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Authors on Architecture: Gee, Appleton, & Parsons on Williams

SAH/SCC Zoom Presentation
Saturday, January 30, 2021, 1-2:30PM PST

If you enjoyed Stephen Gee's recent SAH/SCC program on John Parkinson, you won't want to miss this new event at which Gee will discuss the work of celebrated African-American architect Paul Revere Williams, FAIA.

Gee will be joined by fellow authors Marc Appleton, AIA, and Bret Parsons to discuss their latest volume of *Master Architects of Southern California 1920-1940: Paul R. Williams* (Tailwater Press/Angel City Press, 2021).

In this book, the authors focus on the improbable career of the first African-American member of the AIA and the organization's first African-American Fellow and Gold Medalist. In his six-decade career, Williams worked on more than 3,000 projects ranging from modest affordable housing to mansions for Hollywood celebrities. He also earned plaudits for his commercial and civic work, including the luxurious department store Saks Fifth Avenue (with John and Donald B. Parkinson, 1937) and the Music Corporation of America building (1940), both in Beverly Hills.



Pueblo Del Rio Public Housing in South Los Angeles (1941).

Photo: Stephen Gee

The *Master Architects of Southern California 1920-1940* series showcases the work of 12 architects featured in early issues of *Architectural Digest*. "These nearly forgotten architects needed to be memorialized, since their work is quickly disappearing," says series co-author and architect Appleton of Appleton Partners. Williams is the fourth architect in the series, which includes Gordon B. Kaufmann, FAIA, Roland E. Coate, FAIA, and Wallace Neff, FAIA.



Paul Revere Williams, FAIA, first African-American AIA member, Fellow, and Gold Medalist. Photo: California State Library, courtesy of Stephen Gee



Architect and author Marc Appleton, AIA.



Realtor and author Bret Parsons.



Producer/director and author Stephen Gee.

Authors on Architecture: Gee, Appleton, & Parsons on Williams—Saturday, January 30, 2021; 1-2:30PM PST; \$5; go to www.sahscc.org, and pay via PayPal or mail in order form on Page 6 with check; Zoom connection information sent upon registration.

SAH/SCC President's Letter

Happy New Year! By the time you read this, 2020 will be but a memory. As you can see, SAH/SCC is resuming an ambitious schedule of Zoom events to provide you with numerous opportunities to learn about the built environment of Southern California and beyond.

I also want to share some exciting opportunities to follow up on our 2020 events. First of all, for those who attended Nathan Marsak's program on the evolution of Bunker Hill, there is a new project afoot to determine exactly where the displaced people of Bunker Hill ended up during the urban renewal.

"Bunker Hill Refrain," a new research project co-led by Dr. Meredith Drake Reitan, an adjunct associate professor in USC's Master of Heritage Conservation and Master of Urban Planning programs, brings the social complexities of the early-20th-century Bunker Hill neighborhood to light, while contributing to contemporary debates about community and economic redevelopment practices.

Phase one of the research involves a careful, crowd-sourced analysis of more than 1,000 household survey cards compiled by the Works Progress Administration (WPA) in 1939, which are housed in Special Collections at USC Libraries. Data on each handwritten card offer clues to what happened on the Hill. Construction dates, demographic information, monthly rents, and other details—such as whether or not the occupant owned an icebox or shared a bathroom with other tenants—provide insight into what life was once like in

this area of Los Angeles. The goal of the project is to eventually be able to tell the stories of the displaced. Go to <https://www.zooniverse.org/projects/arutkows/bunker-hill-refrain> to participate.

For those of you who would like to get out of the house (and who wouldn't?), check out the new exhibition at the Art, Design, and Architecture Museum at UC, Santa Barbara. SAH/SCC 2020 Zoom star and Life Member Volker Welter's research on Tremaine Houses is showcased in the exhibition *From Riggs to Neutra and Niemeyer (Tremaine Houses, 1933-1977)* on view April 9th to August 29th. Check here for more information; dates and access subject to change due to COVID-19.

