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# The Architecture of Apocalypse

**SAH/SCC Lecture, Culver City**

**Friday, August 16, 2019, 6PM**

SAH/SCC welcomes author Stuart W. Leslie, PhD, who will give a free talk on "The Architecture of Apocalypse: Thinking About the Unthinkable in Style," based on his contribution to *Laboratory Lifestyles: The Construction of Scientific Fictions* (edited by Sandra Kaji-O'Grady, Chris L. Smith, and Russell Hughes; MIT Press, 2019), a new book on how advancements in lab design affect the work of scientists. His essay on the aerospace and think tank architecture of the Cold War explores the architectural legacy of local institutions, such as the Rand Corporation and Hughes Research Lab.

And what better location than The Wende Museum of the Cold War? The Wende's collection of Cold War art, culture, and history from Soviet Bloc countries inspires a broad understanding of the period and explores its enduring legacy. The museum's new location is the once-abandoned 1949 National Guard Armory, which was renovated by PARAVANT Architects in 2017 as the Culver City home of the museum.

Leslie, a professor at Johns Hopkins University and the author of *The Cold War and American Science: The Military-Industrial-Academic Complex at MIT and Stanford* (Columbia University Press, 1993), is a dynamic speaker who makes the history of modern science, as told through architecture, accessible to everyone. His work is richly illustrated with archival photographs.

In February 2018, Leslie dazzled SAH/SCC with his presentation "The Romance of Water and Power: Architecture as Advertisement," an exploration of the commercial and industrial buildings of the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power—from neo-Grecian temples to luminescent Art Deco showrooms—and their role in the community. Reserve a spot for his next riveting lecture.

*Stewart W. Leslie Lecture: August 16, 2019; reception at 6PM, lecture at 7PM; The Wende Museum, 10808 Culver Blvd., Culver City; free; reservations required—see order form on Page 6, call 800.972.4722, go to [www.sahscc.org](http://www.sahscc.org), or email [info@sahscc.org](mailto:info@sahscc.org).*



Photos: Michael Underwood; courtesy of The Wende Museum

# SAH/SCC President's Letter

## Thank You, Crosby Doe!

The Society of Architectural Historians/Southern California Chapter is pleased to announce the receipt of a \$10,000 donation from SAH/SCC Life Member Crosby Doe. We are extremely thankful to Crosby for this generous donation.

For more than 40 years, Doe has been a venerable force for preservation and architectural history. His real estate firm, now known as Crosby Doe Associates, has raised awareness of the value of architects and architect-designed homes. He has sold thousands of homes. In recent years, his magazine for homeowners and potential homeowners, *Architecture for Sale*, has raised the bar even higher by featuring in-depth articles on residential architecture written by seasoned architectural historians.

As a California native, Doe developed an appreciation for the legacy of architecture in Southern California while growing up among the Arts & Crafts masterpieces of Pasadena. He began his career in real estate in 1973, and, in a serendipitous turn, sold a Neutra house as his first significant property. The house helped inspire his vision of architectural real estate as a specialized market, a niche he went on to pioneer along with partner David Mossler. Doe has been a life member of SAH/SCC for decades.



Crosby Doe



This significant contribution enables SAH/SCC to upgrade its website to better serve the membership. Our website ([www.sahscc.org](http://www.sahscc.org)) went live more than 14 years ago, marking an important transition for the organization and enabling it to cost effectively "go digital." Doe's support will now allow SAH/SCC to refresh the site and make long-overdue improvements.

In addition to the website refresh, the SAH/SCC Board has identified another important project: the archiving of SAH/SCC materials (brochures, videotapes of events, 35mm slides given to us by members). Stay tuned for more information about this project and how you can participate.

In the meantime, thank you so much, Crosby! Your generous donation to our organization, support for our programs, and all you have done, continue to benefit our built environment.

—Sian Winship

## Design Within Beach!

Mark your calendars for the Monterey Design Conference, October 25th-27th. This biennial gathering organized by AIA California presents talks by internationally acclaimed designers at Pacific Grove's Asilomar Conference Grounds, a stunning, beachside idyll designed by Julia Morgan, FAIA.

