SOCIETY OF ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIANS SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAPTER

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## Wallace Neff: Backwards & **Forwards**

SAH/SCC Tour: Saturday, April 1st, 1-5PM

Join other SAH/SCC members and friends Saturday, April 1st, for a tour of gracious period-revival homes by Wallace Neff (1895-1982). Organized by SAH/SCC Interim President Merry Ovnick, the tour takes place Saturday afternoon, from 1PM to 5PM, in the Pasadena and San Marino area. Member's price is \$35; non-member's is \$40.



Among the sites featured on the tour is the Doane house, 1924, illustrated here, along with other sites to be announced. Neff's historicist work of the 1920s through the '40s is noted for its successful blend of intimate and formal spaces, the integration of references to a romanticized past, and an attention to contemporary functionality. On the one hand, these homes exude gracious and hospitable charm; on the other, they offer homeowners a secluded retreat from the world outside.

The day will include a presentation on Neff—both the architecture and the man-by Diane Kanner, author of Wallace Neff and the Grand Houses of the Golden State (Monacelli Press, 2005). Space is limited. See order form on back page.



march april

### SAH/SCC

#### President's Letter

Wallace Neff (1895-1982) made a successful career of designing homes in period revival styles evoking Spanish haciendas, Old California ranchos, Italian villas, Normandy country houses, and American colonial merchants' mansions. His residential projects of the 1920s, '30s, and '40s were not only the rage in those decades, but subsequent owners have lavished great care in the preservation of these houses and their jewel-like landscape settings.

What is it that makes us seek to surround ourselves with fantasy pasts? Does disillusionment with our own times drive us to create illusions of a "once-upon-a-time" when life was somehow easier, more genuine, more rewarding? In truth, life—even for the wealthy—in 17th-century Spain and Italy, 1830s California, 18th-century New England, and traditional Normandy was, by our standards, squalid, labor-intensive, inequitable, and iffy.

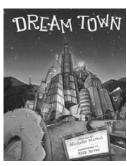
Perhaps period revival houses represent a quiet respite or a refuge from the relentlessly competitive pace and cacophony of modern life with its priorities on efficiency and the bottom line at the expense of human fulfillment and sociability. Nelf's houses provide the neat solution: not replicas of domiciles from actual history, but contemporary spaces planned to facilitate gracious living, social hospitality, and aesthetic delight by merely alluding to a past remote enough to have acquired the patina of romantic myths. Nelf's houses, which were arranged for efficient 20th-century meal-serving, storage, heating and lighting, air flow, and maintenance, are still as livable in the 21st century. Nostalgia combines well in Nelf's work with practical attention to modern functionalism.

Nostalgia alone is not enough to sustain a non-profit organization, however. And so, reluctantly, we must say good-bye to the SAH/SCC membership rates of many years' standing. Annual membership rates will go up to \$45 for regular members, \$125 for patrons, and \$650 for life members, effective April 1st. Renew now and save.

Merry Ovnick Interim President

# bookmarks

## **Dream Town**By Michelle Markel Illustrations by Rick Reese



This delightful children's book is a guessing-game of Los Angeles landmarks. The story is told by a young boy putting on his snow boots, who does not quite believe his grandmother's claims of growing up in a place with no snow. She weaves a story of a city with "a giant hat," where there are "stacks of records high as the sky and tall towers made of seashells, pipes, and pottery." This picture of a place with "stars everywhere. Night and day," and "so much magic" is a love story to Los Angeles. The boy finally believes when his grandmother shows him actual photographs of Capitol Records, Brown Derby, and other noted landmarks (included in the last pages of the book). Heyday Books, hardcover, \$15.95.

#### Charles and Ray Eames: Pioneers of Mid-Century Modernism By Gloria Koenia



Part of Taschen's Basic Art Series of slim volumes on Modern architects, this is a concise primer on the work and relationship of the vaunted couple. In fewer than 100 pages, Koenig gives the reader the astonishing array of work conceived from the designers' Washington Blvd. office in Venice. From early plywood experiments in the 1940s to 1977's "Powers of Ten" film, the multi-disciplinary work is shown chronologically with photographs, drawings, sketches, ads, and film stills. The mixture of "personal" photos with work process documents and the ending chronology "Life and Work" depict how Charles and Ray's work and life merged seamlessly. Taschen, paperback, 96 pages, \$9.95.

