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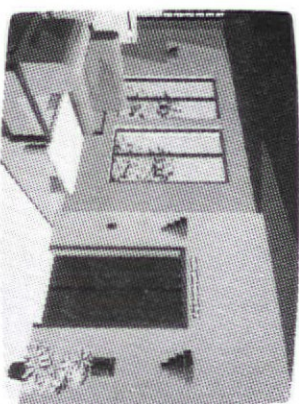
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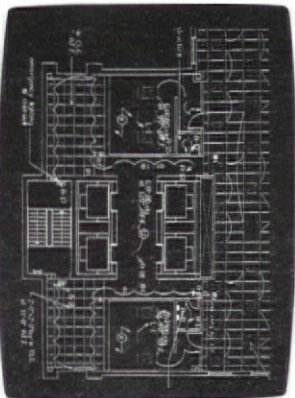
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## JUNE



Celebratory arches for Galveston, Texas Mardi Gras, by Aldo Rossi.

## Monday 6

## Tuesday 7

**LA/AIA Board of Directors Meeting**  
Time and location to be announced.  
Call (213) 659-2282.

**LA Conservancy Cultural Resources Committee**  
7:30 pm. Call (213) 623-CITY for location.

**Building Design**  
1988 CALE Exam Prep lecture series, 3840 South Plaza Drive, Santa Ana, 7-9 pm. Call (714) 557-7796.

**Construction Industry Legislative Conference**  
Hyatt Regency, Sacramento.  
Call (916) 444-8240.

## Wednesday 1

**Aldo Rossi: Other Towers**  
Exhibition at Kirsten Kiser Gallery, 964 N. LaBrea through June 25.  
Call (213) 876-7012.

**18th and 18th Century Architectural Drawings**  
Exhibition at Gideon Gallery, 8748 Melrose Avenue, through June 30.  
Call (213) 657-4194.

## Thursday 2

**LACMA Reception**  
LA/AIA event honoring Richard Morris Hunt exhibition, 6-7:30 pm.  
Call (213) 659-2282.

## Friday 3

## Weekend

## Saturday, June 4

**Terra Cotta**  
LA Conservancy walking tour, 10 am. Call (213) 623-CITY.

**Structure**  
1988 CALE Exam prep lecture series, Pasadena City College, Room C-401, 9 am-12.  
Call (818) 796-7601.

## Sunday, June 5

**LaFayette Square Neighborhood House Tour**  
LA Conservancy tour, 10 am-4 pm.  
Call (213) 623-CITY.

## Weekend

## Saturday, June 11

**Art Deco**  
LA Conservancy Walking Tour, 10 am. Call (213) 623-CITY.

## Sunday, June 12

**Bullocks Wilshire**  
LA Conservancy tour, 2 pm and 3 pm. Call (213) 623-CITY.

**Mock Exam**  
1988 CALE Exam Prep, 3840 South Plaza Drive, Santa Ana, 7-9 pm.  
Call (714) 557-7796.

## Monday 13

## Tuesday 14

**LA Conservancy Fifties Task Force**  
7 pm. Call (213) 623-CITY for location.

**Beyond Energy: Sewers?**  
Energy Committee Meeting, 5567 Reseda Boulevard, Suite 209, Tarzana, 7:30 pm. Call (213) 659-2282.

**LA/AIA Board of Directors Meeting**  
Call (213) 659-2282.

## Wednesday 8

**LA/AIA Associates Board of Directors Meeting**  
Pacific Design Center, Room 259, 6:30 pm. Call (213) 659-2282.

**Site Design**  
1988 CALE Exam prep lecture series, 3141 E. Broadway, Long Beach, 6:30-9 pm.  
Call (213) 426-4639.

**New Member Orientation**  
4 pm. Call (213) 659-2282.

**Construction Industry Legislative Conference**  
Hyatt Regency, Sacramento.  
Call (916) 444-8240.

**Search for Shelter Tour**  
Meet at 3175 W. Sixth St. to tour LAMP, Weingart Center, Midnight Mission, conducted by Countywide Homeless Program Coordinator, Donna Dunn, 1:30-4 pm. For reservations, call (213) 659-2282.

## Wednesday 15

**Minority and Women Resources Committee**  
Pacific Design Center, Room 259, 5 pm. Call (213) 659-2282.

**Government Relations Committee**  
Councilman Michael Woo, Pacific Design Center, Room 259, 6:30 pm. Call (213) 659-2282.

**Site Design**  
1988 CALE Exam prep lecture series, 3141 E. Broadway, Long Beach, 6:30-9 pm.  
Call (213) 426-4639.

## Thursday 9

**Architecture for Health Committee**  
Pacific Design Center, Room 259, 3:30 pm. Call (213) 659-2282.

**Professional Practice Committee**  
Pacific Design Center, Room 259, 5 pm. Call (213) 659-2282.

**Building Design Exam Techniques**  
1988 CALE Exam prep lecture series, 101 Harris Hall, USC, 9 am-4 pm. Call (213) 659-2282.

**Site Design**  
1988 CALE Exam prep lecture series, 3141 E. Broadway, Long Beach, 6:30-9 pm.  
Call (213) 426-4639.

## Friday 10

## Weekend

## Saturday, June 11

**Art Deco**  
LA Conservancy Walking Tour, 10 am. Call (213) 623-CITY.

## Sunday, June 12

**Bullocks Wilshire**  
LA Conservancy tour, 2 pm and 3 pm. Call (213) 623-CITY.

**Mock Exam**  
1988 CALE Exam Prep, 3840 South Plaza Drive, Santa Ana, 7-9 pm.  
Call (714) 557-7796.

## Monday 20

## Tuesday 21

**Executive Committee Meeting**  
Call (213) 659-2282.

**Building Design Critique**  
1988 CALE Exam Prep lecture series, 3840 South Plaza Drive, Santa Ana, 7-9 pm. Call (714) 557-7796.

## Wednesday 22

**Site Design**  
1988 CALE Exam prep lecture series, 3141 E. Broadway, Long Beach, 6:30-9 pm.  
Call (213) 426-4639.

## Thursday 23

**Professional Practices Committee**  
Pacific Design Center, Room 259, 5 pm. Call (213) 659-2282.

**A Stitch for Time**  
ADPSR film screening, 7:30 pm, Norris Theater, USC, \$10.  
Call Estelle Brisker (213) 654-4360.

**Site Design**  
1988 CALE Exam prep lecture series, 3141 E. Broadway, Long Beach, 6:30-9 pm.  
Call (213) 426-4639.

## Friday 24

## Weekend

## Saturday, June 25

**Seventh Street: Mecca for Merchants**  
LA Conservancy walking tour, 10 am. Call (213) 623-CITY.

**Structural**  
1988 CALE Exam prep lecture series, Pasadena City College, Room C-401, 9 am-12.  
Call (818) 796-7601.

## Monday 27

## Tuesday 28

## Wednesday 29

**Building Standards and Regulations Committee**  
Pacific Design Center, Room 259, 5 pm. Call (213) 659-2282.

**LA Conservancy Issues Committee**  
May Company Tea Room, 7 pm. Call (213) 623-CITY.

**Wright Night**  
AFLA event, Municipal Art Gallery, 7 pm, \$10 AFLA members/\$15 non-members. Call (213) 659-2282.

## Thursday 30

## Friday, July 1

## Weekend



## UNMASKING WRIGHT

*Many Masks: A Life of Frank Lloyd Wright*, by Brendan Gill, GP Putnam and Sons, New York, 1987, 544 pages, illustrated.

It is difficult for anyone, especially a journalist, to fathom the soul, anima, heart and mind of an architect. Great architects of this century (and perhaps past centuries) were self-made, self-promoted, self-driven monomaniacs seeking glory both within and without the domain of architecture, yet what motivated them is often a mystery to the uninitiated. For would-be Frank Lloyd Wrights, this book reveals some aspects of that motivation.

