

SOCIETY OF ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIANS SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAPTER

November decen

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

Please join SAH/SCC for the annual Members' Celebration on Saturday, December 1st, 2-4PM, at Art Center College of Design's Hillside Campus in Pasadena. We'll meet at the Faculty Dining Room in the building designed by Craig Ellwood. Attendees will learn about the history of Ellwood's design, as well as future planning and development growth for the college. As always, our Members' Celebration is free to SAH/SCC members in good standing. To reserve a spot, use the form on the last page, call 800.9SAH-SCC, or email info@sahscc.org. Walk-ins

The featured speakers are Art Center's Dana Hutt, Director of Architectural Documentation and Special Projects (and a member of SAH/SCC), and Patricia Oliver, AIA, Senior Vice President of Educational Planning and Architecture.

are always welcomed.

Having operated in the City of Los Angeles for more than 40 years, Art Center acquired property in the Linda Vista neighborhood of Pasadena and opened its doors in 1976. Situated on 175 wooded acres, the main building, designed by Craig Ellwood Associates, is a 217,000-square-foot structure providing space and facilities for the College's approximately 1,400 fulltime undergraduate students. The building's stark steel-and-glass design has been recognized by the City of Pasadena as a Designated Historic Property. The Ellwood building has been described by writer Joseph Giovannini in a 2005 article in *Architectural Record* as a "svelte, Miesian, bridge-like structure that spans a gully in the Linda Vista Hills above Pasadena. Embodying a pristine, idealized vision of architectural beauty, this essentially classical building in bucolic seclusion represents the Modernist version of the ivory tower."

SAH/SCC Members' Celebration Saturday, December 1st, 2-4PM

Art Center College of Design

Ms. Hutt will speak on the history and future conservation

efforts of the Ellwood Building, while Ms. Oliver will talk specifically about 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.

The scope of the 25-year expansion plan includes building a 48,000-square-foot Frank Gehry-designed Research Center, maintaining more than 145 acres of the 175-acre site as natural open space, and creating new outdoor plazas for meetings and events, as well as renovating and remodeling the Ellwood building. Art Center has, to date, raised \$67.5 million of a \$75-million capital campaign.

The Hillside campus is located at 1700 Lida Street in Pasadena. Refreshments will be provided. Parking is available in the student parking lot located at the southern end of the campus. The Members' Celebration is free to current SAH/SCC members, and \$10 for non-members (applicable toward the \$45 membership fee for those who join on or before December 1st).

Photos: Steven A. Heller, Art Center College of Design



SAH/SCC

President's Letter

SAH/SCC is in the midst of its Crossroads Challenge fund-raiser. In addition to those donors recognized in the last issue of SAH/SCC News, we would like to thank the following for their generous donations:

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We are rapidly approaching our goal and would appreciate all help to make it by the end of the year.

A happy post-script to our 2006 Members' Celebration, a Preservation Summit held at the historic (but deteriorating) Lummis House: The City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation & Parks recently completed reroofing and fumigating the structures—badly needed first steps toward saving this architecturally and historically significant landmark! Hurrah!

In other good news, we are happy to introduce Dennis Whelan, the newest member of the SAH/SCC Executive Board. He is a Southern California native, who earned his undergraduate degree at UCSB in Studio Art with a minor in Architectural History, and was a student of David Gebhard. "What great field trips!" remembers Dennis. He earned a Masters of Architecture at UCLA, where he was a student—and employee—of Charles Moore. Currently a licensed California architect and certified planner, Dennis has been a Camous Planner at UCSB for more than 15 years.

Merry Ovnick

Call for Proposals

Society of Architectural Historians 62nd Annual Meeting

Pasadena, California, April 1-5, 2009

Members of the Society, representatives of affiliated societies, and other scholars who wish to chair a session at the 2009 SAH Annual Meeting in Pasadena, CA, are invited to submit proposals by January 2, 2008, to Prof. Dianne Harris, General Chair of the SAH 62nd Annual Meeting, Department of Landscape Architecture, 101 Temple Buell Hall, 611 Lorado Taft Drive, Champaign, IL 61820; harris3@uiuc.edu; 217.333.7727.

