

IMPRESSIONS OF CHINA ON DECEMBER 7



Impressions of China
(Photograph by Ray Kappe)

"Images and Impressions of the People's Republic of China" will be the theme of a special Chapter meeting on Tuesday, December 7, in the Bing Theater of the Los Angeles County Museum of Art. The program will feature presentations by Sam Hurst, Ray Kappe and Shelly Kappe based on their recent visits to China.

The program will begin at 8:00 p.m., and the public is encouraged to share a unique perspective on contemporary China as seen through the eyes of American architects. There is no charge for the evening's program.

Sam Hurst, past Dean of Architecture at USC, was a member of the AIA's first architectural study tour of the People's Republic of China in 1974. Last year, a group of Chinese architects completed the professional exchange with an AIA-sponsored visit to the United States. Last October, Ray and Shelly Kappe of Sci-Arc and Kahn Kappe Lotery Boccato joined a second American delegation which spend two intensive weeks traveling by plane, train and bus through Peking, Soochow, Shanghai, Kweilin, and Canton.

RICHARD MEIER AT UCLA ON DECEMBER 9

Architect Richard Meier will give a public lecture during his visit to the UCLA School of Architecture on Thursday, December 9, at 8:00 p.m. in the Dickson Auditorium next to Parking Structure 3 on the UCLA campus.

Meier last lectured at UCLA in 1973. In 1974, he visited the school in the company of his fellow White architects during the Four Days in May event.

Last summer, Oxford University Press published a 240-page monograph of Richard Meier's work, "Richard Meier Architect" (paperback \$15.00). This book was five years in preparation; containing hundreds of beautiful photographs and drawings, it concludes with his "magnum opus," the Bronx Developmental Center, about which Kenneth Frampton has written in the introduction to his book:

"The lines now have been drawn, for what works by the more prominent members of this so-called third generation (i.e., the schools of Mies van der Rohe, Skidmore, Owings and Merrill, and Eero Saarinen — this last includes Kevin Roche, Cesar Pelli, Gunnar Birkerts and Tony Lumsden) can really equal this work for the measure of its scale and articulation, and for the brilliance of its technique."

PETER BLAKE ADDRESS ON DECEMBER 14



Distinguished architect and critic Peter Blake, FAIA, will be the featured speaker at the SCC/AIA Chapter meeting on Tuesday, December 14, in the Sequoia Room of the Pacific Design Center. Blake, who currently serves as chairman of the Boston Architectural Center, will be welcomed by Chapter

members and guests at a reception preceding the formal address.

The evening begins at 7:00 p.m. with an open reception featuring a no-host bar with cocktails, wine and soft drinks. The program begins at 8:00 p.m. in the Sequoia Room.

There is no charge for the program or reception, and members of the public are encouraged to join the architects of the Southern California Chapter/AIA in welcoming Peter Blake to Los Angeles.

Please call the Chapter office at 624-6561 on or before Friday, December 10, to reserve your place at the Chapter meeting.

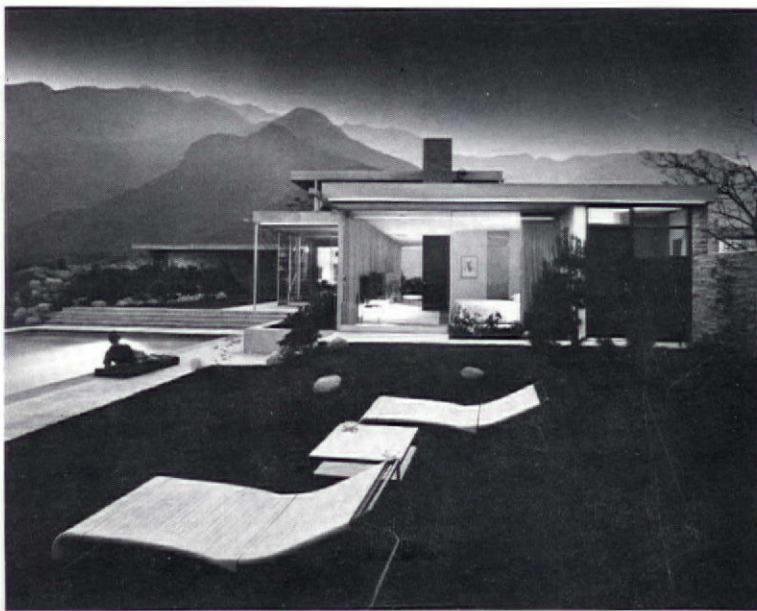
Born in Berlin in 1920, Peter Blake attended school in England and the United States, where he earned his B.Arch. at Pratt Institute. A former editor of "Architectural Forum" and "Architecture Plus," Blake's essays, architectural criticism, books and buildings have been widely published.