Brendan Gill's book, *Many Masks: A Life of Frank Lloyd Wright*, is entertaining and anecdotal, not dry and factual. Gill follows every lead to find the man beyond the genius, thus illuminating what so many biographies leave untouched. Unfortunately, there is no way to establish the accuracy of Mr. Gill's view of FLW's life. Gill is a journalist, not an architectural historian, and it has been suggested that his method is faulty and his facts are incorrect. However, Wright's grandson, Eric Lloyd Wright, states that, by and large, the book is accurate. His main grievance is Gill's emphasis on the falsification of Wright's education, accomplishments, name and birthdate.

Eric Wright commented that Wright was not falsifying intentionally, but was expressing his view of himself and his place in society. It may be that part of what Gill is stating as fact is indeed fiction, and this seems fitting for a man who created his own myth as he went along.

It is equally fitting that a biography of Wright should emerge from outside the medium of architectural history. Frank Lloyd Wright, perhaps more than any other architect, belongs to the people. He operated outside the mainstream of architecture, both in his design style and lifestyle, and his work was more popular with the public than that of Corbu, Mies and the rest.

From early on, Wright cloaked himself in myth. There is no proof that his mother placed pictures of cathedrals in his cradle, Froibel Blocks were not particularly unusual toys for a child of his times, and it is not at all clear why his mother, a lower middle-class woman with questionable exposure to the world of business and art, chose architecture for her son.

Wright changed his name, his date of birth, and even lied about his education. Born Frank Lincoln Wright, he changed to Frank Lloyd Wright to be closer to his mother's family, even though it is clear that his artistic talent came from his father's side. He changed his birth date, taking his sister's. Leaving college after two terms, Wright gave himself an awesome education. Nevertheless, he presented himself as having nearly completed a course of studies in a conventional program. He always had to appear more than he was, taller, wealthier, younger. That was part of his myth, his image, how he wanted to be remembered.

However great, he was always coming from a very small place inside. Brendan Gill unearths much anecdotal material, showing us an inconsistent, somewhat crazy man who touted his own greatness before anyone else did.

A self-proclaimed genius, Wright didn't allow himself to look up to almost anybody. Difficult as it is to trace, Gill mentions the possibility that Wright called Sullivan "Lieber Meister", although there is no indication that he knew German or that it was in common usage at the time. Wright idealized Sullivan and supported him when Sullivan was dying in poverty. Gill implies that the two men shared both attributes and faults.

Wright was perpetually broke. From the outset he was in debt, always living beyond

his means; and his slogan was, "Take care of the luxuries and the necessities will take care of themselves." His first loan was from Sullivan to build a house in Oak Park, and their subsequent separation included a money-squabble. Wright charmed his clients, threatened, and outright deceived them to get payment. He was always in need, even to the point of being in trouble with the law over taxes. Eventually, as his debt grew larger, the FLW Foundation was established to take the burden off his shoulders and allow him to operate without financial stress.

Wright's relationships with his clients covered the range of human experience, from intense love affairs to total disregard. People were always surprised when he insisted on items unfathomable to them but critical to him. He did his greatest work on projects like Falling Water, the Guggenheim Museum and Temple Beth Shalom, where clients gave him the greatest freedom.

Wright almost never turned down a commission, no matter how small. In the Usonian houses, he brought his vision to those who didn't have enormous budgets. In this sense, he was both the architect's architect and the architect of the people.

Throughout his life, Wright was his own greatest promoter. He constantly courted the media, through his work and through scandals in his private life. "I had to make a noise in the world, in order to gain as much of the world's attention as possible," said Wright. "Otherwise I would have had a lot of work on paper and only a little of it coming out of the ground in bricks and mortar."

Wright believed in his vision, and saw no other. He identified himself as the greatest architect in America, in the 20th century, and in the world. This was his perception of his place in society and his reality.

For all its shortcomings, this book attempts to accept all of Wright's myriad faces as merely the "many masks" of one unique man. In addition, *Many Masks* casts questions on the place of architects in society, and the lack of value society places on the people who do the most to make the built environment livable, stimulating and aesthetic.

Nir Buras

Larkin Building, Buffalo, New York, 1904-1950, Frank Lloyd Wright.

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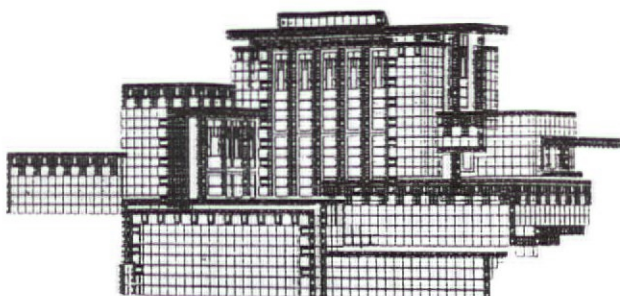
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**Attention Licensed Architects:** The City of Brawley is seeking architectural design services for 1. the remodelling of Brawley Library/City Hall (Civic Center) and 2. The Revitalization of Downtown Brawley, a masterplan of streetscape/urban placemaking/storefront design. For an RFP, write to Mr. Michael Jaegers, Assistant Planner, Brawley City Hall, 400 Main St., Brawley, CA, 92227 or call (619) 344-1550. Bidding deadlines are as follows: Civic Center Remodel, June 6, 1988; Downtown Revitalization: June 24, 1988.

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## CAVE MEN, NORMANS AND NEW YORKERS

What do AIA Grassroots participants have in common with cave men? The answer is encouraging as well as intriguing: they may be participating as catalysts in an explosive cultural change of a magnitude as great as that of the cave men who produced the first cave paintings 30,000 years ago.

Altamira, Lascaux and other cave painting of southwestern France and northern Spain were produced by men physiologically only on the threshold of being men, men leading otherwise completely primitive lives. But their paintings are far more than just good history; they are good art, with beauty, resolve and sophistication in the same sense as the best contemporary art. The significance of cave art is that its sudden appearance portrayed a cultural change that took place almost overnight in history's timetable in comparison to the several million years necessary for man's physiological development.

That a catalyst is required to bring about such a dazzling change is, of course, axiomatic and the search for a catalyst for today's problems is what Grassroots is all about. As for the catalyst for cave art, some think that tribal shamans had found that graphic art was their most effective tool for teaching the life or death importance of cooperative efforts in a world even more dangerous in most ways than ours.

Others reject this theory of pragmatism and see the paintings as religious art, an art of solace for the bereaved, courage for the fearful, and inspiration for the brave. But either or both of these would be evidence that man has always used visual creations as

metaphors for existing social conditions and potentially powerful tools for social change.

Another astonishing cultural leap took place in 12th century Normandy. We find visual evidence of it in the transition in architectural style from the serious Norman Romanesque to the emotional Gothic. That it took place in such a comparatively short period is again cause for wonder.

Normans were at that time Europe's most serious and successful soldiers, masters of all England as well as Normandy, France's most powerful duchy. Henry Adams writes about this transition as follows in *Mont Saint Michel and Chartres*, "Among the unexpected revelations of human nature that suddenly astound historians, one of the least reasonable was the passionate outbreak of religious devotion to the ideal of feminine grace, charity and love as embodied in the Virgin that flamed up into almost fanatical frenzy among the most hard-hearted and hard-headed race in Europe."

"Most hard-hearted and hard-headed race"! Now ask today's New Yorker who that describes. The April issue of *Architecture* records the feelings of 18 expressive New Yorkers, architects and otherwise, who responded to these three questions: "What about the city do you cherish most, what do you hate, and what do you miss?"

That there was much to cherish was not surprising: "the sheer mass of it", "the jagged skyline", "the millions upon millions of lighted windows", "the urgent mental quality of the place", "the vitality and power that draws on every resource of your being to live". And much more.

