

SOCIETY OF ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIANS SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAPTER

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January

Photos: Anton Gett)

P.O. Box 56478, Sherman Oaks, CA 91413, 800.972.4722, www.sahscc.org

The new year welcomes the first in a new SAH/SCC series called **Contemporary** Patrons. Modeled after our on-going Modern Patrons series, these events are designed to highlight the process of commissioning, designing, and living in a house from the original clients' point of view. Whereas Modern Patrons looked to those ground-breaking talents that established LA's Modern legacy, Contemporary Patrons focuses on current practitioners who are investigating the meanings of today's

architecture.







Contemporary Patrons: Wells in Laguna Beach

SAH/SCC Talk and Tour: Saturday, January 19, 2008

Please join us on January 19th, 2-4PM, at the home of Jan and Paul Muñoz in Laguna Beach, designed by former SAH/SCC board president Ted Wells. Moderated by board member John Ellis, the talk will feature the homeowners' journey in creating the piece of contemporary architecture. The event is \$15 and open to SAH/SCC Life and Patron members (the program will only be available to the general membership in the event there is space available). See the order form on the back page. Space is limited.

Ten years ago, the Muñozes purchased what was classified as an "unbuildable" sloping lot on Pacific Coast Highway. Beside the grade and location issues, the lot had access, parking, and height restrictions that would make it a nearly impossible property to develop. They worked with a architect on a design for three years, but still had no approvals from the city. And worse, the proposed design had been compromised to such an extent that the landowners had resigned themselves to building a house they no longer loved, selling it, and moving on.

They started a process of finding a new lot for a new house and had saved a cover of the *Los Angeles Times Magazine* showing a house designed by Ted Wells. They called Wells, and decided to face the challenge of designing a house on their existing lot. The house was completed in December 2005.

Known to many at SAH/SCC, Ted Wells was our board president, and leader of many memorable tours; he remains on SAH/SCC advisory board. Wells is the principal at Ted Wells living:simple LLC, in Laguna Niguel, CA. His designs include houses, offices, monasteries, gardens, and neighborhood planning projects throughout the US, as well as restorations of significant historical properties by noted architects such as Henry and Charles Greene, RM Schindler, and Irving Gill.

His architecture degree is from USC, and he is currently an architectural guest lecturer at UC Irvine, and taught at Saddleback College in Mission Viejo from 2002 to 2004.

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SAH/SCC

President's Letter

This year, SAH/SCC mounted its first fund-raising campaign in the institutional memory of the organization. Because we had never held a funding campaign, we had no way of guessing the outcome in advance. The Crossroads Challenge campaign sought \$25,000 to preserve the organization's solvency and meet the challenges of the electronic era of communication. The goal has just been reached and gifts are still coming in, expanding the possibilities of how we can best meet members' expectations and fulfill our mission of educating the public about architectural design and the built environment of Southern California.

The members of the executive and advisory boards have been deeply touched by the

support received from the following donors to the Crossroads Challenge campaign to date.

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In this post-holiday season for sending thank-you notes, our sincere thanks. We look forward to a new year of events and gatherings where we hope to see all of our current members and to meet many new faces. Happy New Year!

Merry Ovnick

SAH/SCC Year in Review: 2007

Victor Regnier

Susan Rifkin

Richard Roether

SAH/SCC members celebrated and investigated sites both near and far in 2007. Take a look at our year in review. If you weren't with us on any of our adventures, you can relive some of them through the publications created especially for the events. See the back page for ordering information.

Libya and Tunisia: In Search of Ancient Splendor and the Far-Flung Outposts of Empire Sunday, February 11th; Santa Monica Public Library An illustrated talk with architect, world traveler, and SAH/SCC advisory board member Stephen Harby

featured the spectacular landscapes, stunning architecture, and distinct cultures of Libya and Tunisia. These two countries were once the breadbasket of the Roman Empire, and offer today some of the best preserved and most dramatically situated ancient sites of Greek and Roman cities.

Downtown Santa Monica Walking Tour

Created by the Santa Monica Conservancy, the walk traversed more than 130 years of Santa Monica history, from its Wild West frontier beginnings to the sophisticated metropolis of today. Buildings featured on the tour encompass diverse architectural styles, from the Victorian through Spanish Revival, Art Deco, and early Modernism, including The Majestic Theatre, The Keller Block The Builder's Exchange, and The Bay Cities Guaranty Building.

