



SOCIETY OF ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIANS
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAPTER

2006
January February

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NEWS



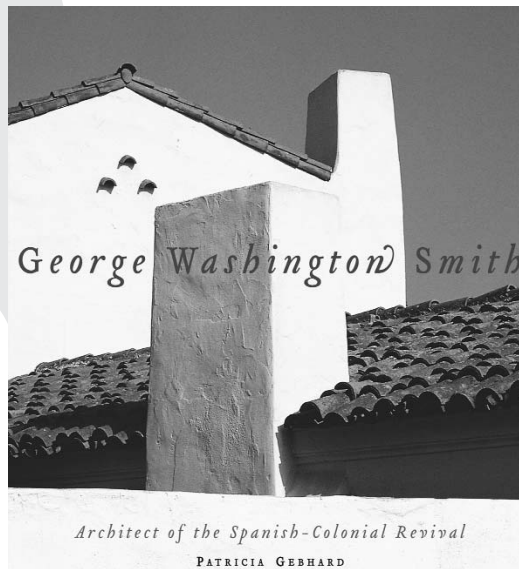
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Authors on Architecture

Gebhard on Smith

SAH/SCC Event
Sunday, January 29th

Authors on Architecture welcomes writer Patricia Gebhard to a book-signing on Sunday, January 29th, 2-4PM. She will sign and discuss the research she conducted for her new book George Washington Smith: Architect of Spanish Colonial Revival (Gibbs Smith, 2006) at Hennessey & Ingalls, 214 Wilshire Blvd., Santa Monica; 310.458.9074. This event is free and open to the public.



Photos from *George Washington Smith: Architect of Spanish Colonial Revival*, used by permission.

The monograph chronicles Smith's life from birth through death using narrative, hundreds of color photographs, and drawings. Gebhard details each of Smith's buildings as it was built and the conclusion of his unfinished projects by Smith's assistants. As the architect was hailed as the "Father of Spanish Colonial Revival," Gebhard describes how aged European structures influenced Smith's signature designs. One of the first architects to gain inspiration from the scale, proportion, color, and texture of Spanish farmhouses, Smith tailored these attributes for the west coast, beginning with his own house in Montecito. Throughout this 192-page book—which also includes homes in other regions, such as Arizona, Texas, and Colorado—Gebhard surveys the work and the man who founded California's distinct architectural style.

Gebhard, the widow of the late David Gebhard, is a prolific writer in her own right who has published works on librarianship, architectural history and criticism, and a mystery novel titled *Motives for Murder*. She attended Oberlin College, Mills College, and the University of Minnesota, earning degrees in Art History and Library Science. Gebhard worked in the reference department of the University of California Library and currently resides in Santa Barbara.

2006
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President's Letter

Do people really make—and keep—New Year's resolutions? The counterpart of a New Year's resolution for a non-profit organization is the mission statement. SAH/SCC last revised its mission statement in 1996 to read:

The Society of Architectural Historians (SAH) is a [national] nonprofit organization based in Chicago. The national Society was founded in 1940 and is devoted to promoting the appreciation, understanding, and enjoyment of our architectural heritage. The Southern California Chapter (SAH/SCC) was established in the early 1960s. It has grown from a small clan of scholars to the largest SAH chapter in the country—one that welcomes scholars and architecture enthusiasts alike.

The leading priorities of SAH/SCC are to inform and educate a wider public about architectural history, function, and delights. SAH/SCC's local, national, and international tours offer opportunities to meet esteemed architects, look behind the scenes at historic buildings, and learn more about architectural heritage. Other activities include book discussions, lectures, symposia, and other educational programs. Of particular value to members is the SAH/SCC Newsletter, which features the most comprehensive calendar of art and architectural events and exhibitions in the area. An SAH/SCC Website also provides information on upcoming events. SAH/SCC also supports preservation activities which help to minimize adverse impacts upon significant buildings, landscapes, urban areas, and documents.

Today, SAH/SCC has 145 life members, 48 patron members, 12 volunteer executive board members, and 329 regular members. Including libraries, press, etc., SAH/SCC News has a circulation of 848. We thank you for your membership, and encourage you to bring more members into the organization. Take a look at this issue and at our website, www.sahsc.org. Forward the website or your newsletter (if you can bear to part with it) to your friends. As a small organization, we can react to our members, so we want to hear from you. How are we doing at keeping our "New Year's resolutions," our mission statement? What else do you, as a member, think SAH/SCC ~~can~~ should be doing? Should we make a new set of resolutions this year, revise our mission? Your feedback is welcome: e-mail info@sahsc.org or leave a message at 1-800-9SAHSCC.