What was surprising, however, was the depth of feeling and general agreement about what they hate: "things have changed so much, invariably for the worse", "it is a terribly cruel city", "developer is by now a dirty word", "endless shelves of canned office space", "a demonstration of the fragility of the democratic process in the face of powerful *laissez-faire* economics", "its greatest danger is the increasing gap between the rich and the poor", "so selfish it has lost its heart and soul".

Two things are evident here that give cause for hope: first, these writers were neither

inclined nor required by their editors to confine themselves to travel agency platitudes to lure architects to their convention. Secondly, they pointed fingers at "profit-mad developers" (of course), "incompetent or corrupt government" (invariably), but, far more importantly, their fingers pointed at themselves as a hard-hearted microcosm of a "vastly indifferent and seemingly helpless electorate"—that needs not be helpless. It was a concise expression of the AIA concept of Grassroots.

Across the country the electorate is moving. Grassroots has become a political byword and citizens' initiative movements are confounding complacent legislators. There is heartening evidence that democracy may not be all that fragile. And as the media has sensed this public mood more and daily headlines about the homeless, drug traffic, pollution, traffic congestion and inadequate schools are serving as public reminders of the need for reform.

All this bears a striking resemblance to the various ways that whole societies have awakened themselves time and again since prehistory and completely transformed themselves. Moreover, the creations of their formgivers, their artists and architects, have been what frequently reinforced the changes.

Of course there is a difference between today's architects and those of 12th century Normandy. The latter were dealing with isolated single buildings and thus enjoyed relative control; ours are dealing with buildings in the city context and thus are responsible for far more than just their own building among many; they are part of a team which must include client and government and citizen groups and the media. How well the team functions determines whether the city becomes life-giving or life-denying.

The AIA's Grassroots concept is now 23 years old. Its architect participants who are sensing this thrust of history are likely finding the creation of livable cities every bit as glamorous and exciting as the creation of livable and beautiful buildings.

Paul Sterling Hoag

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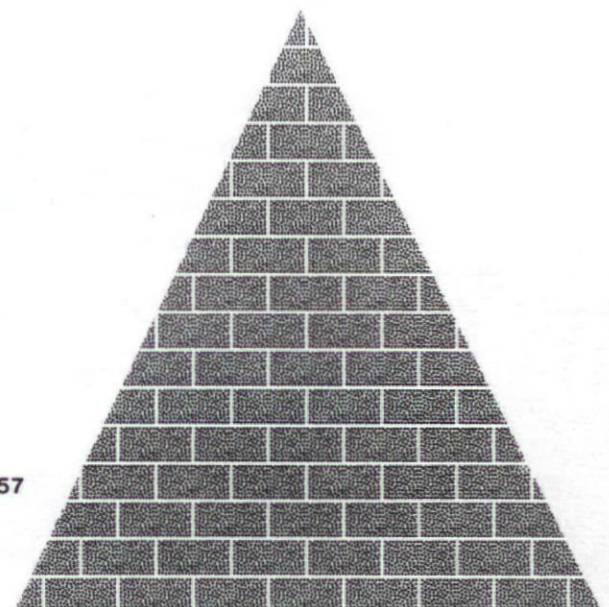
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## THE CAR AND THE CITY

*"Los Angeles—shock city of the twentieth century, the first American city whose physical form and culture have been shaped by the automobile."*

The Car and the City, a UCLA symposium, explored the impact of the automobile past, present and future. Speakers were asked to attack popular myths in order to reach a deeper understanding of how the car shaped Los Angeles and its inhabitants. The cast was made up of architects, urban historians, social historians, a writer, an urban planner, a preservationist and a futurist.

The first day of the seminar focused on "The Car and the Past", however little was discussed about how the past could help us to understand our current problems or influence the future.

The symposium opened on Saturday with "Lessons from the Past", a lecture by Steven Izenour, AIA, principal, Venturi, Rauch & Scott-Brown. Izenour's talk focused on crucial



lessons of the book *Learning from Las Vegas*, a 20-year-old study of the commercial architecture engendered by the car and the strip. Izenour stated that "the lesson of the automobile, the strip and main street is that it is preferable to accept and glorify in the pluralism of the good, the bad and the ugly, than to enforce the white bread dullness and good taste of earth tones and mansard roofs all over. In other words, learning to understand and love what we thought we hate."

Another lesson from the past was presented by J.B. Jackson, founder of *Landscape Magazine* and author of *American Space*, *The Necessity of Ruins* and *Exploring the Vernacular Landscape*. Jackson contended that the commercial vehicle, the delivery wagon, the van and the truck, increased the vernacular quality of the street more so than the passenger vehicle. Commercial vehicles fostered garage and front yard industry, while the passenger vehicle was a sign of wealth primarily used for pleasure and adventure. Because of this glamorous image of the automobile, technologically-oriented architecture like strip shopping malls, building signage and parking lots vied only for the

attention of the domestic vehicle. Meanwhile, functional shelter, or street vernacular, was still needed for the industries born out of the commercial vehicle.

The last speaker was urban historian, Sam Bass Warner, who maintained that the dispersed single family housing which served as a basis for a good community life is no longer a viable model for Los Angeles. Instead he felt that the concept of "clustering" or sub-centers should be implemented for the availability of nearby services, public transportation and affordable multi-class housing.

The next seminar attended was "The Automobile and Buildings", a historical look at the impact of the car on buildings. Richard Longstreth looked at parking in Los Angeles from the 1920's to the present and how it has influenced architecture. His lecture raised questions about whether parking has left the street forever, whether frontality is only a nostalgic approach to siting, and whether we have come full circle back to the ideals of Main Street.

The next speaker, Alan Hess, architecture critic for the *San Jose Mercury News* and author of *Googie: Fifties Coffee Shop Architecture*, spoke about the correlation between automobile styling and roadside architecture. Architectural historian David Gebhard focused his lecture on the evolution of the garage in Los Angeles.

The concluding speaker of this session was Chester Liebs, preservationist and professor. Liebs discussed the influence the car had on one's perception of the landscape. He stated that in trains and carriages, views were

invented.

The session attended following the keynote speech was "Designing for the Automobile". Architects, primarily, gathered to speak about the impact of the automobile on architecture. However, while one would think that an analysis of parking lots, garages, etc. would have been made during this session, most architects gave either their standard lectures and mentioned the car a few more times or demonstrated how their architectural projects used the imagery of the car.

One keen observer in the audience, Sam Bass Warner, asked the panelists if any of them knew of a "good" parking structure. Not one person was able to answer the question thoroughly. A few said they knew of some, but did not offer their suggestions about what makes a good parking structure.

The symposium conclusion was a discussion titled, "Looking into the Future". Futurist, Marvin Adelson suggested "taking risks to make ideas known", that we, the interested public should "act as a community of design", and gather together in the "quest for a shared vision". He discussed the research PATH, that private cars could become mass transportation, because of increased speed made possible by electrification of the highway and the automation of the automobile. Jane Pisano of LA 2000 cited many alarming facts about future population growth and the density distribution, most of all about the traffic on our freeways. Once a sign of freedom, she now termed them a prison. Despite traffic problems, most panelists concurred that Metrorail is a waste of money.

The symposium was well-organized and intended, but it became clear after two days of lectures that even the experts present did not have the answers to our problems with the car and city. These are far too complex and multi-faceted and difficult to solve during one symposium. Lots of provocative ideas were presented, but it is difficult to see who will nurture these ideas into some form of reality. Where were our politicians? Why weren't they there to respond to the academicians' ideas? Where were the representatives from the CalTrans or Metrorail? There were academic specialists in transportation which offered insightful facts and figures, but the cogs that make the wheels turn were missing. Another symposium is needed which, instead of focusing on the past, would add a political constituency and facilitators who could respond realistically to suggestions presented about the present and the future.

