

# **NEWS**

January/February

2018

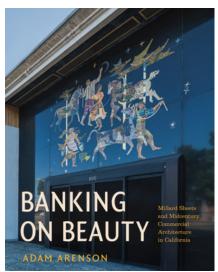


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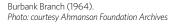
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# Authors on Architecture: Arenson on Sheets

SAH/SCC Lecture & Book Signing, Glendale Sunday, February 25, 2018, 2-4PM









Millard Sheets in his Padua Hills home studio. Photo: courtesv of Tony Sheets

Join SAH/SCC as author Adam Arenson debuts *Banking on Beauty: Millard Sheets and Midcentury Modern Design in California* (University of Texas Press, 2018), his long-awaited volume on the architecture of Home Savings.

For more than three decades, Millard Sheets (1907-1989) and his studio of artists designed Home Savings and Loan branches throughout California, studding their iconic projects with mosaics, murals, stained glass, and sculptures that celebrated both family life and the history of the Golden State. The collaboration between the Millard Sheets Studio and Howard Ahmanson (1906-1968), Home Savings' executive, resulted in more than 40 branches designed and built between the completion of the first collaboration in 1955 and Ahmanson's death. It set the course for more than 100 additional branches that bore the Home Savings name until the institution was sold to Washington Mutual in 1998.

Arenson, an associate professor of history and the director of Urban Studies at Manhattan College in the Bronx, NY, has created a richly illustrated book that is a landmark in business history and the distinctive style of architecture and art that graced 60 communities around Southern California.

Combining private investment and public art, and championing historical themes in a period of dramatic cultural and political change, the Home Savings and Loan buildings are signature structures of mid-century modern architecture, and their story deserves to be known before it is too late to save these remarkable works.

Authors on Architecture: Arenson—Sunday, February 25, 2018; 2-4PM; Glendale Central Library, 222 E. Harvard Street; free; seating is available on a first-come, first-served basis; 818.548.2021. Validated free parking is available in the structure opposite the library on East Harvard Street.

SAH/SCC President's Letter

# #MeToo:

## Charlotta Spears Bass

History repeats itself, so they say. Perhaps I should not have been surprised, then, when in the wake of the Harvey Weinstein and other sexual harassment allegations, I had a déjà vu moment at the LA Central Library. I was reading the memoir of Charlotta Spears Bass (1874-1969), the editor of one of the nation's oldest African-American newspapers.

Bass came to Los Angeles during the first decade of the 20th century. She found employment in selling subscriptions to The Eagle. The newspaper's editor, John James Neimore, established the paper in 1895. In 1912, Neimore, a workaholic, took ill and—on his deathbed implored Charlotta to run the paper in his absence. She reluctantly promised to do so, and renamed it The California Eagle.

In her memoir, Charlotta recounts how she found the paper in financial distress, beholden monetarily to an architect who owned the building and part of the business. Shortly after Neimore's passing, Charlotta received a visit from this architect, who surmised she must be "the girl" now running the paper. The architect agreed to let her remain in place—with the condition that she also become his "girlfriend" and live in an apartment he would set up for her.

Charlotta refused. Within days, she was served with an eviction notice and word that the paper would be sold at auction.

Fortunately, a community member stepped up and purchased the newspaper, agreeing that Charlotta could pay him back over time. She remained publisher for more than 40 years, until 1951 when she ran for vice president of the United States on the Progressive Party ticket.

Charlotta's account of her interaction with what was undoubtedly a Caucasian architect is factual and detached—befitting her decades of



Photo: courtesy Southern California Library for Social Studies

experience as a journalist. She does not name her harasser. Her willingness to stand up to a man in any position of power is inspirational more than 100 years later.

And so as we welcome 2018, I encourage us all to learn the lessons of history. Let the lives of others inspire us all to look to the past as guidance for navigating the uncharted waters of tomorrow.