Hear these renowned global creatives: Yvonne Farrell of Grafton Architects, Dublin; Massimiliano Fuksas, Hon. FAIA, and Doriana Mandrelli Fuksas of Studio Fuksas, Rome; Alberto Kalach of TAX, Mexico City; Lyndon Neri and Rossana Hu of Neri&Hu, Shanghai/London; Petra Blaisse of Inside Outside, Amsterdam; Brian MacKay-Lyons, Hon. FAIA, of MacKay-Lyons Sweetapple Architects, Halifax; Bob Harris, FAIA, of Lake|Flato, San Antonio/Austin.

MDC also celebrates California talents: Donlyn Lyndon, FAIA, of Architecture and Place; Mark Cavagnero, FAIA, of Mark Cavagnero Associates; Ed Ogosta, AIA, of Edward Ogosta Architecture; Chris Warren, AIA, of WORD; Megumi Aihara, ASLA, and Dan Spiegel, AIA, of SAW; Dan Weber, AIA, of Anacapa.


More info and registration at [montereydesignconference.org](http://montereydesignconference.org).



### Tour and Event Information:

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# By-Right By-Design

**SAH/SCC Patron & Life Member Salon, Mar Vista**  
**Sunday, August 25, 2019, 3-5PM**

SAH/SCC welcomes author Elizabeth Falletta for a very special Patron and Life Member Salon afternoon of thoughtful discussion about housing development vs. housing design in Los Angeles. Her new book, *By-Right, By-Design* (Routledge, 2019), explores this topic through six case studies. This exclusive Patron and Life Member Salon will take place in a Modernique Home (Gregory Ain, FAIA, 1948) in Mar Vista, one of the projects examined in the book.

The conversation will include side-by-side comparisons of real estate development models built “by-right” (along current planning, building, and zoning code standards) with singular examples of innovative architecture built “by-design,” those that challenge restrictions to maximize design and development. These studies reveal new insights for future housing production in Los Angeles and elsewhere. Projects will be examined through the lenses of real estate development, urban planning, and design, with the intent of expanding the context in which these works can be understood, evaluated, and, ultimately, built upon.

Falletta teaches architectural and urban design at USC’s Price School of Public Policy. She

has more than 15 years of experience teaching design across disciplines at both undergraduate and graduate levels. Her courses focus on design as an interdisciplinary activity and explore how the intersecting values of architecture, planning, and development inform the design process and improve design outcomes.

In addition to teaching full time, Falletta is principal of Falletta Development, which developed one of the early small-lot subdivisions in Los Angeles, located on Huntington Drive in El Sereno. She has consulted on many small-lot subdivisions throughout LA and worked as an entitlements consultant on various single- and multi-family housing projects. She is a licensed architect and a licensed real estate broker in the state of California.

*Patron and Life Member Salon: Sunday, August 25, 2019; 3-5PM; \$25 each for SAH/SCC Patron and Life Members; \$35 for SAH/SCC Members (pending availability); \$45 for non-members (pending availability); space is limited; reservations are required; tickets will be made available on a first-come, first-served basis; registration—see order form on Page 6, call 800.972.4722, go to [www.sahscc.org](http://www.sahscc.org), or email [info@sahscc.org](mailto:info@sahscc.org). A waiting list will be kept, if necessary. We regret that this event is not suited for those with difficulties walking or standing and that emotional support animals are not allowed on this private property.*



Modernique Home (1948) in Mar Vista by Gregory Ain, FAIA.  
 Photo: Julius Shulman; Getty Research Institute (2004.R.10); ©J. Paul Getty Trust

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# Preservation Alert!

## Your Work is Needed to Save More Millard Sheets Studio Commissions

By Adam Arenson

"How long are the buildings built to last?" an interviewer asked Millard Sheets in 1977. Sheets—the Pomona-born watercolorist who had embraced the role of impresario and created a few hundred commissioned mosaics, murals, sculptures, stained-glass windows, and interior designs, in partnership with an entire studio of artists and architects—blanched: "It seems a shame to talk and think like that." But Sheets noted that some buildings "disappeared because they weren't important enough as works of art, as expressions of a society, for people to protect them that long." He considered that his masterworks for Home Savings and Loan "might not be a savings and loan building in 50 or so years."