### Barbara Horton-Gibbs

Ms. Horton-Gibbs is Vice-President/President Elect of the LA/AIA Associates and works at Levin & Associates.

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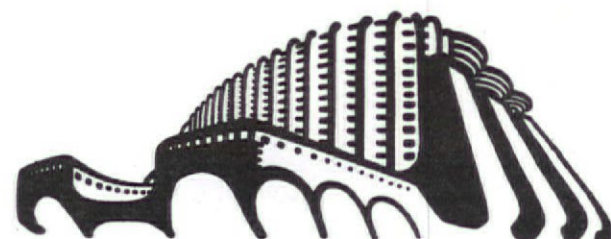
Men's Place) who discussed the intangibles of who, what, and how the homeless subsist and exist.

The two coordinators for the conference, Jacqueline Leavitt of UCLA and Jennifer Wolch of USC, each chaired a workshop. Their enthusiasm, obvious intelligence and sensitivity to the problems of the homeless set the tone for the whole conference.

Information about Los Angeles agencies and service providers is summarized in a survey carried out this year by the Shelter Partnership, 1010 South Flower #900, Los Angeles, CA 90015, (213) 747-1986. Reading on the homeless (AIA bibliography) is free to members by calling (202) 626-7493.

### Pamela Edwards-Kammer

Ms. Edwards-Kammer is the Los Angeles Coordinator for the American Institute of Architect's Search for Shelter program.



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we want an idealistic, beautiful space," she said.

Although the National AIA program planned for design charrettes which would attract the participation of a varied group of professionals including architects, engineers, educators, civic leaders, homeless service providers and local government representatives, a large number of the LA/AIA workshop entries were submitted by students from SCI-ARC, Woodbury University, University of Arizona and the University of Texas. "It was a good assignment," said Edwards-Kammer. "Teachers loved it."

Arnold Stalk, a professor at SCI-ARC whose design studios deal specifically with low-income housing, was one of the teachers who assigned the workshop as a class problem. Co-founder and co-director of the LA Family Housing Corporation, an organization which not only builds and renovates, but also provides social services for low-income housing projects, Stalk has been teaching at SCI-ARC since 1980. "Each semester I've tried to integrate social concerns and urban issues into the assignments."

"I'm finding a lot of interest from the students," Stalk says. "I think low-income housing is an unexplored frontier in architecture, and it's got to start with the universities."

In addition to the Search for Shelter charrette, Stalk's studios this year dealt with LA Family Housing Corporation projects. He emphasizes a "hands-on" approach to projects, and includes visits to LA Family Housing construction sites in the curriculum. According to Stalk, "the whole mentality of design changes when they see that everything's not perfect."

This fall a grant from the Department of Education, arranged through a collaboration between SCI-ARC and LA Family Housing Corporation, will enable students to reduce their tuition by \$1000 a semester in exchange for their work on community housing projects. It is the first grant the Department of Education has ever given to an architectural school, Stalk claims. He anticipates enrolling 12 students a semester for four semesters, for a total of 48 students.

One of the benefits of the program, Stalk says, is that student participation will generate ideas. One example is a project designed last semester by student Jackie Hollis. Hollis designed an eight-unit low-income housing complex entirely from ocean containers. The containers are eight feet tall with steel frames and hardwood floors, and are used internationally to transport freight. They can be obtained for about \$600 when they are discarded after use. "We would put them on the site, drop on some pre-fab staircases and cut out the windows," Stalk says. "The cost is about 60% less than our costs on stick-built

construction, and I padded them a lot. I know we're going to build this one. My approach is, if we've done it, how do we build it? Let's not just put it in the archives and forget about it."

Although Stalk finds student response encouraging, he has not always had a positive reaction from professional architects. "I was discouraged by the best architects in the city when I started. They told me, 'Hey, Arnie, it'll never work, you can't do it. They tried it in the Modern Movement and it just didn't work.'"

Pamela Edwards-Kammer also admits that rallying support for housing the homeless wasn't easy. "In the Housing Committee, low-income housing was the least popular issue. I had people saying that if we did anything with the homeless, they would quit (the committee) and they would make sure the AIA knew that they were quitting because we were looking at the homeless."

"At one point I had to jettison the whole Housing Committee because they were all opposed to housing the homeless. They said you cannot do it, it's a non-issue and we refuse to get involved. The prejudice amazed me."

Reasons for the opposition to the Search for Shelter, said Edwards-Kammer, include the lack of profit involved, the political nature of the effort, governmental red tape, the difficulty of producing good design on a low budget, committee interference with design, and the perceived hopelessness of the situation.

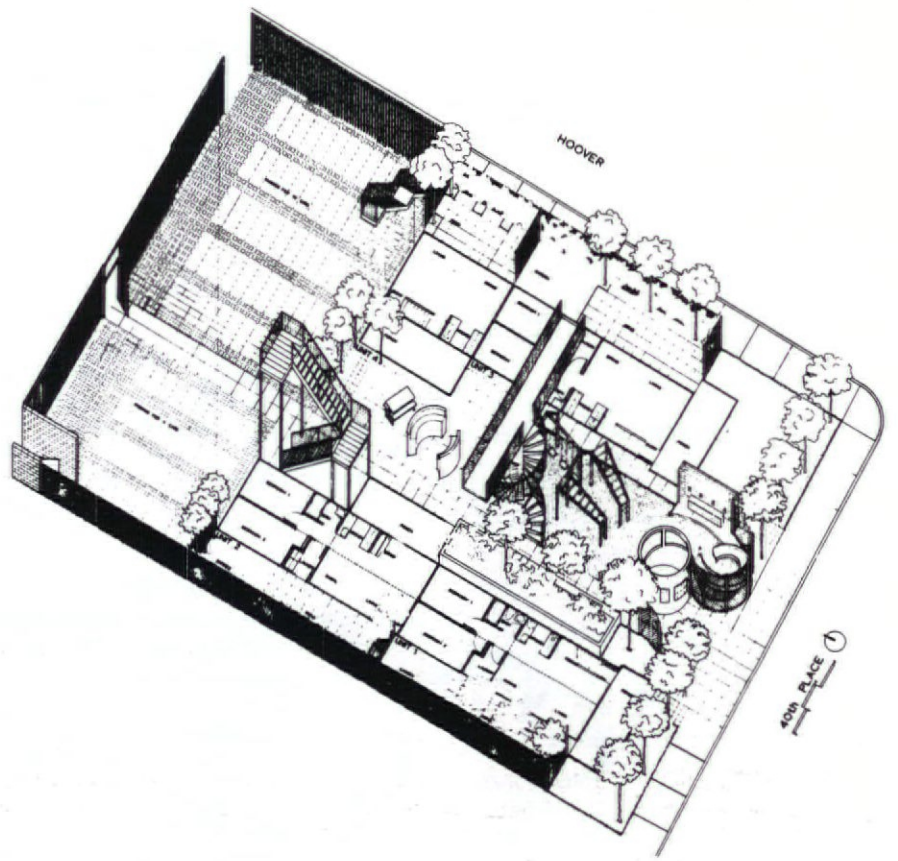
And while architects may resist getting involved, Edwards-Kammer described funders who considered architects as "secondary, an amusement. 'Aren't those people interesting and funny and amusing, and let them play with this thing,' seemed to be the attitude of a lot of people at the USC housing conference last weekend."

"To me, architecture's a profession that's missing the boat," comments Arnold Stalk. "Architects can make a significant impact on social problems. The law profession has the ACLU, the medical profession has a lot of community-based organizations which do work for low-income people. I think we should put down our egos for awhile and attack the problem."