CONTINUING SAGA OF THE CCAIA

I submit that the bane of democracy is the nominating committee. It stands as a stone wall between the people and the candidate. In order that the candidate be eligible for election he must first satisfy the nominators and thus, if his first interest is to satisfy the people, he is automatically excluded unless the view of a nominating committee appointed from the top happens to coincide with the view of the people struggling up from the bottom.

As a case in point, I refer to the recent CCAIA election for First Vice-President and President Elect.

A CCAIA COUNCILLETTER dated September 3, 1976 presented the



Kaufman Desert House, Palm Springs (1964) by Richard Neutra. (Julius Shulman Photograph)



Le Greco House, San Bernardino (1972) by Charles Le Greco (Julius Shulman Photograph)

JULIUS SHULMAN IN 40TH YEAR

Julius Shulman took and sold his first architectural photographs in Los Angeles in 1936. Now, forty years later, he is known throughout the world as a leading theorist and practitioner of the art.

Born in Brooklyn in 1910, Shulman moved with his family to Los Angeles in 1920. He grew up and went to school in Boyle Heights and was one of the first students in 1929 at UCLA's new, muddy campus in Westwood. He was also, he admits cheerfully, one of its "first dropouts." Drifting from engineering to the liberal arts early in his first year and then for several years merely auditing courses that caught his interest, Shulman left Los Angeles in 1933 and headed for Berkeley for more of the same. There he acquired an Eastman Kodak vest pocket camera and began avidly photographing the Bay Area landscape. With that first primitive camera, he made beautiful pictures. "A good eye for composition," Shulman still contends, "is ninety per cent of the problem."

In 1936, he returned to the Silverlake district of Los Angeles, where his sister owned a drugstore. Among the store's customers was Richard Neutra, the first architect Shulman ever met. When a friend took him to see Neutra's new Kun House, nearing completion in the Hollywood Hills, Shulman took several snapshots of the building. The resulting prints so delighted Neutra that he bought them from Shulman and encouraged him to keep photographing his buildings. And that, Shulman remembers, is the way it all started.

From that time on, he estimates, with increasingly sophisticated equipment and facilities, he did approximately ninety per cent of Neutra's photography, as well as

working for "hundreds" of other architects. He published their work, and his, in countless periodicals, and he had a particularly close relationship with John Entenza's "Arts and Architecture." He especially admired the architects in Entenza's Case Study program. Raphael Soriano was a close personal friend and designed the handsome house and studio Shulman has occupied since 1950.

In addition to teaching, lecturing, and conducting seminars on architectural photography, Shulman has written "Photographing Architecture and Interiors" (1962), a widely acclaimed statement of his method and philosophy. A new book, "Photographing Architecture and Design," will be published in 1977. At 66, his work schedule is as intense as ever. He enjoys discovering new contemporary architecture and re-discovering older treasures, especially the Victorian buildings that the conditioning of the "Modern Movement" once taught him to disdain. As the two accompanying photographs suggest, Shulman is especially sensitive to the play of light on buildings and to the symbiotic relationships of the built and natural environments.

In 1969, Shulman won the coveted Gold Medal of the American Institute of Architects. His past and ongoing achievement was succinctly acknowledged in a recent citation from the CCAIA in recognition of "outstanding service to the aims and objectives of the architectural profession." Shulman's "visual perception, curiosity, and intellectual courage," it declared, have "contributed significantly to the public understanding of architecture...."

Thomas S. Hines

following information under what turned out to be the surprisingly prophetic heading "THIS TIME ITS DIFFERENT" (without apostrophe):

"For the first time as an individual membership society, state officers for 1977 will be nominated by a committee headed by Richard Banwell, FAIA (Northern California Chapter)."

I was confused by that statement, but I read on past the list of officers to be nominated to:

"Suggestions as to qualified nominees are being sought by the Nominating Committee before 20 September from the CCAIA Board of Directors and the membership. 'Suggestions to the Committee must be accompanied by biographical material and explanation of the individual's qualification for office,' said Banwell."