As membership in the Society is required to present research at the annual meeting, those wishing to chair a session or deliver a paper who are currently not members must become an SAH member before October 19, 2008, also the deadline for fellowship applications.

Since the principal purpose of the annual meeting remains that of informing the Society's members of the general state of research in their and related disciplines, session proposals covering every period in the history of architecture and all aspects of the built environment, including landscape and urban history, are encouraged. Sessions may be theoretical, methodological, thematic, interdisciplinary, pedagogical, revisionist, or documentary in premise and have broadly conceived or more narrowly focused subjects. In every case, the subject should be clearly defined in critical and historiographic terms, and should be substantiated by a distinct body of either established or emerging scholarship.

Proposals of no more than 500 words including a session title should summarize the subject and the premise. Include name, professional affiliation (if applicable), address, telephone, and fax numbers, e-mail address, and a current CV. For examples of content, consult the "Call for Papers for the 2008 Annual Meeting in Cincinnati" published in the April 2007 issue of the SAH Newsletter. Proposals and CVs should be submitted, if possible, both by mail and by e-mail. E-mail submissions should include the text of the proposal in both the body of the email and in the attachment.

Proposals will be selected on the basis of merit and the need to organize a well-balanced program. Proposals for pre-1800 topics and topics exploring the architecture of the Pasadena region are especially encouraged, as are those dealing with related fields of urban and landscape history around the world. Since late proposals cannot be considered, it is recommended that proposals be submitted and their receipt be confirmed well before the deadline. The General Chair cannot be responsible for last-minute submissions, electronic or otherwise, that fail to reach their destination. Authors of accepted proposals will be asked to draft a more concise Call for Papers of not more than 300 words. This will be distributed and published in the April 2008 SAH Newsletter. One or two open sessions also will be organized by the General Chair.



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.

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

Information and ads for the newsletter should be sent three weeks before the issue date.

January/February 2008 issue deadline: December 10, 2007

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

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Contemporary

Jalrons.

Wells in Laguna Beach

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

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.

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 noted 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, which was completed in December 2005.

The house 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, shading gable ends filled with glass. Additionally, the house is environmentally conscious in construction, durable in material, and flexible in plan.

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.





oto: Rob Rothblatt

Postcard From Phoenix

A group of 50 SAH/SCC members venture into the wilds (or sprawl, depending on how you see it) of Phoenix not knowing what to expect in this harsh desert environment. Here in the fifth-largest and second-fastest-growing city in the country, we gather to focus our Southern California lens on all things architectural, beginning with Frank Lloyd Wright and stretching out from under his shadow, into the generations of architects to follow.

With veteran tour director and SAH/SCC Vice President Sian Winship as our guide, the weekend journey starts at the Phoenix Museum of Art, recently expanded by acclaimed architects Tod Williams and Billie Tsien. Local architect Will Bruder gives a thought-provoking presentation that elegantly frames the weekend, catapulting Phoenix "Out of the Shadow" and directly into our consciences.

Leaving the museum with a healthy dose of inspiration, we shuttle to the Valley Ho, our Mid-Century Modern, chic-boutique hotel. It's sunset now. Graceful shadows stripe the desert landscape, reminding us of the theme of our visit.

In true Sian fashion, we maximize each day by boarding the bus, appropriately caffeinated, by 7:15AM. Each day we see eight houses, share a luncheon, and enjoy a few guest speakers. The houses are arranged, for the most part, in chronological order.

We start with the Price Residence, also known as the U-Haul House, by Wright. Here we discuss Usonian ideals with special guest (and former instructor to many in our group) Rob Rothblatt. We visit seven other houses that speak to the progression of architecture by protégées of Wright, each with a story, each with a unique take on addressing Modernist principles in the desert. Most revealing was a letter written by Wright to the father of Ed Korrick, a potential client. (He didn't get the job.) We share a few laughs as Mr. Korrick reads the framed letter, now a treasured heirloom.