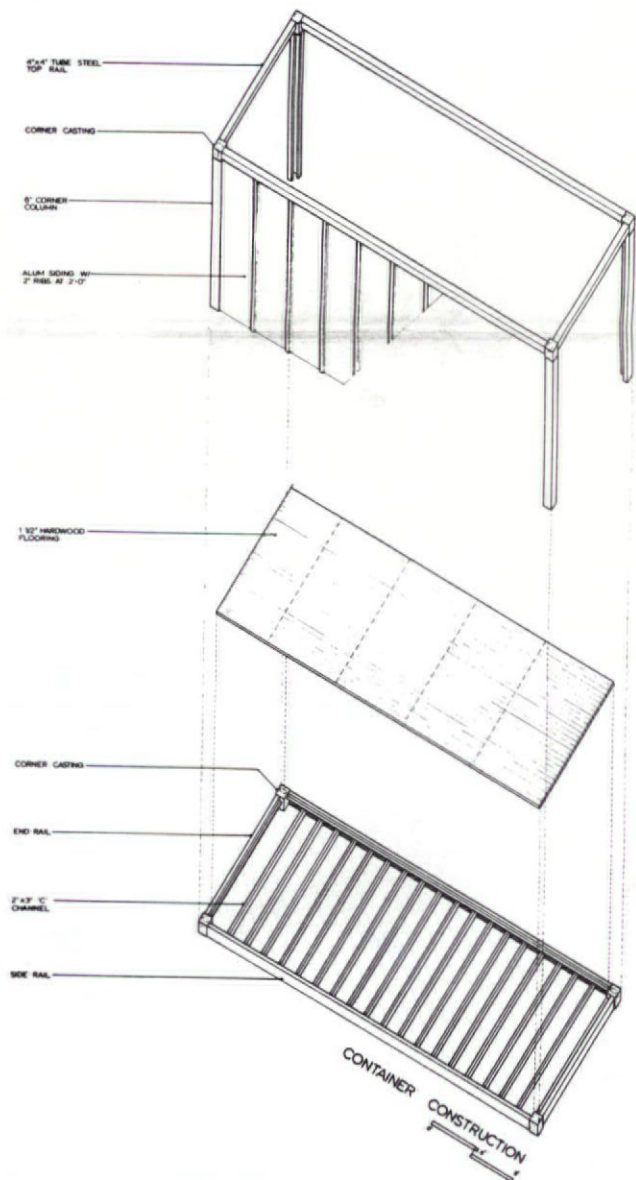
"I see low-income housing as a big challenge and as a tremendous opportunity, and in this system I think you need to present it as an opportunity. I'm optimistic. We have to be the dreamers."

For information on bus tours of homeless shelters, call (213) 659-2282. Architects interested in doing pro bono work for the homeless should submit brochures to the LA/AIA Chapter office c/o Pamela Edwards-Kammer.

**Noel Millea**



Jackie Hollis' project uses ocean containers to create an eight-unit housing complex.



The ocean containers are constructed with steel frames and hardwood floors.



In the spring of 1987, the National AIA launched a program to combat the nation's growing homelessness problem. Search for Shelter was designed to operate in three phases: the first, a low-income housing design charrette aimed at increasing public awareness of the situation; the second, the possible construction of schemes developed in the charrette; and finally, the publication and dissemination of the ideas and information gathered.

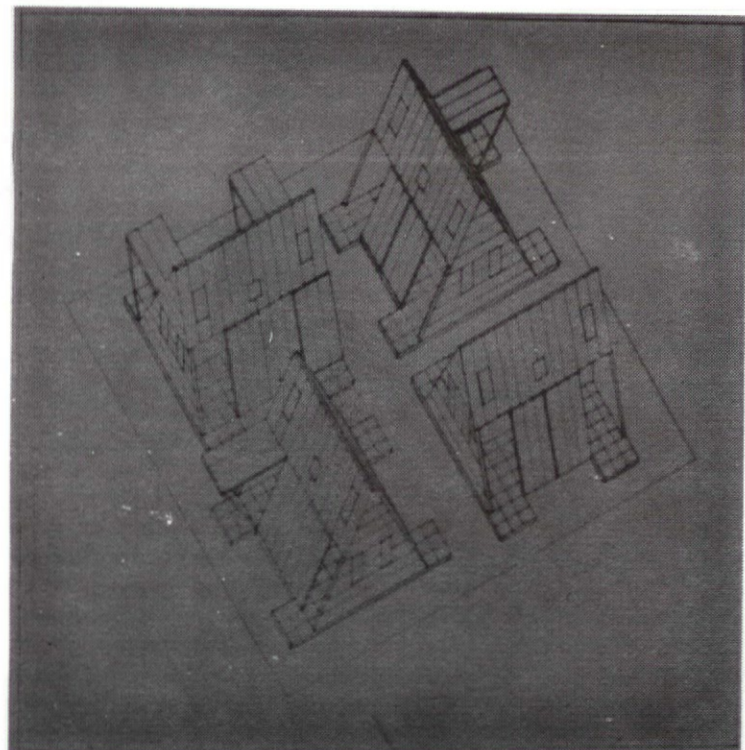
Efforts to restore the McAdoo Hotel in Shreveport, Louisiana, served as the pilot project. In July of 1987, 25 architecture students from Louisiana Tech participated in a design workshop to explore options for converting the vacant 1920's building into single-residency apartments. The workshop was videotaped, and served as a model for 29 other cities which held similar workshops in October. Participating cities included Phoenix, Denver, Miami, Atlanta, Chicago, Baltimore, Boston, New York and Dallas. The winning designs are scheduled to be published this month.

## Search for Shelter

The Los Angeles Chapter/AIA also participated in the national effort, with a housing charrette held in late October. The two winning designs are currently being exhibited in New York City. Gerlinde Leiding and Yashuhiro Tomon, one of the winning teams, based their design on the premise that "people who find themselves in sudden misery should not be outcast". Their project is structured to resemble a village or a town rather than an institution. The administration buildings form a gateway from which the visitor proceeds, as in a city, to a major avenue. "From here," according to Leiding, "a grid develops to either side which breaks down the housing units into smaller plazas, streets and alleys. The concept was to provide a very simple shelter with plenty of light and

is located in the center of the site between the administration buildings, and a courtyard defined by palm trees accommodates activities like the arrival of book mobiles.

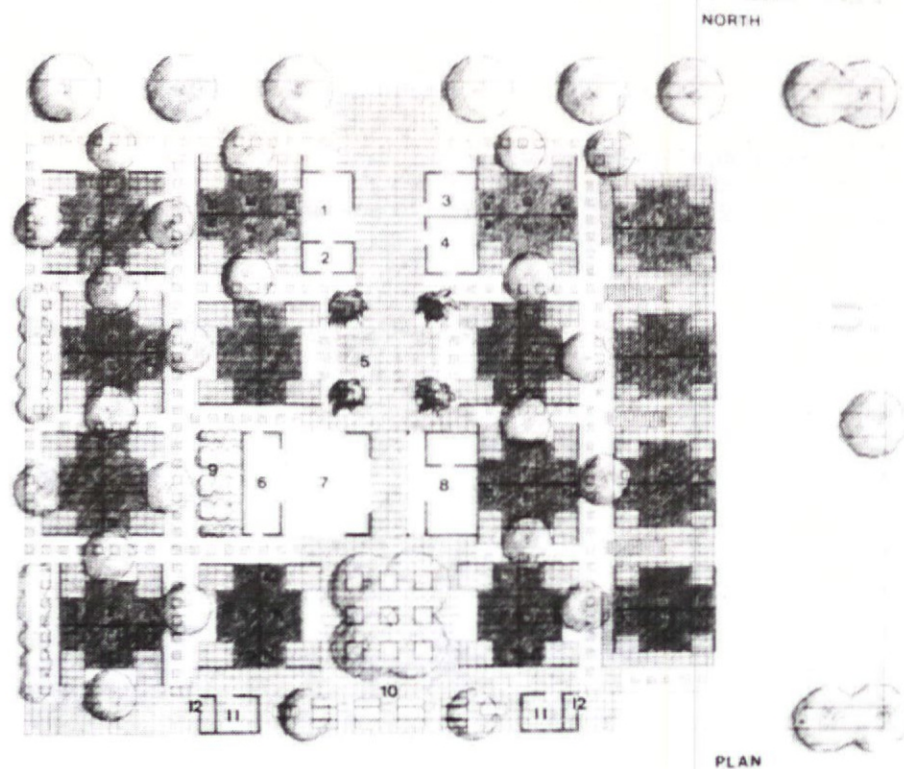
Pamela Edwards-Kammer, chairman of the Search for Shelter committee, was responsible for organizing the design charrette. There aren't any plans, she says, for building the winning entries. "There are so many architects interested now in low-income housing, that limiting it to one or two architects, teams or offices didn't seem fair to me." Currently, she is attempting to establish contacts between architects, program organizers, service suppliers and funders, and to obtain funding from the County and the State to build larger scale low-income projects.