I confessed to Chairman Banwell that I resented having to present explanations of an individual's qualifications for the approval of a nominating committee. Since the CCAIA is supposedly now an individual membership society (although part of my confusion rests in the fact that only the Board of Directors may elect officers and only Chapter Boards may elect Directors) why may the members not simply make nominations as they choose? Why must we go through channels? And most important in an organization where every member has demonstrated his qualifications by the very fact of his membership, why is "biographical material and explanation" presented in confidence to a Committee more important than a public declaration of the candidate's philosophy and goals?

(Continued on back page.)

A LONG SHOT PAYS OFF

Can anyone imagine a controversial home tour? The recent "Roots and Shoots" tour staged by the Women's Architectural League and the American Institute of Architects apparently was. Fortunately the ayes overwhelmingly outnumbered the nays but the near bitterness of a handful of nays makes them worth reporting precisely because they point up the success of this charity tour (for architectural scholarships): so many more people bought tickets than expected that traffic jams resulted.

The W.A.L. tour chairman took a long shot in hoping that the public would be attracted by an intellectual tour theme: the history of Los Angeles' contemporary residential architectural design. This was not the usual tour, "the latest and the best" nor even a peeping Tom show into the homes of the rich or the famous. In short, it was not just entertainment, it was demanding.

Dan MacMasters' generous mention in the Sunday Home Magazine plus John Dreyfuss' sensitive article the Friday before the tour made the point perfectly: these were not houses one would necessarily covet (though there were many visitors who did), rather, they were six houses ranging in age from two to forty years, all contemporary, all of outstanding design excellence but each totally different from the others in design philosophy.

Who but architects would find such an ideal engrossing? To the credit of supposedly crass John Q. Public 3000 of him responded with their pocketbooks, nearly twice as many as last year's record W.A.L. tour. Hundreds more were turned away when tickets sold out. Several hundred more wouldn't take no for an answer and queued up in the long lines hoping to buy single dollar admissions to individual homes.

In the face of this totally unexpected and heartwarming response the plaintive and sometimes bitter complaints of a few who, along with many others, got so enmeshed in traffic and

(Continued on back page)

DECEMBER 1976

Inside:
1976 Design Awards

Calendar:
December 7: "Impressions of China" at Bing Theater of County Museum.
December 9: Richard Meier speaks at Dickson Auditorium on UCLA campus.
December 14: Peter Blake addresses Chapter meeting at Pacific Design Center.
December 15: WAL Holiday Party at home of Bill and Sally Landworth in Tarzana.

1976 DESIGN AWARDS PROGRAM

HONOR AWARDS



(1) **Pacific Design Center**, Los Angeles, California. Architect: Gruen Associates; Cesar Pelli, Partner for Design. Owner: Pacific Design Center. General Contractor: Henry C. Beck Company. Jury Comments: "An imaginative and formally resolute building with visually lavish opaque blue-glass skin which envelopes a conglomeration of similar functions (contract, interior design and home furnishings) organized on six floors, including the spatially celebrated and exciting barrel-vaulted Galleria. A controversial landmark that aspires to address generic design issues rather than specific ones, such as the creation of a New Formal Context, Scale and Imagery. We feel this is a daring chance and we believe it works, although its violation of surrounding scale and context is hardly to be recommended as a regular solution."

(2) **Southern California Institute of Architecture (SCI-ARC)**, Santa Monica, California. Architect: Students and faculty of SCI-ARC under the direction of Raymond Kappe. Jury Comments: "A most notable example of transforming an existing building (made originally of recycled materials) into a most lively and stimulating teaching environment, created by a group of highly motivated teachers and students — an ongoing design cycle based on 'Empirical Use Exploration.' Besides its environmental qualities, this building is a paradigm of place-making that reflects the moral and cultural values of the designers-users themselves, not unlike certain epochs that architecture expressed such values. A statement of courage and above all faith in the strength of our collective aspirations and values."

(3) **The Rouse Company Headquarters Building**, Columbia, Maryland. Architect: Frank O. Gehry & Associates, Inc. Owner: The Rouse Company. General Contractor: George Hyman & Company. Jury Comments: "A strong architectural statement... The outcome of a long and patient search which has generated an alternative to the anonymity of the common office space. A spatial organization and plan configuration that renders the working hours more pleasant... a concern for the user... a stimulating and tolerable working environment. A manifestation of total design interests, not excluding the office hardware."

