



Photo: Augusta Quirk

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# Architect as Patron: Duvivier in Venice

**SAH/SCC Tour & Talk**  
**Sunday, September 22, 2013, 1-3PM**

SAH/SCC introduces a new series—"Architect as Patron"—that will look at homes that architects design for themselves and give us insight into how they live and build. The inaugural session will be at the greenest home in Venice. Designed by architect Isabelle Duvivier, the house has been noted with many accolades from the U.S. Green Building Council, including: "Outstanding House of 2012," LEED Platinum Level accreditation (with 109 points), one of the top 10 LEED-rated homes in California, and among the top 25 LEED-rated homes in the U.S. The architect will lead a discussion of the design and construction process for this sustainable residence.

Unlike typical LEED Platinum buildings, which are built completely new, this residence is a remodel and addition of 950 square feet to a 1912 Craftsman cottage. The addition/remodel was done to improve the existing plan by creating a more contemporary and environmentally responsive design.

Some of the many sustainable features that make this home 52% more efficient than the average new California house are: natural daylighting, natural ventilation, low-flow plumbing fixtures, energy-saving appliances, 4kw solar panel system, 95% LED lighting, large overhangs, re-use of 100-year-old wood, preservation of existing floor, and sustainable materials for exterior wood siding, bathroom tiles, concrete countertops, insulation, and concrete foundations.

Other sustainable features extending into backyard landscape include: a culvert (bio-swale) built to prevent runoff from leaving the site, a storm water system of permeable surfaces, two rainwater collection cisterns for irrigation, and the use of native plants. The entire front yard has been converted into a vegetable garden to encourage a local dialogue about organic produce, share food, and build community. A beehive produces honey and pollinates the flowers. At completion of the project, 76% of the construction waste was diverted from landfill.

*Architect as Patron—Duvivier in Venice: September 22, 2014; 1-3PM; \$15 each for SAH/SCC Life and Patron Members; reservations required; space is limited; seating will be made available to general membership should the opportunity arise, on a first-come first-served basis; registration—see order form on Page 6, call 800.972.4722, or go to [www.sahscc.org](http://www.sahscc.org); waiting list—email [info@sahscc.org](mailto:info@sahscc.org).*



Photos: Augusta Quirk

# SAH/SCC President's Letter

## LACMA, again.

Everything old is new again. Even discussion about new plans for the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA) complex on Wilshire Boulevard. Once again, we have a variety of viewpoints on William L. Pereira and Associates' 1965 buildings: the lovers, the haters, and the decidedly ambivalent.

To understand the original Hancock Park campus, it is worthwhile to look at its history through the lens of articles published in the *Los Angeles Times*, as its architecture critics from 1964 to today have revealed interesting information about the institution, the period, and the context. (See Christopher Hawthorne's take [here](#).)

The establishment of a County Art Museum dates back to 1909, but the Museum's first home was in Exposition Park. Sharing digs with the Los Angeles Museum of History, Science, and Art, art stood side-by-side with taxidermy from 1913 until 1957. That's when Norton Simon and Dr. Richard Brown decided to help create a stand-alone art museum that would help put Los Angeles on the map.

During the late 1950s and early 1960s, Los Angeles was choking on a cloud of smog and suffering from a cultural inferiority complex. So much so that, almost simultaneously, well-heeled Angelenos donated the funds to support the creation of The Music Center of Los Angeles County and LACMA. Between the two complexes, more than \$30 million was raised; the two facilities opened within four months of each another.

At the time, Edward William Carter, who made his mark in the business world with The Broadway department stores (a.k.a., Carter Hawley Hale), was tapped to be the leading fundraiser and liaison with the County Board of Supervisors. He described the synthesis of factors that led to the Museum's move to Miracle Mile: a rising interest in art in Southern California, post-war prosperity, more leisure time to enjoy arts and cultural activities, an increasingly educated population, and the presence of community leaders who wanted to leave a permanent legacy. Their names adorned pavilions: Ahmanson, Bing, Lytton.

If the formal architectural statements made by the buildings that comprise both new complexes evoke comparisons with New York's Lincoln Center, there is a pretty good reason for why. These respected cultural institutions of the day may have desired a little East Coast cachet.

It is also worth noting that in his 1964 article "LA Unbeautiful? It's a Bum Rap," *Los Angeles Times* architecture critic, Art Seidenbaum, pointed to LACMA, The Music Center Memorial Pavilion (Welton Becket, 1964), The Department of Water and Power (A.C. Martin, 1963), and Nortronics (Charles Luckman Associates, 1963) as exceptional examples of contemporary LA architecture.

Regardless of where you fall on LACMA's architectural significance or integrity, it is worthy to pause and remember a time when Los Angeles was coming of age in what the Getty has dubbed "Pacific Standard Time."