Photo: John Ellis



Photo: Rob Rothblatt

Day two starts with Al Beadle's The Boardwalk, which is my favorite multiple housing project I've seen in years. Graceful and clean-lined, The Boardwalk is a series of 800-squarefoot units, each entered from a central path that meanders through the complex. It's the best of Modern design: a humanly scaled multipleunit approach that creates a wonderful balance for community living. (I even considered buying one of the idyllic units that was for sale, but the idea of commuting to Phoenix for weekends quickly tempered that adrenalin rush.)

Another highlight was seeing the Corbus Desert Dwelling designed by Ed Sawyer. Exquisitely sited, this jewel box holds strong with its Modernist lines profiled against the desert boulders and as welcomed opposition to the encroaching McMansions that now dot the area. We also visit the Nora Woods



Photo: Rob Rothblatt

Residence, an experiment in living designed by Paolo Soleri, another Wright student who has gained fame for his unique vision.

A few days after returning to LA, I pick up the *New York Times*, which has a story on Phoenix architecture, including the work of Soleri. It's then that I realize Sian is at the helm of the cultural zeitgeist. We visited Phoenix at just the right time, it seems. We're a privy few, who enjoyed access to many interesting houses, and to the ideas that make them interesting still today.

— John Ellis



november

december

scc publications order

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.

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

at \$12 each

Edward A. Killingsworth: Setting a Modern Standard: 20-page black-and-white brochure featuring seven Long Beach houses and an article by the architect

 $\textbf{Wallace Neff: Backwards and Forwards:} \ \textit{four-page foldout color brochure}$

Space and Learning: eight-page color brochure on the historic and contemporary legacy of LA school architecture, featuring projects by Richard Neutra, Thom Mayne, Rios Clementi Hale Studios, others, from the Los Angeles tour

Rodney Walker: The Ojai Years: trifold black-and-white brochure featuring Walker's important residences in Ojai, with pictures and article by historian David Mason, based on the Ojai tour

Soriano: Man of Steel: 12-page illustrated booklet with article by Neil Jackson, from the Los Angeles tour

Modernism for the Masses: threefold brochure with inserts of detailed floor plans of Eichler homes visited on the tour to Orange County

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

at \$10 each

A Block in Glendale: Pocket-size fandeck of cards features five diverse properties, including a Paul Williams residence, plus historical background information on Brockmont Heights subdivision

at \$3 each

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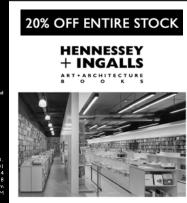
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Art Historian(s), University of Southern California, Department of Art History, Begin August 2008. The Department of Art History at USC seeks to make (2) senior appointments, one of which begins with a term as Chair (normally lasting 3 years). Applications from accomplished scholars with academic or museum backgrounds in any period or geographic area are welcome; PhD required. Successful candidates for either position will be expected to sustain an active research and publication agenda, teach graduate and undergraduate courses, and participate in the intellectual life of the university as well as the department. Those with interdisciplinary interests and a commitment to innovative, rigorous, and critically engaged teaching and research are especially encouraged to apply. Candidates should submit a letter of application including a statement of current research interests, CV including email address, and the names of three referees, to: Prof. Eunice Howe, Chair, Department of Art History, University of Southern California, Los Angeles CA 90089- 0047. howe@usc.edu Application screening begins Oct. 15. 2007 and continues until the position has been filled. USC values diversity and is committed to equal opportunity in employment. Women and men, and members of all racial and ethnic groups, are encouraged to apply.





order form

fill out form below and send to: SAH/SCC PO Box 56478 Sherman Oaks, CA 91413

SAH/SCC Event:

Members' Celebration—December 1st member ticket(s) non-member ticket(s)	FREE at \$10 each	= \$
Contemporary Patrons: Wells in Lagun	na—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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