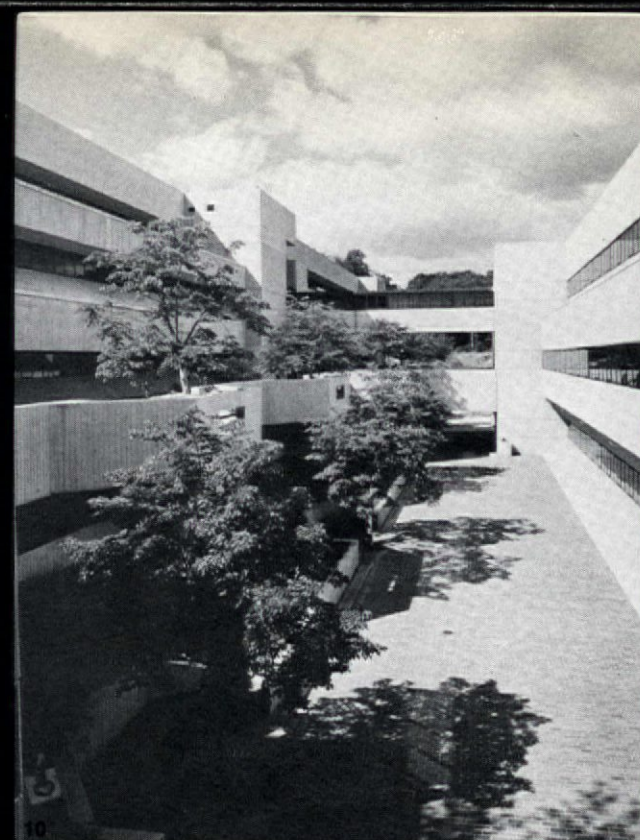
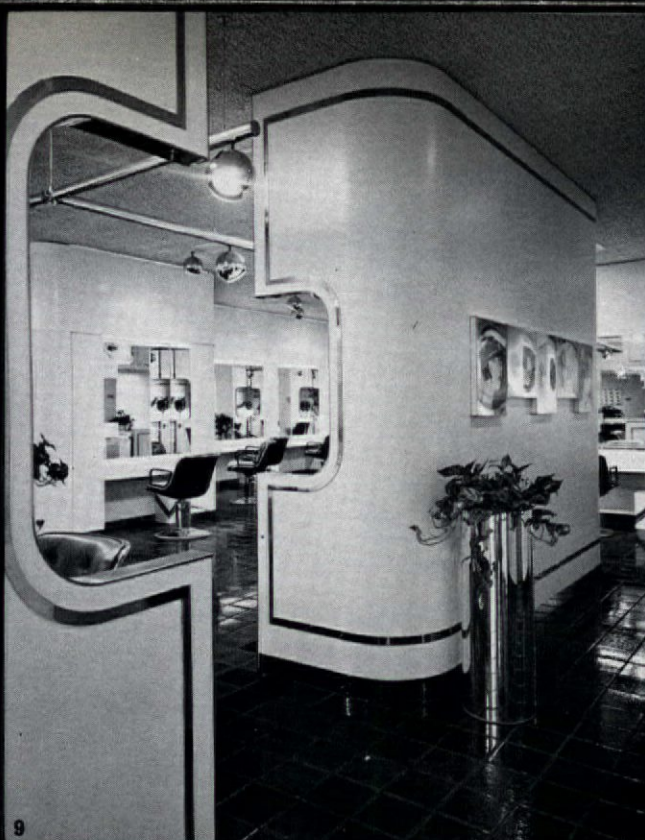
(4) **California Polytechnic University at Pomona Student Union**. Architect: Pulliam, Matthews and Associates. Owner: California State College Trustees. General Contractor: Jack Pinner Construction Company. Jury Comments: "A carefully designed and detailed building with very casual and pleasant interior spaces, tastefully decorated and furnished. A respectful response to the users' requirements and to the context. Certainly one of the most interesting new buildings on campus."

(5) **Venice Apartments**, Venice, California. Architect: Lorenzo Tedesco, AIA. Owner: Jerry Motz and Gordon Appleton. Jury Comments: "An elegantly designed and detailed three-unit apartment building on a small lot in Venice, successfully addressing the designer's concerns about the program, context, scale and looks."

(6) **One Park Plaza**, Los Angeles, California. Architect: Daniel, Mann, Johnson & Mendenhall. Owner: Real Estate Technology, Inc. General Contractor: Tishman Realty & Construction. Jury Comments: "Another relevant statement in the Architectural High Rise Imagery... an expression which continues to address the evolving problem of designing for the unknown user and responding to very stringent economic and programmatic constraints. An important addition to the Wilshire corridor scenery. If you believe in high rise buildings as one way of increasing density, this is certainly one of the most interesting examples."