Best wishes for a happy and healthy New Year to all!

Merry Ovnick
Interim President

P.S. If you'd like to learn more about the national organization with which we're affiliated, check their website at www.sah.org.

Preservation Alert: Goldstein's Lautner

The Lautner Foundation's efforts to preserve the Goldstein Office by John Lautner have resulted in the Los Angeles Cultural Heritage Commission's unanimous vote to extend Historic-Cultural Monument status to the interior, effectively saving it from imminent destruction. "As an interior space, the office introduced new issues and hurdles for its preservation," says Foundation Vice President Christopher Carr.

When the Foundation's proposal of incorporating the office intact into the redesign of the building's 20th floor for a single tenant was rejected by the new tenant and the building owner, an intense period of rethinking and negotiation ensued. The building owner at 10100 Santa Monica Boulevard ultimately proposed sponsoring the careful dismantling of the 850-square-foot office suite and storing it safely until next May. The Foundation has begun the process of finding a new location for the office, hopefully where the public can readily visit this office environment and be exposed to John Lautner's genius.

The disassembly and restoration concept was embodied in the Commission's decision, which now moves on for final adoption by the Los Angeles City Council. Public hearings are planned at press time.



SAH/SCC Welcomes New Board Member

The Executive Board of SAH/SCC welcomes Laura Friedman as a new Executive Board Member. Laura joins the board as a longtime ~~having been an~~ SAH/SCC member for ~~—~~ years. She is the founder of PlanetGlass.net, the only website dedicated completely to mid-20th-century Modernist art glass. A community activist involved in historic preservation and the built environment, Laura is the Vice Chair of the Los Angeles Conservancy's Modern Committee, and a member of the Los Angeles Antiquarian Society. She serves as a City Commissioner in Glendale, sitting on the Design Review Board. Laura is also an independent film producer and literary manager. Welcome, Laura!



Tour and Event Information: 1.800.9SAHSCC; info@sahsc.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
Assistant Editor: Tiffany Monroy
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.

Issue Deadline: March/April 2006 February 10, 2005

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

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Save The Date Rodney Walker Tour

Sunday, June 11, 2006

Photo: Craig Walker



Case Study House #18.
Photo: Craig Walker

Mark your new 2006 calendar now for our day-long tour of this Case Study House architect's finest residential work in the hills above Los Angeles.

Throughout his acclaimed career, Rodney Walker remained true to the fundamental modern precept: creation of aesthetically innovative spaces for living that experimented with low-cost materials, technologies, and techniques. This tour will explore Walker's early residential designs and how they fulfilled the promise of the post-war modern movement.

Walker was selected by John Entenza, publisher of **Arts + Architecture** to build three houses for the Case Study House Program: #16, #17, and #18. These and other Walker designs of the 1950s were widely pub-

lished in such magazines as **House & Garden**, **House Beautiful**, **House and Home**, and **Architectural Record**. Walker's work is characterized by transparency, expressive floating roof planes, and the use of such innovative materials as steel, plywood, and fiberglass panels. Underlying this creativity was always, however, attention to the cost-efficiency and economy that could potentially deliver the promise of modern homes to people of modest means. Walker was often designer and builder—actually supervising the construction and participating in the building process.

This tour will take participants to the steep ridges of the Hollywood Hills to visit his seminal works. Potential site visits include Walker's own home (1952), a small development of homes in Beverly Glen (1950), and a number of private residences that have been restored. A special event at Case Study House #18 may also be offered. The event will also be open to attendees of the national AIA Convention being held concurrently in Los Angeles, so watch for the order form and more details in the May/June **SAH/SCC News**.

Rodney and Dorothea Walker, 1951.
Photo: John Engstead



Los Altos Postcard



On November 20, 2005, old friends gathered and met new friends at the annual SAH/SCC Members Celebration held at the Los Altos Apartments (E.B. Rust, 1928). The afternoon began with food, drink, and mingling in the refurbished lobby, where attendees could experience the warmth and charm of the space.

Merry Ovnick, Interim President, welcomed everyone with a comprehensive background of the building. Event coordinator Jean Baaden introduced the afternoon speaker, Barry Milofsky, AIA. Barry, a partner in the firm M2A Architects, spoke about the restoration processes, the challenges encountered, and partnering with non-profit owners Neighborhood Effort in preserving one of Los Angeles's Historic Monuments.

The afternoon was capped off with a tour of the lush rear courtyard, the original parking structure, Marion Davies' vacant suite, and a current resident's charmingly decorated apartment.