Lastly, you should check out the new podcast "Save As," a series highlighting the work of recent graduates of the Masters of Heritage Conservation program at USC School of Architecture. Co-hosted by the dream team of SAH/SCC Life Members Cindy Olnick and Trudi Sandmeier, and produced by Willa Seidenberg, the program will introduce you to important historical, cultural, and architectural sites you never knew existed.

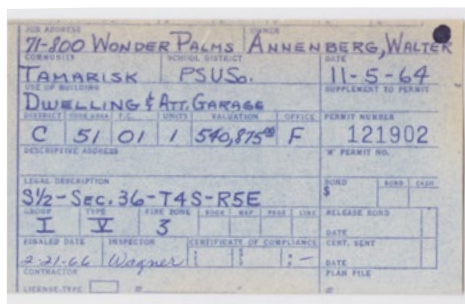
I'm cautiously optimistic that we might get to see each other in person during 2021. However, SAH/SCC won't resume on-site programming until we are sure that we can provide a safe environment in which to experience architecture. In the meantime, be safe and be careful out there!

—Sian Winship

Permits Permitted

A chance meeting at 4:45 p.m. on a Friday in mid-December 2019 has changed how researchers can discover information about tens of thousands of dwellings built in the Coachella Valley.

That's when two amateur historians wandered into Riverside County's Desert Permit Assistance Center expecting to be shooed away by tired employees just as their work week was ending.



Instead, a partnership was established that allowed the historians to scan a handwritten archive of more than 30,000 job cards that span from about 1955 to the mid-1960s for primarily residential projects, trailer hook-ups, and signage in towns that at the time were unincorporated, such as Cathedral City, Desert Hot Springs, Indian Wells, north Palm Springs, Palm Desert, Rancho Mirage, Sky Valley, and some areas of Cabazon, Indio, La Quinta, Salton Sea, and Thermal.


The card shown, for construction of the Sunnylands estate, is typical of information available.

Digitization of the entire card catalog (delayed by the pandemic) should be completed in early 2021. Until then, you can request information on a particular owner, address, or builder by emailing coachellavalleypermits@gmail.com.

— Suzie Ohair, volunteer,
Coachella Valley Permit Project

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Authors on Architecture: Wagener & Erganian's *New West*

SAH/SCC Zoom Presentation

Saturday, February 6, 2021, 1-2:30PM PST

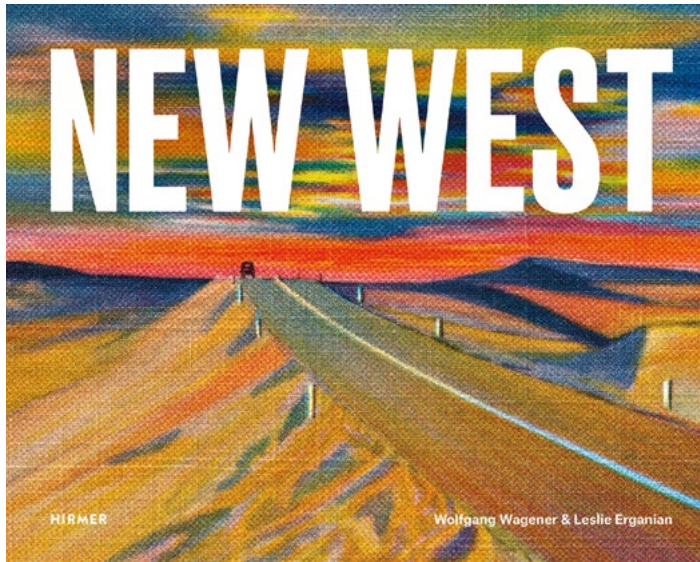
Few regions have undergone more rapid and radical development than the American West in the mid-20th century. Spectacular architecture, technical innovation, and new leisure activities were routinely commemorated on postcards. In their book *New West* (Hirmer Publishers, 2019), co-authors and SAH/SCC Life Members Wolfgang Wagener, AIA, RIBA, and Leslie Erganian tell that story through 500 selected linen postcards from their personal collection. (Read SAH/SCC's book [review](#).)