A Block in Glendale

Saturday, May 19th

A drive-yourself tour showcased the diversity and originality of Glendale's residential architecture from the beginning to end of the 20th century. A microcosm of Southern California's rich architectural heritage, the Glendale tour included Ard Eevin, Paul Revere Williams' Baird House, and Vahran Kevork Jebejian's Bloch House

Phoenix: Out of the Shadow

Friday-Sunday, September 7th-9th

The weekend's events explored the evolution of modern architecture in the Phoenix area featuring the residential work of Frank Lloyd Wright, Case Study House architects Calvin Straub and Al Beadle, as well as contemporary master Will Bruder. As Phoenix is most often associated with Taliesin West, the travel tour sought to focus on the work of the local modern architects who cre ated bodies of work distinctive from that of Wright.

Saturday, October 20th; Office of Mobile Design Prefab Show House, Venice, CA
A lecture, slide show, and studio tour with SAH/SCC board member Jean Baaden featured Jennifer Siegal, known for her work in creating mobile structures that include customized, prefab Modernist homes through her design firm Office of Mobile Design (OMD). The talk covered Siegal's innovative design sensibilities, expertise in futuristic concepts, prefabricated construction, and green building technologies.

Members' Celebration

Saturday, December 1st; Art Center College of Design, Hillside Campus, Pasadena

The annual celebration gave attendees the opportunity to learn about the history of Craig Ellwood's design of the main building, as well as future planning and development growth for the college. Director of Architectural Documentation and Special Projects (and a member of SAH/SCC) Dana Hutt spoke on the history and future conservation efforts of the Ellwood Building, while Senior Vice President of Educational Planning and Architecture Patricia Oliver, AIA, discussed the Art Center's Master Plan, which took more than seven years to develop and is now in the year-long planning process at City Hall



Tour and Event Information: 1.800.972.4722; sahscc-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.

Editor: Julie D. Taylor, Hon. AIA/LA Assistant Editor: Monica Lee Internet Editor: Brent Eckerman Art Director: Svetlana Petrovic Administration: Arline Chambers

Information and ads for the newsletter should be sent three weeks before the issue date March/April 2008 issue deadline: February 10, 2008

Please send all ad materials, notices of events, and news to the attention of the editor:

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Photos: Anton Getty

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Wells has lectured at universities around the world, and appeared for three years on Home and Garden Television network's "American Homestyles" series, as well as on numerous PBS educational programs. Wells is writing a book on architect Harwell Hamilton Harris, to be published in 2009, and is a contributing author to a book on Southern California Modernism to be published in 2008.

The house Wells created for the Muñoz family wanders up the hillside in a series of three boxes made of prefabricated panels of Cor-ten weathering steel. The quarter-inch-thick plates of steel are the structural walls of the house. Between the three-foot-wide panels of steel are windows covered by sliding wood screens. The three boxes stack and interlock upon one another around a central courtyard garden and are topped by thin copper-edged roofs that shade gable ends filled with glass. Additionally, the house is environmentally conscious in construction, durable in material, and flexible in plan.

At the core of the house is a two-story airy transition room with a cantilevered steel stair and a 13-foot-high sliding hangar door to the courtyard. On the upper floor are the main living areas and a wide ocean view. The level below contains two bedrooms, a bath, and studio. The lowest level, shielding the house from PCH, contains a guest bedroom, bath, and office. Steel, wood, glass, concrete, and boulders combine in a form reminiscent of an old barn, but one made of elegantly crafted material with daring structural design.

Throughout the house, the repetition of the panelized structural system of Cor-ten steel panels asserts itself. On the interior, each prefabricated panel is inset with finished materials of waxed Masonite, smooth cork, or muted-color laminate. The floors, of cork or polished concrete, are simple to maintain, unaffected by sand from the beach, and are warmed by radiant heating. At the center of the living area, a freestanding wall of bookcases and closets defines the space and is anchored by two firenlaces of thin horizontal brick

Today, the house is a single-family dwelling for Mr. and Mrs. Muñoz and their teenage son, along with spaces for their daughters and grandchildren, who frequently visit. There is a separate studio workspace for the couple: Mr. Muñoz is a design engineer of micro-medical devices, and Mrs. Muñoz is a fabric artist.

But these contemporary patrons want their house to adapt and change as their lives will, so the house is designed to convert to two or three independent dwellings, if needed, for multi-generational living.

Join us for the inaugural Contemporary Patrons event, for an afternoon of exploration into what it took to create this work of architecture overlooking the Pacific.



California Romantica

by Diane Keaton text by D.J. Waldie photos by Lisa Hardaway and Paul Hester

Even without the imprimatur of Oscar-winning actress Keaton, California Romantica is a true Hollywood star. This lavish volume attempts to recreate the awe and aura Keaton felt at her first childhood experience of the "romance that lived within the walls of our Spanish heritage." Twenty homes, many lovingly restored, are displayed with equal passion. Each prime example is introduced with spread after spread of achingly gorgeous photos along with lively text by noted LA historian Waldie, who couches each home within its historical, cultural, and geographic conditions. In a subtle way, the sequencing of image and words gives the viewer/reader the visceral experience Keaton hopes for A hoard member of the LA Conservancy, Keaton has a motive for this book; she wants "'Old' and 'Spanish' to stop being code words for demolition."

