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NEWS

# Authors on Architecture: Preserving Los Angeles

Los Angeles has become a change agent in the field of historic preservation. Historic preservation

has revived neighborhoods, created a downtown renaissance, and guided the future of the city. In his new book, Preserving Los Angeles (Angel City Press, 2021), Ken Bernstein tells this story and

#### SAH/SCC Zoom Presentation Saturday, May 8, 2021, 1-2:30 PM PST

Ken Bernstein



Stephen Schafer

Spring

2021



illustrates it beautifully with 300 color photographs by Stephen Schafer.



Eastern Columbia Building, designed by Claud Beelman (1929), converted to condos by Killefer Flammang Architects (2006)

Younger than many American cities, Los Angeles has a remarkable collection of architectural resources in all styles, reflecting the legacy of notable architects from the past 150 years. As one of the most diverse cities in the world, Los Angeles also is breaking new ground in its approach to historic preservation, extending beyond significant architecture to identify and protect places of social and cultural meaning in LA's communities.

Bernstein, who oversees the Los Angeles Office of Historic Resources, partnered with preservation-minded architectural photographer Schafer to create a volume that is part case study, part field guide, and part love letter to the City of the Angels.

Authors on Architecture: Preserving Los Angeles—Saturday, May 8, 2021; 1-2:30 PM PST; \$5; go to www.sahscc.org, aand pay via PayPal or mail in order form on Page 6 with check; Zoom connection information sent upon registration.



Pann's Restaurant and Coffee Shop, designed by Armet and Davis (1958).



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# SAH/SCC President's Letter

Every year, SAH/SCC conducts a Members' Celebration—a free event for members where we can share food, drink, and fellowship at an architecturally significant location. Since COVID-19 prevented this in 2020, and will likely have the same result in 2021, I thought it would be nice to update members on a past location: The Church of the Epiphany (Ernest Coxhead, 1887/ Arthur B. Benton, 1913).

Back in April 2018, we celebrated the oldest Episcopal congregation in Los Angeles. The original church, designed in the Romanesque Revival style, was expanded in 1913 to meet the needs of a growing congregation, and the new church was designed in a mix of styles that included Gothic, Mission, and Romanesque Revivals. The stunning interior of the church is one of Los Angeles' hidden gems and features elaborate woodwork and stained-glass windows.

The church is also historically significant as the center of Latino culture and social justice work beginning in the 1960s. The church was home to the Brown Berets, the Los Angeles base for Cesar Chavez' United Farm Workers Movement, the newspaper *La Raza,* and the Chicano civil rights movement.

The 2018 event proved inspirational for me. I volunteered to write the National Register Nomination pro bono for the church. Stephen Schafer agreed to volunteer his time for the documentation photos. As a result, the Church was listed on the National Register just in time for COVID to prevent the celebration of this important milestone.

On Saturday, March 13, 2021, SAH/SCC conducted a Zoom program, virtual tour, and panel discussion with the restoration architects and SAH/SCC Patron Members Frank Escher and Ravi GuneWardena, AIA, of Escher GuneWardena Architecture, and Father Tom Carey, Epiphany's vicar, who continues the church's legacy of activism. The event was a celebration of both its listing on the National Register and the receipt of funding from a Sacred Places grant in collaboration with the National Trust for Historic Places. We also heard about the revival of a grassroots fundraising campaign through GoFundMe for continued restorations.

SAH/SCC is delighted to have been a small part of the effort to restore and revere this important architectural and cultural resource. While the organization leaves preservation battles for groups better equipped for advocacy (LA Conservancy, Santa Monica Conservancy), SAH/SCC believes that a more educated public is key to raising awareness of the importance of preservation in Southern California.

Thank you for your ongoing support of the organization. We look forward to celebrating our members in person again soon!

#### —Sian Winship



The Church of the Epiphany was designed by Ernest Coxhead (1887), expanded by Arthur B. Benton (1913), and is now being restored by Escher GuneWardena Architecture. *Photo: Stephen Schafer* 

#### Tour and Event Information: ph: 1.800.972.4722 e:info@sahscc.org

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SOCIETY OF ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIANS SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAPTER

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# Authors on Architecture: Warner Bros.

#### SAH/SCC Zoom Presentation

### Saturday, April 24th, 1-2:30 PM PST

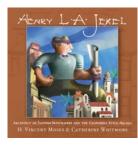
Just a day before the 93rd Oscars, SAH/SCC gets a sneak peek at the Warner Bros. studio backlot with the author of *Warner Bros.: Hollywood's Ultimate Backlot* (Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 2018). Steven Bingen, the former studio staff historian, throws open Hollywood's iron gates and takes us inside the legendary and mysterious studio.





Warner Bros. was home to many of the most beloved movies and television shows of all time. Through an architectural lens, Bingen will share how the studio functioned as a small city. Illustrating the lecture with behind-the-scenes photos and maps, the author will take us on a trip to Hollywood that is sure to delight movie buffs and architectural historians alike.

Authors on Architecture: Warner Bros.—Saturday, April 24, 2021; 1-2:30 PM PST; \$5; go to <u>www.sahscc.org</u> and pay via PayPal or mail in order form on Page 6 with check; Zoom connection information sent upon registration.



# Authors on Architecture: Henry L.A. Jekel, Regional Master

SAH/SCC Zoom Presentation Saturday, June 12, 2021, 1-2:30 PM PST

Explore the period-revival residences of architect Henry L.A. Jekel (1876-1960) with author and SAH/SCC Member Dr. H. Vincent Moses. Members may recall that SAH/SCC had to postpone its Henry Jekel Tour in 2020 due to the COVID-19 outbreak.