Wolfgang Wagener



Leslie Erganian



Wagener and Erganian will bring four phases of the West's development—steam, steel, oil, and information—to life. In a presentation well-suited to a Zoom audience, participants will have the benefit of charismatic speakers and engaging visuals. As documentarian Ken Burns described the book, "This is a wonderful and wonder-filled book, an obvious labor of love. It mines the physical transformation of the West and it plumbs the depths of the West of our imagination with hope and clear eyes."

Wagener is an international architect and real estate development adviser. He graduated with a PhD in Engineering from RWTH Aachen University in Germany. He wrote the monograph *Raphael Soriano* (Phaidon, 2002) and was a featured speaker on the SAH/SCC tour "Raphael Soriano: Man of Steel" in 2003.

Erganian is an American artist and writer. Her hand-colored photographs are in the permanent collection of the California Museum of Photography and the Xerox Corporation. She graduated with a Master of Fine Arts in Art and Design from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and obtained a Master of Fine Arts in film production from the UCLA.

Authors on Architecture: Wagener and Erganian's New West—Saturday, February 6, 2021; 1-2:30PM PST; \$5; or go to www.sahscc.org and pay via PayPal or mail in order form on Page 6 with check; Zoom connection information sent upon registration.



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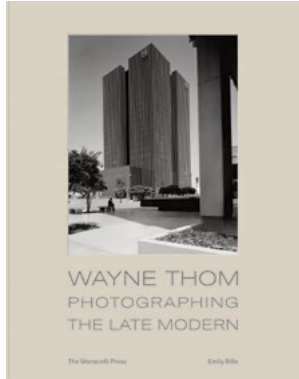
Authors on Architecture: Bills on Thom

SAH/SCC Zoom Presentation
Saturday, March 20, 2021; 1-2:30PM PST

Join SAH/SCC for a talk showcasing the architectural photography of Wayne Thom and celebrating the new book *Wayne Thom: Photographing the Late Modern* (The Monacelli Press, 2020) by SAH/SCC Member Emily Bills. Bills is an educator, curator, and author with research interests in urban history and social and environmental justice. She is Participating Adjunct Professor and Coordinator of the Urban Studies Program at Woodbury University.

Raised in Hong Kong, Thom moved to California in the mid-1960s. The book includes photographs of work by architects such as William L. Pereira, FAIA, Gio Ponti, FAIA, John Portman, FAIA, and I.M. Pei, FAIA. For those SAH/SCC members who attended "Bakersfield Built: 1960s," Thom's photographs of modern architecture in Bakersfield will be a familiar reprise.

Previous SAH/SCC programs with Bills include a 2018 discussion of the work of architectural photographer Marvin Rand, Hon. AIA/LA, based on *California Captured: Marvin Rand Mid-Century Modern Architecture* (Phaidon, 2018), a 2017 panel about *Michigan Modern: Design That Shaped America* (Gibbs Smith, 2016), and an insider A+D Museum's 2016 exhibition on William F. Cody, FAIA.



Bills' book on Rand, co-authored with Sam Lubell and Pierluigi Serraino, won the Regional Bookseller's Award for Best Art Book of 2018 and was listed as notable book of 2018 by *Los Angeles Magazine* and *Curbed Los Angeles*. Her book *Telephone City: How Telecommunications Helped Build Los Angeles* is forthcoming from University of Pittsburgh Press.

Authors on Architecture: Bills on Thom—Saturday, March 20, 2021; 1-2:30PM PST; \$5; visit www.sahsc.org and pay via PayPal or mail in order form on Page 6 with check; Zoom connection information sent upon registration.



Photographer Wayne Thom in 1976.



Geisel Library at UC, San Diego, by Gin Wong, FAIA, of William L. Pereira & Associates (1970).



Toll Family Cabin in Rollinsville, CO, by Carl A. Worthington & Associates (1978).



Pacific Mutual Insurance Co. West Coast Headquarters in Newport Beach by William L. Pereira & Associates (1972).