*Froestl uses a simple triangular form to create an elemental shelter.*

### LEGEND

- 1 Reception
- 2 First Aid
- 3 Storage-Supply
- 4 Staff
- 5 Mobile Parking
- 6 Kitchen
- 7 Community
- 8 Children
- 9 Kitchen Garden
- 10 Barbecue
- 11 Restroom
- 12 Trash



*Gerlinde Leiding and Yashuhiro Tomon designed the shelter to resemble a village.*

modern materials," she states. Each unit is divided into three spaces which can be used separately or together for greater flexibility. Shelters are constructed of metal and wood scrap panels assembled like a quilt.

The other winning design, by Christa Froestl, uses A-frame construction to eliminate the need for a separate ceiling piece. The walls meet in a high peak, and windows and doors can either be slid or tilted open. Froestl attempted to "minimize interior space", so that when the occupant opens a door or a window, he is immediately "outside". Each unit contains four sub-units which can function separately or together. Communal space

"We have several levels of requests and one is to help the architects understand who the homeless are. The architects of Los Angeles should know this without having to venture on their own to figure out what's going on." With the help of the County, Edwards-Kammer has organized bus tours of homeless shelters, scheduled for June 8. "I think when we go on the tour, the architects are going to have some real eye openers in terms of what goes for big budget rehab projects or even new construction. The nature of a lot of the political and social rehab programs is ugly spaces. We're going to have to look at architects to do pro bono work if



## Interview: Gary Squier

The housing problem is geographically segregated. You have a housing problem in East LA, you don't have a housing problem in West LA. You have a problem in South LA, you have a less obvious problem in the Valley. This geographic segregation of problems complicates policy making. Los Angeles is so huge that residents of one part of the city don't see how a particular public policy might benefit them. Housing isn't like traffic—a problem that's experienced throughout the city so any individual can see that it's a legitimate concern.

Continued from 1

We have roughly 600,000 rental units in the City. 50,000 of them are in unreinforced brick buildings. In the next 18 months, the City's earthquake hazard reduction ordinance is going to mandate that those units be vacated or reinforced. The cost of reinforcing each unit is \$10,000. That means a rent pass through of about \$150. The residents of those buildings are mostly low-income individuals and families. A large number of those families are already paying more than 50 percent of their incomes for rent. If the rent goes up \$150, those households will be paying more than 70 percent of their incomes for rent if they're able to stay. If the buildings aren't reinforced, they'll be vacated. That is a big time bomb just ticking away there.

In addition to that we're losing about 4,000 units to demolition every year. A lot of these are lower rent apartments. We're experiencing a huge slice off the bottom of our housing market. There's a very real potential of losing 10 percent of our rental stock.

My job is to say, does that make a difference in Los Angeles? Who does it make a difference to? How does it affect us economically? What are the moral consequences? Can Los Angeles be a "world class city" if it experiences this severe trauma to its housing supply? I need to start building realistic scenarios. Are all these people going to end up on the streets, homeless? What are their coping mechanisms? Are we going to start seeing more shadow market activities with more garages and illegal conversions of other spaces being used for housing? If we have doubling now, are we going to have tripling then? At what point do these coping mechanisms fail and do we see a rise in homelessness? If we do see a rise in homelessness, who are these new homeless going to be? Probably they're going to be families.

Then I need to look at this in terms of bifurcation of labor markets. We're seeing this in Los Angeles and other cities. There's an increase in low-wage jobs, an increase in high wage jobs and not much in the middle. So we have more and more working poor and fewer and fewer apartments for them. What does that mean? Does it mean more and more commuting? Are the working poor able to commute? Does it mean that Los Angeles as a labor market is less competitive?

*Where will the committee go from there?*

These are all the big questions the blue ribbon committee has to start looking at. Then they have to start looking at solutions. There are two or three different kinds of solutions. One is finding more money. Another is developing public policies that slow the loss of affordable housing and encourage the development of new units. The third is design solutions. To what extent can we provide incentives for mixed-use projects? To what extent can we start looking at smaller units for seniors and single working people? We used to have about 30,000 SRO (single room occupancy) units in the city, now we have about 15,000. That was a perfectly legitimate housing form at one time. Units that are 150 square feet net. Is that a housing type to look at? The city of San Diego is building new SRO's with good common space usage.

When you look at the new dollar side, there's a laundry list of ways to generate money. One is, you can hope for the federal government to come in with new dollars. We have to make some judgments about the extent to which under any administration, Democratic or Republican, we can expect an increase in funds available to local government. We've seen a 75 percent cut in HUD funds under the Reagan administration. There's been a virtual collapse of the federal housing programs and it's probably not realistic to expect them to ever regain their vitality and their primacy as the key govern-

mental entity responsible for providing decent housing for every American. Given that, we have to look elsewhere for support for housing.

The state government is probably more responsive to local demand than the federal. Depending on the political climate, we can probably expect more funding coming from the state. Senator Roberti is putting together some general obligation bond initiatives, but the state involvement is minuscule, so if you increase it dramatically, it will still be fairly insignificant in terms of the dollars needed. The entire state budget for housing this year is about \$12 million.

So then you have to look at local government. Bond issues, exactions, different ways of requiring commercial development to pay for the increased demand on the housing system by making environmental mitigation payments. San Francisco has such a program, and it's fairly successful. Then we can look at our redevelopment projects. That's one possibility that Mayor Bradley has supported—spending half of the dollars from downtown redevelopment projects on affordable housing citywide.

*Will the Blue Ribbon Committee evaluate the agencies currently responsible for affordable housing production?*

I don't think the committee will look at restructuring the housing delivery system. There are some experiments going on in other cities, however, that provide real potential. One I particularly like is the notion of housing partnerships and this is something that is probably going to achieve greater prominence on a federal level—Joe Kennedy's housing bill proposes national housing partnerships.

The way they work it is this: they recognize that to produce or preserve low-income housing it's necessary to have a very specialized institution that channels housing proposals in a rational way. In Los Angeles you will go to the redevelopment agency and they have a program providing second mortgages for apartment buildings with deferred payments. They have certain program requirements that have to meet so you'll structure your program to meet their requirements. But then you might go to an investor group that would provide equity for that project and they'll have other, different requirements so you'll have to structure your program to meet their requirements. Then you'll go to a lender and they'll have entirely different program requirements. So you have three sources of capital necessary: debt, equity and soft secondary financing from local government, all with different requirements. It's very difficult for a housing development to meet all of these sets of requirements—they're always changing and you can't depend on one or the other to be there at any given time. Housing partnerships are the glue between the three necessary sources of housing finance. The two best examples are in Boston and Chicago.