The Millard Sheets Studio created hundreds of buildings with artwork that reflected local community history and pastimes. Today, they can claim some wins, but also face dozens of preservation battles. The Beverly Hills Home Savings (1956) is now a local landmark, and the Montebello branch (1974) was beautifully repurposed. A long-covered mosaic in Long Beach (1980) was revealed, and mosaics from a Dallas bank (1959) have been restored and relocated to a hotel. But then there is a fight over preservation laws in Arcadia, and the reversals in Santa Monica; in 2001, the smaller Home Savings (1988) branch there was torn down. This summer, the well-known branch at 26th Street and Wilshire (1969) is being demolished, but at least its artworks are being saved. (According to *Santa Monica Lookout*, the art will be in the collection of Hilbert Museum of California Art at Chapman University in Orange.) That leaves the Bay Area Finance (1957) as the only Sheets Studio building standing in Santa Monica.

In my book *Banking on Beauty: Millard Sheets and Midcentury Commercial Architecture in California* (University of Texas Press, 2018),



and through the master list on my [website](#), I have pieced together the history of these disparate projects, shedding light on their connections and on the importance of Midcentury Modern art and architecture in commercial buildings. I see echoes of this work on the streets of New York, where I now live. We need those living near these masterpieces to advocate to local preservation boards and local leaders, and explain why these buildings should be cherished, restored, and preserved. I will cheer you on (and offer advice) from New York as needed; just be in touch!

*Adam Arenson is Associate Professor of History and Urban Studies at Manhattan College in Riverdale, NY. He gave SAH/SCC members a preview of his Sheets study in 2015, and presented the finished book during "Authors on Architecture" in 2018. In addition to Banking on Beauty, he is author of The Great Heart of the Republic (Harvard University Press, 2011), and an editor of Frontier Cities (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2012) and Civil War Wests (University of California Press, 2015).*

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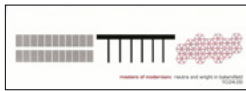
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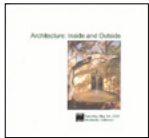
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# SAH/SCC PUBLICATIONS



\_\_\_\_\_ at \$5 each

**Masters of Modernism:** eight-page, two-color brochure featuring works of Richard Neutra and Frank Lloyd Wright in Bakersfield.



\_\_\_\_\_ at \$3 each

**Architecture: Inside and Outside:** 5"x5" folded color brochure featuring Santa Barbara's Lotusland, Casa del Herrero, and Val Verde.



\_\_\_\_\_ at \$6 each

**Irving Gill: Los Angeles:** 10-page booklet featuring photos and articles on Gill and three residential projects in LA.



\_\_\_\_\_ at \$8 each

**Rodney Walker 3 30 90:** 12-page brochure featuring nine homes on five sites, as well as the architect's use of the three-foot module.



\_\_\_\_\_ \$4 each

**Greta Magnusson Grossman:** 3.5" x 8" 2-page color brochure featuring two residences by Greta Grossman.



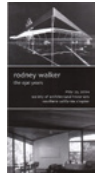
\_\_\_\_\_ at \$8 each

**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.



\_\_\_\_\_ at \$5 each

**John Parkinson, Downtown:** 11"x17", four-color brochure featuring a self-guided walking tour of Parkinson buildings in Downtown LA's historic core and beyond.



\_\_\_\_\_ at \$5 each

**Rodney Walker: The Ojai Years:** tri-fold, black-and-white brochure featuring Walker's important residences in Ojai, with pictures and article by historian David Mason.



\_\_\_\_\_ at \$2 each

**Kesling Homes:** bi-fold, two-color brochure from the "Kesling Modern Structures" tour.



\_\_\_\_\_ at \$2 each

**Union Station and MTA Transit Center:** bi-fold map for a self-guided walking tour including historical facts and photos.



\_\_\_\_\_ at \$10 each

**Modernism for the Masses:** tri-fold brochure with inserts of detailed floor plans of Eichler homes visited on the Orange County tour.



\_\_\_\_\_ at \$5 each

**David Gebhard Review:** essays on the Works Project Administration by Robert W. Winter, Orville O. Clarke, Jr., and Mitzi March Mogul.



\_\_\_\_\_ at \$10 each

**The Historic and Modern Spirit of Ventura:** 20-page guide from Ventura tour.



\_\_\_\_\_ at \$4 each

**Killingsworth: A Master Plan for Learning:** 11"x17", four-color walking tour brochure of the Cal State Long Beach campus features history of master plan development by architect Edward A. Killingsworth, FAIA.



