-Only E-Alerts about upcoming events
- A tax deduction for your membership dues
- The knowledge that you are supporting our mission to increase public awareness of Southern California's architectural heritage

MEMBERSHIP LEVELS THAT FIT YOUR NEEDS!

Fill out the order form below or join online at www.sahscc.org.

\$45 Individual - All the membership benefits above for a single individual.

\$65 Dual - All the membership benefits for two names at the same address.

\$125 Patron - All the membership benefits above, plus priority reservation at our popular and exclusive "Patrons Only" programs, such as "Modern Patrons" and "Contemporary Patrons." Includes two names at the same address.

\$500 Corporate Sponsorship - Annual donation receives Sponsorship listing in the SAH/SCC Website and on SAH/SCC event publications and hyperlink from our Website to yours.

\$30 Student (requires scan of valid Student ID) - All the benefits of Individual membership at a 30% discount.

SAH/SCC MEMBERSHIP

_____ Individual membership at \$45 each	= \$ _____
_____ Dual membership at \$65 each (two names at same address)	= \$ _____
_____ Patron membership at \$125 each (two names at same address)	= \$ _____
_____ Corporate membership at \$500 each	= \$ _____
_____ Student membership at \$30 each	= \$ _____
Total Membership	= \$ _____

Card Number	Expiration Date
Signature _____	
Name _____	
E-mail Address* (PLEASE PRINT) _____	
Street _____	
City _____	
State _____	Zip _____
Daytime phone _____	Evening phone _____

Send to: SAH/SCC, P.O. Box 56478, Sherman Oaks, CA 91413
 All event ticket sales are final. We are sorry, refunds cannot be accommodated.
 *SAH/SCC PRIVACY POLICY: The SAH/SCC never sells, rents, or shares your mailing or email address. Electronic communications enable us to operate economically and efficiently.

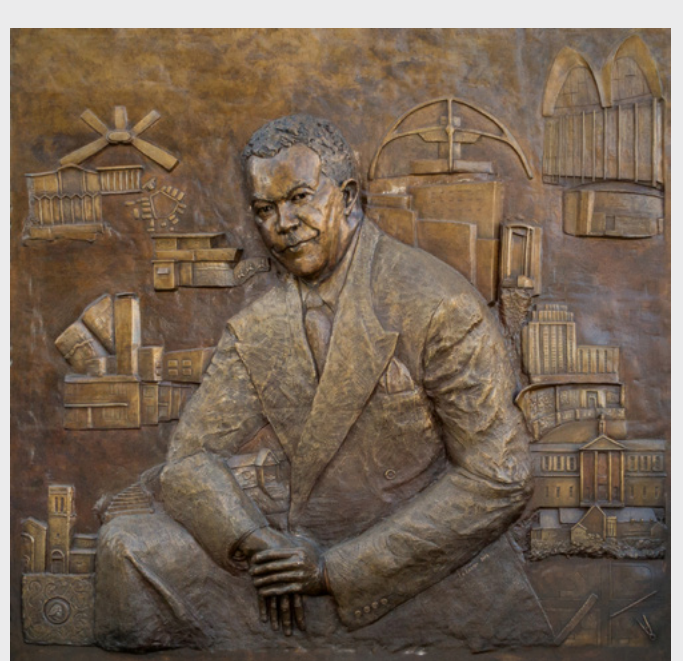


Photo: courtesy of Community Impact Development

Paul Williams Memorialized

Famed Los Angeles architect Paul Revere Williams, FAIA (1894-1980), has been honored with a memorial at the South Central Los Angeles Regional Center (SCLARC) Legacy Plaza at 1999 West Adams. The memorial, which incorporates a large bronze bas relief, celebrates Williams's enormous contributions to the field of architecture and to the Los Angeles community. The monument was commissioned by SCLARC as part of the Legacy Plaza development, which includes the renovation of Williams' 1949 Golden State Mutual Building.

The centerpiece of the monument is a large, 7'x9' sculpture of Williams by local West Adams artist Georgia Hanna Toliver, who signs her work "Tolanna." Williams is surrounded by some of his most iconic works, and the piece is flanked by large stainless-steel panels providing the history of Williams and that of Golden State Mutual Insurance Building. The monument plaza, new Legacy Building, and Golden State Mutual Building renovation are designed by AE3 Partners, Inc.

Among his many achievements, Williams was the first licensed African-American architect west of the Mississippi River. During a prolific and diverse five-decade career, Williams designed more than 3,000 buildings. Despite difficult conditions faced by African-Americans of his era, Williams rose to become the "Architect to the Stars," designing residences for Frank Sinatra, Lucille Ball, Tyrone Power, and many other Hollywood notables. Other works include the Beverly Hills Hotel (1959 remodel), LA County Hall of Administration (1956-61), First AME Church (1924), and the famous Theme Building at LAX (1960, with William Pereira, FAIA, and Welton Becket, FAIA).

The monument is open to the general public on weekdays from 9AM to 3PM, from the campus entrance off 2500 South Western Ave.