The Chicago Housing Partnership was established by a group of banks who recognized that they needed to increase their lending to low income communities for affordable housing. So they designated \$100,000,000 for lending in low income communities. They said, "We will lend on any project that meets our criteria." The Housing Partnership then went to corporate investors and said, "Invest in these housing developments and we'll give you tax write-offs—but invest in them with same underwriting criteria that these banks are assuming." And they went to the City of Chicago and said, "We've got these two pieces of the puzzle, you make your programs consistent with what the lenders and the equity investors have agreed to do. And then they wrapped it all together with one door so that you go, not to the bank and to the city and to the syndicator and equity investment group, but you go through the Housing Partnership and they spin you into each one of these groups, legitimize your project, provide technical assistance if you need it. They put together one package, it slides right through and you have all the resources you need to do affordable housing in a difficult environment.

In Los Angeles, I think we could use a housing partnership. The Mayor is committed to raising \$20 million from local corporations who are investing in low-income tax credits, and I think he will. What's missing here is a

commitment from lenders to provide financing to these projects on terms that are tailored to the specific needs of affordable housing. We do have the Community Development Department and the Redevelopment Agency and I think they would mesh very easily into a Los Angeles housing function in the city, but it is expanding it to coordinate with lenders and investors.

I also think that there's going to be a restructuring of the definition of affordability in Los Angeles. I think you're going to see targeting (of very low income units). I think you're going to see longer-term affordability. Where before you had regulatory agreements for 12 or 15 years on the affordable units, you're going to see 30 years as the norm for publicly-assisted housing.

That may change the relationship with for-profit developers. I see the potential evolution of the role of the for-profit developer on very low-income housing into that of the person who packages the deal up front and who makes his profits on the front end of the project and not in the long term. I see more and more for-profit entities packaging and then selling projects off to a non-profit management entity, particularly where you have more service-related housing, or selling off to a for-profit management entity.

*What about the impact of slow growth on the ability to produce affordable units?*

A major tool that is available to local governments for producing and maintaining affordable housing is working with the development potential of a community. Transferring development rights, selling air rights, giving density bonuses—all these are free from the standpoint of local government and provide a real benefit. The slow growth fervor has diminished the potential of those low cost methods of generating housing. I predict it will have a very significant impact.

*Do you have a housing impact?*

"Save as much as you can" is my vision. We're facing such enormous losses in terms of federal assistance to housing and loss of units that the best possible vision would be a holding pattern—keeping everything the same. We're not going to be able to achieve that. That's not a vision, it's a cold reality that we're just going to have to hang onto what we've got and build some new. Our low-income population, and it's a worker population, is growing so fast, and our ability to put public dollars into housing is shrinking so fast that it's really a difficult situation.

*I'm disappointed I thought you would have an answer, maybe one that couldn't be realized.*

Well, the partnership is part of my vision. My housing vision is to find one significant public source of funding within the city of Los Angeles that gives a housing production machine a dependable source of capital so that people can get into the business of building and preserving affordable housing. I think that's an important part of the vision.

My background is in non-profit organizations and I think that for very low-income housing non-profit development and management makes sense in a lot of neighborhoods. I think that in a no growth environment it's essential that the impetus for development (of affordable housing) come from communities that are concerned about a local problem which may be housing for the sons and daughters of the people who live in those communities. In some parts of Los Angeles, locally-initiated community development efforts are going to be essential to overcome no-growth sentiments. So I see an increase in community-based and in-service-based housing developments. Service-related housing for seniors and for the homeless makes a lot of sense.

The question I always ask my interns is "So what?" If 130,000 households pay more than 50 percent of their income (in rent), so what? I think it's essential that there be a vision. My hope is that the blue ribbon committee will provide that vision. It comes down to moral leadership.

**Karin Pally**  
Ms. Pally, a planner and former Managing Editor of *LA Architect*, has a strong interest in housing issues.



## HOUSING THE HOMELESS

"What Can Planners, Architects, Designers, Service-Providers, Public Officials, Advocacy/Community Groups Do?" was the subtitle of a conference on homelessness in Southern California, April 23 at USC's Davidson Center.

The all-day conference was presented by the Office of the Mayor, the National Coalition for the Homeless and the American Planning Association, Los Angeles section, and co-sponsored by USC's School of Urban and Regional Planning, UCLA Graduate School of Architecture and Urban Planning, the Southern California Institute of Architecture, and Architects, Planners and Designers for Social Responsibility.

Conferences on the homeless are one of the best ways to learn about the people and events involved in a shared phenomenon. First, you meet like-minded colleagues from other walks of life on the most basic common ground: standing in a lunch line. Second, you learn the current statistics and vocabulary and the collective groups' projected worst-case scenarios. Third, you see the practice and craft of architecture through other professionals' eyes, while they see their world through yours.

Pro bono work with the homeless means that only your staff time is paid, no grand salaries and design fees. Large offices looking at single room occupancy housing (SROs), a la Rob Wellington Quigley in San Diego, can write off the staff time in overall accounting. There will be millions of dollars spent on construction of low-income housing and homeless shelters over the next few years.

Conference participants shared a sense of growth and anticipation of housing solutions, with new team members being welcomed by the "old guard". The conference celebrated our potential progress in solving some of the homeless problems, our shared perceptions of the issue, and our individual research and intuition about creative solutions for finding funding, land and team collaborations.

There are currently a number of sources to fund shelters for the homeless. Federal funding for housing originates primarily from the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act, which provides for emergency shelter, transitional and some permanent housing, and a variety of services. In 1987-88 this act resulted in an appropriation of \$616 million nationwide. California homeless activists have seen the passing of the first steps for SB1692 (Roberti) and SB1693 (Roberti) signed into law in March this year. These bills are part of a package of bond bills that include \$600 million in general obligation bond financing for low-income housing and housing for the homeless. They will appear on the June ballots. Furthermore, Proposition 77, allocating \$80 million for seismic rental rehab and \$70 million for housing and community development deferred payment rehab program, will also be on the ballot. Next November there will be more bond issues: \$200 million for rental housing construction, \$25 million for residential hotel acquisition and rehabilitation. In November 1990, there will be another \$600 million. (For details about these funds, contact the Housing and Homeless Initiative Campaign at 1900 K Street #200, Sacramento, CA 95814, (916) 444-5975. For the Federal funding, contact the National Coalition for the Homeless, 1439 Rhode Island Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20005 or 105 E. 22nd Street, New York, NY 10010, (202) 659-3310.)

The conference filled the conference center. Speakers somehow seemed to have compared notes before, and their statistics matched, though the quantities are still hard to believe. For example, there are actually about 40,000 households in Los Angeles County called "garage people" living in garages, roof-tops, and sheds. Most of these are families. The children are happy until they

are old enough to become self-conscious about being near-destitute. They drop out of school when they realize that dirty linoleum floors, electric wires snaking along bare walls, and reeking kitchens are not the lot of the majority of people, especially not those they see on TV each day. There are 50,000 housing units in unreinforced brick buildings that, at best, will be retrofitted and consequently have their rents increased, at worst demolished entirely.

What is Los Angeles doing, one asks, in the face of this housing shortage? Down-zoning and slow-growth, are making matters worse because of their resultant rent increases.

Workshops were held in the afternoon. The most heavily attended was "Financing Low-Cost Shelter and Housing for the Homeless", with Malthusian presentation by Gary Squier (see interview on page 1), the Mayor's Housing Coordinator, who graphically demonstrated the incremental loss of housing stock and the increasing need for housing by tearing bits of paper and recounting statistics that kept us all spellbound. Ruth Schwartz of Shelter Partnership, and Neal Richman of Santa Monica's Community Corporation talked and showed slides of their architects' work, the same slides, no doubt, that were being shown by architects in the main room with an entirely different commentary, but with an accompanying explanation every architect should hear before presenting qualifications.

The workshop on "Design Projects and Guidelines for Shelter and Services" had the usual coterie of charismatic and award-winning designers showing and telling about their projects. Brenda Levin, of Levin and Associates, Rex Lotery, UCLA's Urban Innovations Group, Allyne Winderman, CRA, Arnold Stalk, SCI-ARC and Principal of Designers Plus, Julie Eisenberg and Hank Koning all presented work.