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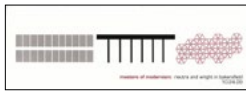
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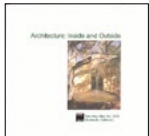
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SAH/SCC PUBLICATIONS



_____ 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.



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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.



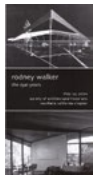
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Space and Learning: eight-page, four-color brochure on the historical and contemporary legacy of LA school architecture, featuring projects by Richard Neutra, Thom Mayne, Rios Clementi Hale Studios, and others.



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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.



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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.



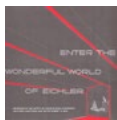
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Kesling Homes: bi-fold, two-color brochure from the "Kesling Modern Structures" tour.



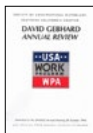
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Union Station and MTA Transit Center: bi-fold map for a self-guided walking tour including historical facts and photos.



_____ 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.



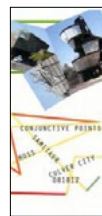
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Killingsworth: A Master Plan for Learning: 11"x17", four-color walking tour brochure of the Cal State Long Beach campus features history of master plan development by architect Edward A. Killingsworth, FAIA.



_____ 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.



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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.



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All event ticket sales are final. We are sorry, refunds cannot be accommodated.
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SAH/SCC EVENT TICKETS

Paul R. Williams—Saturday, January 30, 2021

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Wagener/Erganian—Saturday, February 6, 2021

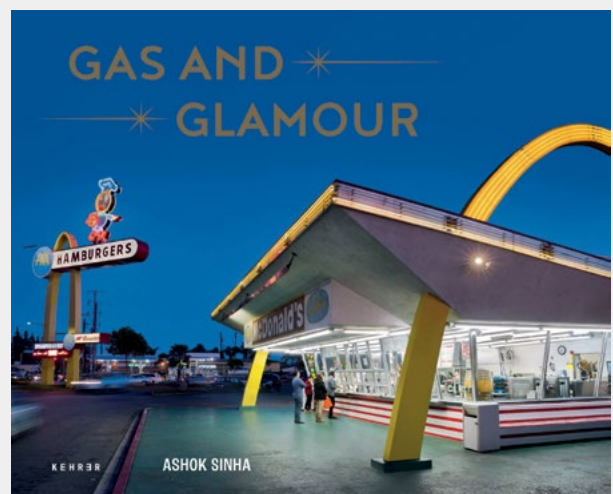
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Bills on Thom—Saturday, March 20, 2021

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Bookmarks

Gas and Glamour: Roadside Architecture in Los Angeles

Photography by Ashok Sinha

Texts by Jack Esterson, Craig Kellogg, Sherri Littlefield, and Ashok Sinha

You know how you can listen to song that you've known the words to for decades and then suddenly hear it in another way? That's the effect of paging through Sinha's photos of familiar Southern California roadside sites. An architectural and fine art photographer, Sinha wanted "to capture L.A.'s car-culture-induced optimism and ambition reflected in polychromatic, star-spangled coffee shops, gas stations, car washes, and other places that once lured the gaze of passing motorists." Taken mostly at the photographic "magic hour" when the sky is at its most luminous and the neon starts to pulse, images of Randy's Donuts (Henry J. Goodwin, 1953), Bowlum (Gordon Powers, 1958), Bob's Big Boy (Wayne McAllister, 1949), Casa de Cadillac (Randall Duell and Philip A. Conklin, 1949), and Union 76 (Gin Wong, FAIA, 1965) glow in romantic nostalgia. Few people appear in the images, casting an additional eerie stillness, similar to the loneliness that drips from an Edward Hopper painting. For the intrepid reader wanting to embark on a self-driven tour, the book ends with an illustrated index—with many views whimsically taken from Sinha's driver's seat—along with addresses and QR codes for Google Map directions. As a self-proclaimed early-morning diner hound, I've spent countless hours and omelettes at Armet & Davis' Norms (1957) and Mel's (1953), but never saw them this way before. Take a look for yourself.

Kehrer Verlag, 2020, 72 pages, hardcover, \$45.