Dr. Moses is a co-author with fellow SAH/SCC Member Catherine Whitmore of *Henry L.A. Jekel: Architect of Eastern Skyscrapers and the California Style*, 1895-1950 (Inlandia Institute, 2018). A well-known Buffalo, NY, skyscraper architect, Jekel reinvented himself and his work in Riverside, CA, during the early 20th century. Jekel—also successful in Philadelphia prior to coming to LA—is a fascinating figure, whose tale is transformational.



Authors on Architecture: Henry L.A. Jekel— Saturday, June 12, 2021; 1-2:30 PM PST; \$5; go to <u>www.sahscc.org</u> and pay via PayPal or mail in order form on Page 6 with check; Zoom connection information sent upon registration.

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Parker-Washburn Residence (1931)

Photo: courtesy of H. Vincent Moses.



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Corpus Christi College and Sidney Sussex College Boathouse (1957).

Photo: Edward Leigh; courtesy of Cory Buckner

# Authors on Architecture: Buckner on David Wyn Roberts

#### SAH/SCC Zoom Presentation

#### Saturday, May 22, 2021, 1-2:30 PM PST

Join SAH/SCC Member Cory Buckner for a rare and very personal look at the work of architect David Wyn Roberts (1911-1982). Buckner is the author of the new book, A Cambridge Modernist: The Architecture of David Wyn Roberts (Crestwood Hills Press, 2020).

In England, Roberts was a professor of architecture at the Cambridge School of Architecture, where he designed more college residences in the Cambridge area than any other architect during the city's history.





Jesus College Student Housing (1963) Photo: Edward Leigh; courtesy of Cory Buckner

River Building Student Housing at Magdalene College (1957). Photo: H. de Burgh Galway; courtesy of Cory Buckner

Roberts' work demonstrates his experimental approach to modern architecture and his interest in user experience, sensitivity to the layers of historical context, and thoughtful use of materials. Individuals who are interested in preservation and how to create compatible, yet distinctive, contemporary buildings in keeping with the Secretary of the Interior's standards will find Roberts' approach informative to their current practices.

An architect as well as an author, Buckner is known for her books A. Quincy Jones (Phaidon, 2002), Crestwood Hills: The Chronicle of a Modern Utopia (Angel City Press, 2015), and The Lyman House and the Work of Frederic P. Lyman (Crestwood Hills Press, 2017). She has also written for LA Architect, The Los Angeles Times, Dwell, Metropolitan Home, and many other publications.

Authors on Architecture: David Wyn Roberts—Saturday, May 22, 2021; 1-2:30 PM PST; \$5; go to <u>www.sahscc.org</u> and pay via PayPal or mail in order form on Page 6 with check; Zoom connection information sent upon registration.



Clare College Lodgings (1957)

Photo: H. de Burgh Galway; courtesy of Cory Buckner

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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 I A



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-andwhite 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.



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.











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.



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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
- Quarterly E-news with printable newsletter
- FREE tickets to our annual Members' Celebration event
- Special Members-Only E-Alerts about upcoming events
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Warner Bros.—Saturday, April 24, 2021 reservation(s) at \$5 each =	\$
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David Wyn Roberts—Saturday, May 22, 2021 reservation(s) at \$5 each =	\$
Henry L.A. Jekel—Saturday, June 12, 2021 reservation(s) at \$5 each =	\$

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Victor A. Cusack (with tie) in the Pereira office, ca. 1950s, with Jim [Gin] Wong (foreground) and two unidentified colleagues.

Photo: ©Architecture & Design Collection, Art, Design, and Architecture Museum, UC Santa Barbara

# Victor Cusack (1915-2020)

On September 1st of last year, the Los Angeles-based architect Victor Aubrey Cusack passed away. He was 104 years old. Cusack was born December 13, 1915, in Ramsey, Bergen County, New Jersey. He entered architecture school at Yale University in the mid-1930s only to leave in 1938 when he apprenticed with Frank Lloyd Wright in Spring Green, Wisconsin, from October that

year to December 1940. During the 1940s, Cusack was in the U.S. Navy while completing his studies at Yale, which awarded him a Bachelor's degree in 1943.

After the war, Cusack settled in Los Angeles. There he worked for various architects, including J.R. Davidson, and independently designed private homes, some of which were published in *Arts & Architecture*. In 1949, Cusack joined the office of William L. Pereira. For nearly four decades he worked with Pereira, Pereira & Luckman, and Luckman Associates, until he retired in 1985 as the Vice-President of Pereira's firm.

Cusack worked on many projects for both Pereira and Luckman, among them the Union 76 Oil Company office headquarters in Los Angeles (1949-50), the master plan for Los Angeles International airport (LAX, 1953 onwards), the Bradley International Terminal (1961), and the Lockheed Corporation headquarters (1963 onwards) in Calabasas.

Extended travels regularly interrupted Cusack's primary employment. In 1961 a journey around the globe that began with a flight from New York to Paris ended nine months later with a return flight from Hawaii to Los Angeles. Cusack's travel records offer a glimpse of his private life; according to friends Cusack was a snazzy dresser, a gourmand, and a lover of the theater, in short, a single man who cherished the freedoms of bachelorhood.

Cusack's corporate designs are well represented in Los Angeles's public memory. Among his domestic works, stands out the design of the Dora Hutchinson residence (1951) in Chatsworth, a Pereira office commission. In 2005, Cusack co-wrote the book, *A Symbol of Los Angeles: The History of the Theme Building at Los Angeles International Airport 1952-1961* (Donning Co. Publishers), in part to clarify the muddled history of this iconic design. In February 2012, the Los Angeles Conservancy's Modern Committee designated Victor A. Cusack a Modern Master.

Volker M. Welter and Jocelyn Gibbs



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