## SAH

#### Tour and Event Information: 1.800.9SAHSCC; 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 Assistant Editor: Tiffany Monroy Internet Editor: Brent Eckermon Art Director: Svetlana Petrovic Administration: Arline Chambers

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

<u>Issue Deadline:</u> May/June 2006 <u>April 10, 2005</u>

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

Julie D. Taylor, Editor
SAH/SCC News
P.O. Box 56478
Sherman Oaks.

Newsletter telephone: 310.247.1099 Newsletter fax: 310.247.8147 Newsletter e-mail: jtaylorpr@usa.net

CA 91413

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Photo: Stephen Harby

#### From Origins to Invention: Three California Historic Places

SAH/SCC Co-Sponsored Event Sunday-Monday, April 9th-10th

In conjunction with "Past Perfected: Antiquity and its Reinventions," a conference organized by the National Committee for the History of Art, SAH/SCC Life and Advisory Board Member Stephen Harby leads a private tour of three California historic monuments. This overnight tour includes private tours and talks on the themes of historic re-invention and re-incarnation. Cost: \$350 perperson double occupancy or \$400 per-person single occupancy. For registration information and downloadable form: nchart.org/tours.

Participants will experience settings that are redolent of a range of California's "histories" both actual and invented: Mission La Purisima Concepcion de Maria Santisima in Lompoc (established 1787, present structure 1813, restored 1941), which seems to exist in a time capsule in a time when California was Spain: Hearst Castle at San Simeon (Julia Morgan, 1919-1947) was the obsession of William Randolph Hearst, created with equal parts invention and faithful historical recall; and Casa del Herrero in Montecito (George Washington Smith and Lutah Maria Riggs; Ralph Stevens, 1923-25), where gardens and furnishings have been perfectly preserved by the family that built and

For more details, contact Stephen Harby at 310.450.8239 or sharby@stephenharby.com.



Casa del Herrero Watercolor: Stephen Harby



Mission La Purisima Watercolor: Stephen Harby

## March is LA Design Month

A series of design, architecture, and furniture events awaits in March, as CA Boom, NeoCon West, and WestWeek return for the annual design confabs. Each includes trade-show exhibits of furniture, seminars and programs, tours, and special events. A selection from each is below:

CA Boom: March 23-26, Thursday-Sunday. Santa Monica Civic Auditorium, 1855 Main St., Santa Monica. 310.394.8600. caboomshow.com. Use code "SAHSCC" for discount admission to show.

Design Community Opening Night Event. \$40. 7:30-10:30PM.

CA Boom Tours Santa Monica. Featuring homes by Koning Eizenberg, Michael W. Flonis, Glen Irani,

and GRAYmatter Architecture. \$75. 11:15AM-2:30PM.

CA Boom Tours Venice. Featuring homes by Steven Ehrlich, David Hertz, DU Architects, Idea Space Design, March 25:

and EIS Studio. \$75. 11:15AM-2:30PM

March 26: CA Boom Tours Culver City. Featuring homes by SPF: architects, Greg Reitz, Design 21, and Sander

Architects, \$75, 11:15AM-2:30PM

NeoCon West: March 27-28, Monday-Tuesday. LA Mart Design Center, 1933 S. Broadway Los Angeles. 800.677.6278. merchandisemart.com/neoconwest.

Rem Koolhaas. Keynote speech by the Dutch architect, founder of the Office for Metropolitan Architecture. Free. 10-11AM.

> The Power of Design: Good Design=Good Business. Seminar with Gensler principal Barbara Dunn and Design Arts Group principal Jan Belson. \$25-35. 11:30AM-12:30PM.

> Interpreting Design. Keynote speech by designers Michael and Katherine McCoy. Free. 2:30-3:30PM.

The Workplace Meets Hollywood. Seminar with IA Interior Architects principal Kay Sargent, Booz Allen Hamilton senior facilities planner Elise Friedman Shapiro, and Denise Pizzini. \$25-35. 2:30-3:30PM.

Fine Living 2026: Technology and the Transforming Home. Panel discussion with LA Architect publisher Ann Gray and architect Patrick Tighe. \$25. 3-4PM.

Michael Vanderbyl. Keynote speech by the multi-disciplinary designer and California College of the Arts Dean of Design, Free, 4-5PM

West Edge: Spaces of Unlimited Creativity Panel Presentation. Panel discussion with Interior Design deputy editor Edie Cohen and West Edge architects. Free. 5-6PM.

NeoCon West Opening Night Celebration. Free. 6-8PM.

March 28: Color...Response in Design, Architecture, and Life. Seminar with Gibbs Gage Architects Michael

Parker. \$25-35. 10-11AM.