Rizzoli New York; hardcover; 346 pages; \$65.



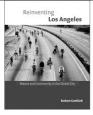


Houses of Los Angeles, Volume 1: 1885-1919; Volume II: 1920-1935

by Sam Watters

At first blush, one would think these two tomes (360+ pages! 400+ illustrations! each!) would be comprehensive surveys of the domestic landscape of LA. Instead, each volume focuses on around 37 particular homes "designed by inventive architects for power-hungry, dealmaking creative and civic-minded Los Angeles citizens." Watters-a professor at USC-uses dusty (but beautiful) black-and-white photos, plus floor and garden plans, to craft the history of the characters that shaped LA. In Volume I, the names that just seem like mere notations on a Thomas Guide-Doheny, de Longpre, Brand, Griffith, Hancock, Cochran—are fully fleshed out through their architectural patronage. Volume II gives a nod to Hollywood with homes for stars and producers-Pickfair, Harold Lloyd, Marion Davies, Irving Thalberg-and demonstrates a slow progression into Modernism. Even though this enjoyable series begs for at least two more volumes on houses, Watters has embarked on his next study, Southern California Gardens, 1885-1935.

Acanthus Press; hardcover; Volume I, 368 pages; Volume II, 392 pages; \$89, each.



Reinventing Los Angeles: Nature and Community in the Global City

by Robert Gottlieb

Gottlieb—a professor (UCLA, Occidental College), author (Environmentalism Unbound), public servant (board member of Metropolitan Water District), and activist (co-founder of Urban and Environmental Policy Institute)-brings wide and diverse experience to the study of Los Anneles and its scarcity of both nature and community. No complaining diatribe, this book proffers solutions and heralds successful programs already in place, such as efforts toward the Los Angeles River and Arroyofest, each warranting their own chapters. Gottlieb dissects and discusses origins, failures, successes, and future ramifications of nature, community, water, transportation, migration, and globalization in the city in a way that is neither preachy nor accusatory, but informative and-I dare say—inspiring. MIT Press; softcover;

MIT Press; softcover, 440 pages; \$24.95.

january



Hometown Santa Monica: The Bay Cities Book

hy Colleen Dunn Bates (editor) Building on the success of a similar volume on Pasadena, editor/publisher Bates gathers local experts, writers, and personalities to paint a realistic picture of their town. A reference perhaps more applicable for natives than it is for tourists, the guidebook lists beaches, hang-outs, museums, shops, restaurants, and the like with lively annotations interviews with notable locals, and fun facts. The big difference between this and a travel guide is its depth of knowledge and range of opportunities. For example, the art chapter lists the expected museums and galleries, but also offers studios and workshops to create one's own work. The architecture chapter presents nine self-quided tours (from "John Byers Extravaganza" to "Frank O. Gehry—Oh, My!"), a list of historic houses, and interview with architect Gwynne Pugh.

Prospect Park Books; softcover; 256 pages; \$24.95.

scc publications

For those of you who missed out on recent SAH/SCC tours, or would like more information for your reference, here's an opportunity to get your hands on the publications printed especially for SAH/SCC events. Don't let another chance pass you by.

	at \$12 each
	ndeck of cards featuring five diverse properties— —plus historical background information on the
	at \$3 each
Rodney Walker 3 30 90: 12-page three-foot module and features nine ho	brochure exploring the architect's usage of the omes on five sites
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Edward Killingsworth: Setting a brochure featuring seven Long Beach H	Modern Standard: 20-page, black-and-white nouses and an article by the architect at \$8 each
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	s: tri-fold, black-and-white brochure featur- in Ojai, with pictures and article by histori-
	at \$5 each
Kesling Homes: bi-fold, two-color bro	ochure from the "Kesling Modern Structures" tour at \$2 each
The Historic and Modern Spirit ol	Ventura: 20-page guide from Ventura tourat \$10 each
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Winter, Orville O. Clarke, Jr., and Mitzi	iviarcii iviogui

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SAH/SCC Event:

Contemporary Patrons: Wells in Laguna—January 19th	
Life/Patron member ticket(s) at \$15 each	= \$

(Only SAH/SCC Patron and Life Members are eligible. To become a member, see below.)

SAH/SCC Membership Benefits:

Subscription to bi-monthly SAH/SCC News Member prices for SAH/SCC events Free Members' Celebration

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