\_\_\_\_\_ at \$8 each

**Ray Kappe-Apotheosis:** eight-page brochure features five Kappe Houses from 1959 to 1966 in the Royal Woods development of the San Fernando Valley.



\_\_\_\_\_ at \$8 each

**Conjunctive Points:** four-color, 11"x17" brochure featuring a 20-building walking tour of the Hayden Tract, designed by architect Eric Owen Moss and developed by Samitaur Constructs.



\_\_\_\_\_ at \$4 each

**Designed for Learning:** 11"x17" walking tour map and brochure of the University of California, Santa Barbara, campus.

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# SAH/SCC MEMBERSHIP FORM

SAH/SCC is a 501c 3 nonprofit organization dedicated to providing its members with opportunities to learn about and experience the rich architectural heritage of Southern California and beyond. Our volunteer board members create tours, lectures, travel tours, and other events that explore the ideas behind the architecture as well as the buildings that result from them. From modern to craftsman, from Spanish Colonial to contemporary, our programs are the best-kept secrets in Southern California!

## MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS:

- Advance notice of all SAH/SCC events—important because they usually sell out just to members
- 20-30% discounts on tour and event ticket prices
- Bi-monthly E-news with printable newsletter
- FREE tickets to our annual Members' Celebration event
- Special Members-Only E-Alerts about upcoming events
- A tax deduction for your membership dues
- The knowledge that you are supporting our mission to increase public awareness of Southern California's architectural heritage

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Fill out the order form below or join online at [www.sahscc.org](http://www.sahscc.org).

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All event ticket sales are final. We are sorry, refunds cannot be accommodated.  
\*SAH/SCC PRIVACY POLICY: The SAH/SCC never sells, rents, or shares your mailing or email address. Electronic communications enable us to operate economically and efficiently.

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Authors: Leslie—August 16, 2019

\_\_\_\_\_ FREE Reservations(s)

Patron & Life Member Salon—August 25, 2019

\_\_\_\_\_ SAH/SCC Patron & Life Member ticket(s) at \$25 each = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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\*You will be contacted if tickets are available.

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## Beginning the Bauhaus

The exhibition "Bauhaus Beginnings" lives up to its name, as the Getty Research Institute (GRI) compilation of objects and documents traces the influential school, starting with its initial pedagogical principles. The selection of more than 250 color studies, drawings, photographs, projections, notebooks, letters, textiles, and other ephemera—largely from GRI's own collection, which started in the early 1980s—is so impressive that, after a preview tour, German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier wondered, "how can there be so much great Bauhaus material outside of Germany?" See for yourself; the exhibition runs through October 13th.

Arranged in three galleries, the compact show explores three tenets of the Bauhaus: spirituality and expression, light and color, and ideas into practice. To enlarge its exposure, GRI has launched a companion on-line exhibition, "Bauhaus: Building the New Artist." Also separated into three parts reflecting the Bauhaus curriculum—form and color, matters and materials, body and spirit—each section includes an interactive exercise.

GRI Head of Architectural Collections Maristella Casciato curated the materials with an eye toward showing process, community, and inclusiveness. The diversity of masters and students on display stretches way beyond the text-book famous stars of the movement to include many women and lesser-known artists. "This is about building the modern man and woman, in addition to building buildings," notes Casciato.

Thus, storied examples of Bauhaus work that can be seen almost anywhere in myriad global 100-year anniversary commemorations are purposely not shown. "The show is about the dialogue and pedagogical innovations, not the cult of personality," stresses architect Tim Durfee, who consulted on the exhibition design.

Literally manifesting this philosophical flatness is the display mechanism of simply laying two-dimensional objects within the informality of tables, rather than placing rarified specimens on pedestals. "Not everything is a masterpiece," notes Durfee about what are essentially lesson plans and homework assignments. And that is what makes this depiction so unusual and exciting. We get insight into the thought processes that continue to affect our design lives today.



Carpet design by Léna Bergner.  
Image: Getty Research Institute (850514);  
©Heirs of Léna Bergner

—Julie D. Taylor, Hon. AIA