-Sian Winship

## Architecture Lectures of Interest

1/26—"Goethermal Futures Lab"; Mark Foster Gage; SCI-Arc; 7PM

1/31—"Order, Edge, Aura"; Jing Liu; SCI-Arc; 7PM

**2/5**—"Reconsidering the Spanish Colonial Revival in California"; William Deverell, Christopher Hawthorne, Cedd Moses, Theresa Chavez, Julianne Polanco; LACMA; 7:30PM

> www.sciarc.edu

2/14—"T.A.X"; Alberto Kalach; SCI-Arc; 7PM

2/19—"Sabbatical Times": Andrew Zago; SCI-Arc; 7PM

2/21—"Alimentary Design"' Shohei Sigematsu; SCI-Arc; 7PM

3/7—"In Pursuit of the Allusive Object"; Ferda Kolatan; SCI-Arc; 7PM

> www.lacma.org



3/7—"Berggruen Institute"; Jacques Herzog; Hammer Museum: 7:30PM

3/14—"Reyner Banham and the Paradoxes of High Tech"; Todd Gannon; SCI-Arc; 7PM

3/21—"Moving On!"; Petra Blaisse; SCI-Arc; 7PM

> www.hammer.ucla.edu

#### Tour and Event Information: 1.800.972.4722 info@sahscc.org



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Lincoln Heights DWP (S. Charles Lee, c. 1937).

Photo: Gary Leonard

## The Romance of Water and Power: Architecture as Advertisement

#### Lecture & Presentation, Santa Monica

Sunday, February 11, 2018, 2-4PM

Join SAH/SCC and the Santa Monica Public Library (Moore Ruble Yudell, 2006) as we explore how Los Angeles' Department of Water and Power (DWP) leveraged architecture to enhance its image with Angelenos and increase the sale of electricity and water during the 20th century. Author and researcher Stuart W. Leslie, Ph.D., will take us on a dynamic virtual tour of DWP architecture—from local temples of power in each community to the dazzling commercial showrooms designed to sell merchants on illuminating their storefronts.

Leslie's work uncovers fascinating DWP buildings by S. Charles Lee and Frederick Roehrig, as well as lesser-known in-house architects, including V. Lankovsky and J. De F. Griffin. Attendees will learn the long-forgotten history of these buildings—ranging from neo-Grecian temples to luminescent Art Deco showrooms—and their role in the community.

The lecture is based on a recently published article in the esteemed Southern California Quarterly, edited by SAH/SCC Board Member Merry Ovnick. Leslie, an historian whose work revolves around technology and its intersection with popular culture, also traces the infrastructure designed by city father William Mulholland (1855-1935), including the dam that bears his name and the St. Francis Dam, which collapsed in 1928.

Lastly, the program will showcase the mid-century modern DWP General Office Building (Albert C. Martin and Associates, 1965), a veritable billboard for the three commodities in question: water, power, and light. Martin placed the building atop a 1.2-million gallon reflecting pool with eight large illuminated fountains. The building "perfectly expressed the romance of water and power," explains Leslie, and quickly became the new face of "Electroluminescent Los Angeles."

The Romance of Water and Power—Sunday, February 11, 2018; 2-4PM; Santa Monica Central Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd.; free; seating is available on a first-come, first-served basis; 310.458.8600.



Downtown LA DWP (Albert C. Martin and Associates, 1965).



Pacific Palisades DWP (Frederick Roehrig, 1935)

All photos: courtesy Los Angeles Public Library

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# SAH/SCC Year in Review

No one can say 2017 was an uneventful year—particularly when it came to book events, tours, and lectures hosted by SAH/SCC. After the special Members' Celebration, our public programs were bookended—literally—by SAH/SCC Advisory Board Member Kenneth A. Breisch, Ph.D.

#### January 22-Members' Celebration

At Neutra's J.M. Roberts Residence in West Covina, restoration craftsman Eric Lamers and Neutra scholar Barbara Lamprecht, Ph.D., gave a presentation on the home's history and restoration.

#### January 29-Authors on Architecture: **Breisch on the Central Library**

Kenneth A. Breisch, Ph.D., discussed The Los Angeles Central Library: Building an Architectural Icon, 1872-1933, drawing on a wealth of primary source material on one of LA's lasting treasures.

#### February 26-Frank Bros.: The Store That Modernized Modern

Cara Mullio and Jennifer M. Volland gave a tour of "Frank Bros.: The Store That Modernized Modern" at the University Art Museum at Cal State Long Beach.



#### March 19-Inventing Ojai: Placemaking Through Architecture

The legacy of city father Edward Drummond Libbev was explored in the exhibition "Inventing Ojai," during tours of downtown Ojai, and on trips to selected residences.

#### March 26-The Modern Ranch House

The A.F. Barker Residence, designed by architect/ builder Edward A. Kirtlan, was toured with SAH/ SCC Patron Member John LoCascio, AIA, and master carpenter Alan Adams.