(7) **Pico Union Plaza**, Los Angeles, California. Architect: John V. Mutlow AIA; Brooks Mutlow Associates. Owner: Pico Union Neighborhood Council. General Contractor: The Wittenberg Corp. Jury Comments: "A positive architectural solution to low-income family housing, resulting from the aspiration and zeal of a local minority community and their architect for the betterment of their living conditions and environment. The outcome of a lengthy participatory process, this complex of two-story residential units indicates once more that good architecture is possible even with a low budget."

(8) **Los Angeles Psychoanalytic Society and Institute**, Los Angeles, California. Architect: Ron Goldmar AIA; Brent Robbins & Bown, Inc. Owner: Los Angeles Psychoanalytic Society and Institute. General Contractor: Miller and Sons. Jury



CITATION AWARDS





s: "A modest building with a good logical plan. A good to the program. Its internalization succeeds in the desirable level of its volumetric expression relate very well to the overall context."

Worcester Community College. Massachusetts. Architect: Johnson & Mendenhall, Inc. General Contractor: Connell's Sons, Inc. Jury Comments: "A clear organization of volumes and scale and an educational place and reference within the context. It also appears to be well executed complex."

(9) **Cassandre 2000.** Tarzana, California. Architect: Gelber/Ostrick Associates, AIA. Owner: Cassandre 2000. General Contractor: C.D.C.I. Construction. Jury Comments: "A modest building with an appropriate modest exterior expression, a and elegant imagery to a cosmetic function that appears to work well with its context. However, the exterior sophistication does not appear to have been carried through to the interior."

(11) **Fox Hills Mall.** Culver City, California. Architect: Gruen Associates; Cesar Pelli, Partner for Design. Owner: Ernest W. Hahn, Inc./Culver/NV. General Contractor:

Ernest W. Hahn, Inc. Jury Comments: "A serious attempt to elevate the extent to which the traditional architectural elements of space and movement are experienced in the suburban shopping mall. The hard-edged quality of this room is disturbing, but as space it is considerably more sophisticated than the standard of its genre."

Photographer's Credits: (1) Fred Clarke; (2) Morton Neikrug; (3) Frank O. Gehry/Robert Lautman; (4) Wayne Thom; (5) Richard Fish; (6) Gordon Schenck/Dale Lang/A.J. Lumsden; (7) Carlos von Frankenberg/Julius Shulman Assoc.; (8) Ron Goldman, AIA; (9) Marvin Rand; (10) Edward Mitchell; (11) H. Lee Hooper.

MERIT AWARDS



CHAPTER NEWS AND NOTES

CCAIA

(Continued from front page.)

In another story of the CCAIA COUNCILLETTER of September 3 it was reported that "Another Southern California Chapter resolution, calling for a refocusing of activities on legislative matters...was passed."

With that guidance it was announced in CCAIA GREENSHEET dated 18 October 1976 (ten days before the election) that the Committee had nominated John Worsley, FAIA, for the office of first vice-president and president elect. His qualifications for a "refocusing of activities on legislative matters" are excellent. He has served as state architect and is now project manager for the renovations to the state capitol building. However, according to one of the committee members, Mr. Worsley was asked if he felt the CCAIA offices should be moved to Sacramento and he replied in the negative. Evidently then, to a majority of the Board Members, Mr. Worsley's political qualifications were not so important as the political conclusions to which he was led by his philosophy, for with only ten days to go and the necessity of taking a four or five day weekend for all those who wished to politic in far off Yosemite where the election was to be held (one wonders who looks after the members who cannot afford to be there) a new candidate was found in George Bissell, FAIA, of the Orange County Chapter, who was nominated from the floor by Bryan Paul, AIA, President of the San Diego Chapter, seconded by Kermit Dorius, AIA, of the Orange County Chapter and who defeated John Worsley. Mr. Bissell's name, it

was mentioned to me with some bitterness, was not submitted to the Committee.