Sustainable Interiors: One Designer's Story of Turning Green. Keynote address with Perkins + Will principal Eva Maddox and Metropolis editor-in-chief Susan S. Szenasy. Free. 11:30AM-12:30PM

ASID LA Chapter Downtown Los Angeles Loft Tour. Tour of living spaces created by architects and developers that reflect conversions of historic structures into housing, res. reg. \$60, 4-6PM.

Santa Monica Design District: March 26, 29-30, Sunday, Wednesday-Thursday. Various locations around Santa Monica. 800.677.6278.

Santa Monica Design District Sand Castle Design Competition. Teams of four designers and architects compete to design and build the most creative and attractive sand castles.

Santa Monica Beach at the Pier. 11AM-5PM.

March 29: ASID LA Chapter NRDC Tour. Tour of a showcase LEED Platinum building, home of the Natural Resources Defense Council. 1314 2nd St., Santa Monica; 3-4PM; \$60; res. req

> The Cranbrook/Knoll Connection: Saarinen, Knoll, Bertoia, and Beyond. Discussion on collaboration among designers with McCoy and McCoy principals Michael and Katherine McCoy. Knoll Showroom, 214 Wilshire Blvd., Ste. 200, Santa Monica; 3-4PM; \$25.

ASID LA Chapter NRDC Tour. Tour of a showcase LEED Platinum building, home of the Natural Resources Defense Council. 1314 2nd St., Santa Monica; 3-4PM; \$60; res. req

Design and Architecture in the New Spatial Landscape. Seminar on how technology is changing relationships with physical places and spaces with the Institute for the Future director of the Technology Horizons Program Marina Gorbis. Steelcase Showroom, 1217 2nd St., Santa Monica; 2-4PM; \$25.

LA Design Week Finale Party. Viceroy Hotel, Santa Monica; 8-10PM; \$65.

WestWeek: March 29-30, Wednesday-Thursday. Pacific Design Center, 8687 Melrose Ave., West Hollywood. 310-657-0800. pacificdesigncenter.com.

LA's Modern Spirit? Past. Present. and Future. Keynote program on the latest developments in LA design with *Town & Country* architecture and design director Sarah Medford. 12:30-1:30PM

> Sexy Design & Construction: Special Requirements for Contemporary Homes. Keynote program with Finton, Associates president John Finton, Marmol Radziner Architects principal Leo Marmol, James Anthony Magni Interior Design principal Jim Magni, and Platinum Capital Group vice president Bret Parsons. 1-2PM.

Bad Taste. Keynote program with House & Garden design editor Mayer Rus. 3:30-4:30PM

March 30: Gehry on Pelli on Mayne on Gehry. Keynote program with architects Cesar Pelli, Frank Gehry, and Thom Mayne, moderated by architecture critic Joseph Giovannini. 10-11AM.

Los Angeles, San Francisco, and the New West. Keynote program with LA designer Philip Nimmo, San Francisco designer Barbara Scavullo, and moderator Western Interiors and Design editor-in-chief Michael Wollaeger. 2-3PM.



#### scc 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 by legacy of LA school architecture, featuring Rios Clementi Hale Studios, others, from Lo	projects by Richard Neutra, Thom Mayne,		
	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	I booklet with plans, photos, and essays		
based on Boston tour	at \$10 each		
Soriano: Man of Steel: 12-page illustrat	red booklet with article by Neil Jackson,		
from Los Angeles tour	at \$10 each		
Palm Springs Postcards: seven postcar	ds of homes visited on "Shelter Under the		
Sun" tour, photographed by John Ellis	at \$10 each		
Kesling Homes: two-fold, two-color broch	nure from "Kesling Modern Structures" Tourat \$2 each		
Avenel Homes: two-fold, two-color broch	ure from "Ain on Avenel" Tour at \$2 each		
The Historic and Modern Spirit of Vei	ntura: 20-page guide from Ventura tour at \$10 each		
Modernism for the Masses: three-fold plans of Eichler homes visited on the tour to			
Cool Pools: booklet from "Reflections on	Water: Cool Pools Along Sunset Boulevard"at \$10 each membersat \$15 each non-members		
Reconsidering Lloyd Wright: 21-page,	four-color booklet from tour at \$10 each		
Union Station and MTA Transit Cente	r: 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 W Winter, Orville O. Clarke, Jr., and Mitzi Mar			
<b>-</b>			
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\$45	Member (Individual - \$15 additional name, same address as member)		
\$65	Dual (two names at same address)		
\$30	Student (with copy of current I.D.)		
\$125	Patron (up to 2 names at same address)		
\$650	Life Member (one time contribution)		
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