#### April 5-Eero Saarinen: The Architect Who Saw The Future

A showing of the documentary film "Eero Saarinen: The Architect Who Saw the Future" was followed by a discussion with his son, filmmaker Eric Saarinen.



#### April 23-Authors on Architecture: Lyle on Sunnylands

Janice Lyle discussed Sunnylands: America's Midcentury Masterpiece about the architecture, interior design, history, and restoration of the famed estate designed by A. Quincy Jones, FAIA, and William Haines.

#### May 13-Eichler Homes: **Grand Finale, Modernism for Now!**

Paul Adamson discussed his book Eichler: Modernism Rebuilds the American Dream prior to a self-guided tour of Eichler homes by Claude Oakland, AIA, and Jones & Emmons in Thousand Oaks.

#### July 8-Authors on Architecture: **Buckner on Lyman**

SAH/SCC Member Cory Buckner presented the little-known work of Frederic P. Lyman, FAIA, detailed in her book The Lyman House and the Work of Fredric P. Lyman.

#### September 9-Authors on Architecture: Schrank on Modernism and the Body

Based on her book Healing Spaces, Modern Architecture, and the Body, Sarah Schrank, Ph.D., addressed post-WWII suburban nudist experiments and their influence on tract home design.

#### September 23-Authors on Architecture: Michigan Modern

Contributors to Michigan Modern: Design That Shaped America gave a virtual tour of Michigan's contributions to modern design in architecture, automobiles, furniture, and education.

#### October 1-Lawrence Halprin: Alternative Scores

SAH/SCC Life Member and gallery owner Edward Cella led a tour of the exhibition "Lawrence Halprin: Alternative Scores—Drawing From Life," featuring the landscape architect's previously lost drawings.



Image: courtesy of Edward Cella Art + Architecture

#### October 15-Soriano: Romantic Technologist

The Pullmans opened their home—the Kimpson/ Nixon Residence (1940)—designed by Raphael Soriano, FAIA, for a tour and discussion about the history and architecture of the residence.

#### November 5-Authors on Architecture: **Breisch on America's Libraries**

Breisch presented an illustrated talk based on his book American Libraries 1730-1950, an expansive architectural, historical, and social overview

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# 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 \$6 each

**Irving Gill: Los Angeles:** 10-page booklet featuring photos and articles on Gill and three residential projects in I A



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", fourcolor 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 Vallev.



\_ 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.

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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!

#### 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

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

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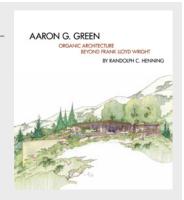
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Corporate membership at \$500 ea	ach = \$	
Student membership at \$30 each	= \$	
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## **Bookmarks**

## Aaron G. Green: **Organic Architecture Beyond Frank Lloyd** Wright

by Randolph C. Henning



"Everything I know about architecture I know from Frank Lloyd Wright," Aaron G. Green, FAIA, unequivocally said. However, Green was unusual among doting apprentices. He established a shared office with the master—acting as Wright's west coast representative—while also embarking on his own projects. This very impressive volume exhaustively chronicles the architect's work after Wright, and his further explorations into Organic architecture.



Allan Green Residence, Philo, CA, 1993. Photo: Tom Liden

Before joining the Taliesin Fellowship in 1940, Green was the ultimate fanboy, plotting the perfect way to meet Wright offering him a commission. By 1943, war service ended his Fellowship, but he started working with Wright again in 1951, when the senior architect suggested they open an office together in San Francisco. From 1951 to Wright's death in 1959,

Green worked on more than 30 Wright projects, including the wellknown Marin County Civic Center, while also doing commissions under his own name.

After a foreword by architectural historian Alan Hess, an introduction by Wright archivist Bruce Brooks Pfeiffer, preface by Green mentee Jan Novie, the author Henning—himself an architect gives a brief biographical overview before delving into 375 pages of project profiles, including single-family residences, houses of worship, large-scale city planning, and various commercial projects. Color and black-and-white drawings are beautifully reproduced, as are classic black-and-white photos. The quality of color photography ranges from poor to uneven, unfortunately detracting from the presentation. But in the work itself, the debt to Wright is obvious on each page, though what emerges most is Green's life-long interpretation of the concepts of Organic architecture. As noted by Hess, Green "contributed to Organic architecture at both the macro and micro scale." This book shows it all.

ORO Editions; 2017; 448 pages; hard cover; \$75.



Safeway store at Oriental Gardens Shopping Center, Santa Clara, CA, 1963.