We welcome the following new members who joined at this event: Maren Rene René Briggs (Patron), Elizabeth Brown, Gregory Cloud, Stephanie Cox, Jan Donsbach, John Heglin, Peter Hoeffner, Edward Powell, and Anthony Walker. We thank all of our current members for all their support over this past year. And we look forward to seeing everyone in 2006.



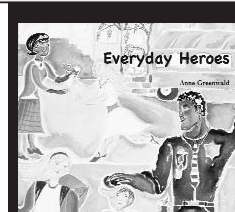
Photos: John Ellis



Los Angeles
Photographs by Tim Street-Porter;
Introduction by Diane Keaton

Anyone who flips through the **Los Angeles Times Magazine** or any number of home-design publications is more than familiar with the warm, inviting photography of Tim Street-Porter. This limited-edition book redefines his genteel images—with its size (18x15x2 inches), its heft (nine pounds), and its beauty. But mostly because of the way you'll look at familiar places in a totally different light, both literally and figuratively. It's that light—the ethereal, glowing Los Angeles light—that Street-Porter is so rightly known for. We're used to seeing the photographers' images of famous houses, but lesser known—and thrilling in this context—are his images of commercial and landmark buildings, and broad panoramas of the natural and madman-made landscapes of LA. From our grandest structures to our comic follies (Randy's Donuts never looked so glamorous), the photographer offers what he called his "answer to all those who have ever said, including city and county officials on occasion, 'There is nothing worth saving here.'" This might just be the best answer anyone has ever seen.

Rizzoli; hardcover; signed and numbered print included; 263 pages; \$195.



Everyday Heroes
By Anne Greenwald

This children's book elevates the daily acts of people around us to high art through Greenwald's paintings, which are both realistic and magical. The "everyday heroes" celebrated include doctors, athletes, dancers, musicians, police, as well as friends and family. They "teach understanding, make every day an amazing adventure," and, on my favorite page, "rebuild towers to the heavens one stone at a time." Greenwald has used her own friends and family as models for these heroes, including her husband, architect Bob Hale, and his partner at Rios Clementi Hale Studios, Mark Rios. Greenwald, herself, is educated as an architect and artist, and worked with Tony Duquette and Frank Gehry.

Balcony Press; hardcover; 31 pages; \$24.95

2006

january | february

bookmarks

SAH

sc publications order form

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.

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 Los Angeles tour
_____ at \$8 each

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 Ojai tour
_____ at \$5 each

Beyond the Bauhaus: 32-page illustrated booklet with plans, photos, and essays based on Boston tour
_____ at \$10 each

Soriano: Man of Steel: 12-page illustrated booklet with article by Neil Jackson, from Los Angeles tour
_____ at \$10 each

Palm Springs Postcards: seven postcards of homes visited on "Shelter Under the Sun" tour, photographed by John Ellis
_____ at \$10 each

Kesling Homes: two-fold, two-color brochure from "Kesling Modern Structures" Tour
_____ at \$2 each

Avenel Homes: two-fold, two-color brochure from "Ain on Avenel" Tour
_____ at \$2 each

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

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

Cool Pools: booklet from "Reflections on Water: Cool Pools Along Sunset Boulevard"
_____ at \$10 each members
_____ at \$15 each non-members

Reconsidering Lloyd Wright: 21-page, four-color booklet from tour
_____ at \$10 each

Union Station and MTA Transit Center: two-fold map for a self-guided walking tour including historical facts and photos
_____ at \$2 each

Eagle Rock—LA's Home Town: 17-page handbook with history and self-guided tour of Eagle Rock, by Jeff Samudio
_____ at \$4 each

David Gebhard Review: essays on the Works Project Administration by Robert W. Winter, Orville O. Clarke, Jr., and Mitzi March Mogul
_____ at \$5 each

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Members' Celebration — November 20th

_____ member ticket(s)

FREE

_____ non-member ticket(s)

at \$10 each = \$ _____

(If you become a member, your ticket price will go toward the special \$25 member rate for that day)

SAH/SCC Membership Benefits:

Subscription to bi-monthly SAH/SCC News

Member prices for SAH/SCC events

Free Members' Celebration

Membership Categories:

- \$35** Member (Individual - \$15 additional name, same address as member)
- \$20** Student (with copy of current I.D.)
- \$100** Patron (up to 2 names at same address)
- \$500** Life Member (one time contribution)
- \$750** Friend of SAH/SCC (one time contribution, one name)
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