—Sian Winship

To read a review of "The Presence of the Past: Peter Zumthor Reconsiders LACMA" (through September 15, 2013) by SAH/SCC News editor, Julie D. Taylor, Hon. AIA/LA, go to [ArchNewsNow.com](#).



William L. Pereira and Associates' Los Angeles County Museum of Art the year it opened, 1965.

Photo: © 2013 Museum Associates/LACMA, photographic archives

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# Contemporary Patrons: Laidlaw Schultz in Newport Bay

**SAH/SCC Tour & Talk**  
**Sunday, October 6, 2013, 2-5PM**

“Contemporary Patrons” takes us to the upper tier of a residential development overlooking Newport Bay for a visit to the Brown House designed by Laidlaw Schultz Architects. While the standard residential pad offered little in terms of inspiration, the creation of a faux topography offered the possibility of a new context and something greater than its surroundings.

An abstract hill was first developed, which served as the starting point for the design of the home. This conceptual hill is intersected by two diverse outdoor spaces, one affording panoramic views from Laguna to Palos Verdes and beyond to Catalina, while the other forms a more intimate private-entry courtyard. The home itself capitalizes on these outdoor spaces, with the main living level offering a view to both. Hidden beneath the hill, in a large cavern, are the wine storage and tasting rooms.

The home’s many sensuous qualities are rooted in a simple palette of board-formed concrete, Texas Shellstone, Ipe siding, and white plaster. Capitalizing on the intrinsic nature of these materials reduced the overall impact on both cost and the environment, and enforces the honest essence of the home. The interiors draw from this palette, always using light to magnify the various textures that form the backdrop to this home. While rooted in the finite—concrete and stone—this home manages to touch the infinite with its subtle use of light and volume.

*Contemporary Patrons—Laidlaw Schultz in Newport Bay: October 6, 2013, 2-5PM; \$15 each for SAH/SCC Life and Patron Members; reservations required; space is limited; seating will be made available to general membership should the opportunity arise, on a first-come first-served basis; registration—see order form on Page 6, call 800.972.4722, or go to [www.sahscc.org](http://www.sahscc.org); waiting list—email [info@sahscc.org](mailto:info@sahscc.org).*



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Vienna University of Technology's Solar Decathlon 2013 House Rendering.  
Image: Courtesy of U.S. Department of Energy Solar Decathlon



Photo: Courtesy of Orange County Great Park Corporation.

## Houses in the Sun: Solar Decathlon

**SAH/SCC Field Trip: Irvine**  
**Saturday, October 12, 2013**

Join SAH/SCC for a field trip to the 2013 Solar Decathlon in Orange County's Great Park in the City of Irvine. For the first time since its inception in 2002, the Solar Decathlon will be held outside of Washington, D.C. Entries from 20 international teams will be on display for touring, including models from the Vienna University of Technology, University of Calgary, SCI-ARC, and USC.

The Solar Decathlon is sponsored by the U.S. Department of Energy, and it challenges collegiate teams to design, build, and operate solar-powered houses that are cost effective, energy efficient, and attractive. This trip builds on Tony Denzer's historical look at the evolution of the solar house in *The Solar House: Pioneering Sustainable Design* (2013, Rizzoli). Our visit to the Decathlon will offer the opportunity to continue the discussion about aesthetics vs. efficiency, architecture and engineering collaborations, passive strategies, and sustainable technologies that started with Tony's lecture on August 24th in West Hollywood.

In addition to viewing the model homes, field trip participants will have an opportunity to visit Great Park, the transformation of Marine Corps Air Station El Toro into a metropolitan park for Orange County. The award-winning master plan for the park was created by Ken Smith Workshop West and Mia Lehrer + Associates (2007).

For this free and public exposition, SAH/SCC has arranged for a docent-led tour of the exhibition, air-conditioned coach transportation, and boxed lunches. Watch your e-mail for tickets to go on sale very soon. For a preview of what we'll see, take a look at [AIArchitect.com](http://AIArchitect.com)'s recent article.

*Houses in the Sun—Solar Decathlon: October 12, 2013; time and price TBD; watch your e-mail for info; reservations required; space is limited; tickets available on a first-come first-served basis.*



USC's Solar Decathlon 2013 House Rendering.  
Image: Courtesy of U.S. Department of Energy Solar Decathlon



SCI-Arc and California Institute of Technology's Solar Decathlon 2013 House Rendering.  
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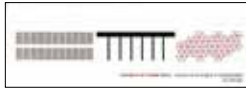
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**Space and Learning:** eight-page, four-color brochure on the historical and contemporary legacy of LA school architecture, featuring projects by Richard Neutra, Thom Mayne, Rios Clementi Hale Studios, and others



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