Having been involved in the matter myself, I hail the election of George Bissell as a healthy and necessary event. However, it is hardly the happy outcome of a well played match. It is simply a reaction to a system which is not functioning properly for us, resulting in a slap in the face to a candidate who thought he was running unopposed and to a committee who apparently made a conscientious attempt to give us what we asked for. But if the Architects of California sincerely wish to achieve the Five Objects of the AIA, then eventually we shall have to start planning further ahead than ten days, we shall have to replace nominating committees with balloting based on geometric progressions, and we shall have to cease holding elections in far away places in the middle of the week. In short we shall have to run this organization ourselves. Let us hope that President Bissell will help us to accomplish this simple if elusive task.

Frederic P. Lyman, AIA

HOME TOUR

(Continued from front page.)

parking problems that they couldn't go the whole route of six houses seem relatively unimportant.

Actually, what could be done to alleviate the frustrations had been done: the police had been briefed for four weeks, buses had been hired to serve critical areas and Explorer Scouts recruited to help the police direct traffic. These measures plus the ever more apparent good sense and courtesy of Los Angeles drivers turned the trick.

In the end, the enthusiasm and patience of the people in the long lines made the point: the rewards were worth it.

Nancy Hoag, Chairman
1976 Women's Architectural League Home Tour

The Chapter office in the Bradbury Building will be closed for Thanksgiving on Thursday and Friday, November 25 and 26.

Seminars on Title 24 will be given in Los Angeles (December 1), San Diego (December 8) and San Francisco (December 14) by Richard Palmer & Associates, Mechanical Engineers. For information and reservations, please call (714) 557-2272.

Raymond Kappe, FAIA, Director of the Southern California Institute of Architecture (Sci-Arc), is the 1976 recipient of the CCAIA Award for Excellence in Education. The award was made "in recognition of the unique professional training institution which in just four years has filled the state's real need for an alternative school for architecture students."

The Architects Toastmasters Club recently held its biweekly meeting at Damino's Mr. Pizza Restaurant at 1511 So. Robertson Boulevard in Los Angeles. Speakers for the evening included Ray Moses and Cass Potulicki. The club offers a unique opportunity for architects who wish to improve their communication skills. Please call Keith Randall at 655-7220 or 241-6403 for further information.

ASA

Miss Lily Nakao became President of the Southern California Chapter, Architectural Secretaries Association, Inc. effective November 1, 1976. She is an Executive Secretary at Charles Kober Associates, Architects and Engineers. Miss Nakao had been serving at the chapter's First Vice President in charge of programs since February 1st. She moved up to the top post to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Ms. Rose Marie Baker, who had been president this term. Ms. Baker, formerly office manager for Haas Greenfield: Associates, joined Johns-Manville Sales Corporation on November 1st as an architectural sales representative working out of their South Gate office. Ms. Baker was made an Honorary ASA member. Miss Nakao conducted the Annual Business meeting on November 16th, following a tour of the non-patient areas of the Cedars-Sinai Medical Center. The December ASA chapter meeting will be a social party on Friday, December 10th at the home of a member. It will have a "Feliz Navidad" theme. For details, please telephone Miss Nakao at Charles Kober Associates (386-7534).

WAL

The WAL sponsored a Rap Session at the office of Gruen Associates on November 5, 1976. Students from ten colleges and universities in the L.A. area attended a tour of the Pacific Design Center and Gruen Associates, conducted by Stu Lotman, followed by a rap session with Edgardo Contini, FASCE, Cesar Pelli, AIA, and Allen Rubenstein, ASCE. Kathy Brent, WAL Vice President/President-Elect, was responsible for the Rap Session. She worked with Michael Friedman and Lisa Landworth of the the Architectural Student Council.

The WAL will hold its December Board meeting on Wednesday, Dec 15, at the home of Vice President, Mrs. Stanley Brent. 1976 Board members will entertain incoming 1977 board members at this final meeting of 1976.

The WAL will hold its Annual Holiday Party on Wednesday, December 15, 1976. Come and be merry at the home of Sally and Bill Landworth in Tarzana, where you will enjoy a buffet supper at 7:00 p.m. and entertainment at 8:00 p.m. Cost is \$4 per person. RSVP to Mrs. Robert Schnier, 1167 S. Roxbury, L.A. 90035, (213) 553-7022.

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"Advanced Reinforced Concrete: Computer Methods and Seismic Techniques" will be offered by UCLA Extension starting Wednesday, January 5, 1977, by Lawrence G. Selina, Associate Professor at UCLA's School of Engineering and Applied Science. The fee is \$140. Call 825-4100 for further information.



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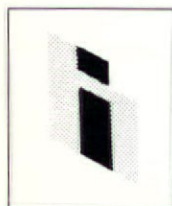
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