The third workshop, "Organizing for Homeless Action," was of particular interest. The panelists included Denise Williams of the Homelessness Coalition and Molly Lowrey, Director of LAMP (Los Angeles

Continued on 8

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The jurors for this year's awards were Robert Herrick Carter, ASLA; Harold Held, President, Held Properties; Fred Johnson, President, Fred Johnson Investments; Richard Magee, AIA; and James Porter, AIA.

#### Landworth Scholarships Awarded

The LA/AIA Associates are delighted to announce the award of the William Z. Landworth Scholarship Fund. Three presentations were made to outstanding architectural students in the Los Angeles area.

The winner of the \$1000 William Z. Landworth Scholarship is Nazneen Cooper, a 4th year student at the University of Southern California. Nazneen, a native of Bombay, India, is an enthusiastic student, who brings discipline, insight and a high level of creativity to her work. She plans to use the award for summer semester tuition.

Rene Gonzalez, recipient of the \$500 graduate scholarship, attends the University of California, Los Angeles. Born in Havana, Cuba, Mr. Gonzalez's work exemplifies a designer at the most outstanding level. Rene believes "architecture should have some humor in it". He will use the money for his graduate thesis project.

Philip Silberman, a 4th year student at SCI-ARC, received the \$500 undergraduate scholarship. Philip's design work with the computer is unique. He believes the computer represents the future of architecture. Philip plans to use the money for fall semester tuition.

The William Z. Landworth Scholarship Fund was established in memory of the late Bill Landworth, an architect uniquely

involved with students and intern architects. It is available for 3rd, 4th and 5th year students attending Cal Poly Pomona, SCI-ARC, UCLA, USC and Woodbury University.

#### Barbara Horton-Gibbs

**CCAIA Design Awards**  
The California Council/American Institute of Architects recently honored 14 projects in the annual Design Awards program. Winning projects were announced in a ceremony on April 9 at the California Culinary Academy in San Francisco.

The Design Awards jury selected four Honor Awards, nine Merit Awards and one People in Architecture Award, a new category which recognizes projects that provide architectural solutions to meet specific user needs. Jury members were Elizabeth Ericson, AIA, of Shepley Bulfinch Richardson and Abbott of Boston, Massachusetts; Robert Frasca, FAIA, of Zimmer Gunsul Frasca Partnership, Portland, Oregon; and E. Fay Jones, FAIA, of Fay Jones and Maurice Jennings Architects, Fayetteville, Arkansas.

Honor Awards were given to Moore Ruble Yudell Architects for Tegel Harbor Housing in West Germany; Moore Ruble Yudell/Campbell & Campbell for Carousel Park at Santa Monica Pier; Skidmore, Owings and Merrill of San Francisco for Shell Central Headquarters in The Hague, Netherlands; and William Turnbull Associates for the American Club in Hong Kong.

Merit Awards were given to Eric Owen Moss, AIA, for a 60,000 square foot warehouse renovation in Culver City; Backen Arrigoni & Ross for the Glickman Residence in San Francisco; William Adams, AIA, for the Archilla Clothing Store in Santa Monica; Austin Hansen Fehman Group for the Scripps Clinic in San Diego; Architectural Collective for the Sunset Multi-Use Complex in West Hollywood; Skidmore, Owings, and Merrill of San Francisco for the San Francisco Federal Savings Building; Bissell Architects for the Environment for a Papal Mass inside the Los Angeles Coliseum; Fisher-Friedman Associates for Golden Gateway Housing in San Francisco; and

Morphosis for Kate Mantilini restaurant in Beverly Hills.

The People in Architecture Award was given to the Bear Valley Visitors Center by Bull Volkman Stockwell of San Francisco.

There were 307 entries for the CCAIA Design Awards program, the most ever received.

#### Members

**AIA.** Thomas C. Whitlock, *Eagle Group*; Peter W. Fung, *Peter Fung & Associates, Architects*; Robert A. Schultze, *Walt Disney Imagineering*; Roy R. Carmen, *Salar Development Co.*; Maureen T. Tamuri, *Rochlin Baran & Balbona Inc.*; Iwao Yamaguchi, *I. Yamaguchi & Design Elites*; Trevor D. Abrason, *Trevor D. Abramson Architects*; Kim A. Walsh, *Rebecca L. Binder Architects*; H. Bruce Hermann, *Solberg & Lowe Architects*; Kathryn K. Lim, *Harry Weese & Associates*; Mark J. Levy, *Mark Levy Studio*; Lanson B. Nichols, *Deborah Katzner, HNTB*; Joyce E. Orias, *Orias Atelier*; Avedia Mulkalian, *ARL & Associates*; Steven Karegeannes, *Cole, Martinez & Curtis*; Chitranjan Roy, *Sidhu & Associates*; Hsiao-Nan Yuan, *RTKL Associates*; Carol R. Fisher, *George Opack, Woodford, Parkinson Wynn & Partners*; Froilan R. DeGuzman, *State of California Department of Housing and Community Development*.

**Professional Affiliate.** Nick Tasooji, *Peat, Marwick Main & Co.*; Robert J. Hanevold, *Continental Graphics*; Steve Brunelle, *Suncrete Rooftile*; Richard D. Crowell, *Edward F. Cermack, RD Crowell Insurance Agency*; Debra G. Lerner, *Niviko SACI*.

#### Name that Architect

**To the Editor:**  
Recently one of my favorite Alfred Hitchcock movies, *North by Northwest*, which was filmed in the mid-50's, was rerun on TV. In the climax scenes, which are supposedly taking place in South Dakota near Mount Rushmore (remember those exciting action scenes of Cary Grant and Eva Marie Saint trying to escape the villain, Martin Landau by clamoring down the carved stone faces of the Presidents?), there are also exhilarating shots

of a gorgeous residence that for years has made me wonder who designed it and where it actually is.

Some of the scenes seem to have been montaged, but there is the distinct impression that the building does in fact exist and is not just a set. I'm consulting *LA Architect* to find out if anyone might know about this house and who that talented designer is.

#### Brian Vedder

Mr. Vedder is a graduate student at SCI-ARC.

#### Schindler Exhibition Extended

"Schindler House: Design and History" has been extended through October 1988. Organized to celebrate the centennial of the architect's birth, the subject of the show is Schindler's own experimental Kings Road House in West Hollywood. Two of the four rooms in the house have been restored with original furniture and reconstructions. The third room contains a newly-built model, construction photographs and variant plans for the house, and the fourth room is devoted to the social history of the property and includes a video including interviews with Pauline Schindler, Clyde Chace, who built the house with Schindler, and Richard Neutra's home movies of life in the house in the late 1920s.

Exhibition hours are Saturdays and Sundays, 1 to 4 pm, and other times by appointment. The Schindler House is located at 835 North Kings Road, West Hollywood. Admission is \$4 general, \$3 student and senior.

#### Teen Institute

"What is design?" is the question young people will consider as they learn how design elements influence our surroundings in the four-week Design Wise Summer Institute at the National Building Museum. Students age 14 through 18 will explore the fundamental aspects of architecture, graphic design and project design through actual design projects with working professionals. The course takes place from July 7 to August 2. For information call (202)272-2448.

## OLYMPIC

### OPEN COMPETITION

Architects, Urban Designers, City Planners, and Landscape Architects are invited to participate in a unique, open, international, two-stage competition to design the public environment of a ten block stretch of Los Angeles' famed Olympic Boulevard...and...the architecture of two major private office towers in the district.

**REGISTER NOW:** To register and receive the program and video cassette, send name(s), address, telephone number and US \$85 to: "Olympic West Competition," 11444 W. Olympic Bl., Suite 1100, Los Angeles, CA 90064 USA

**SUBMISSION:** First Stage seeks two 30"x 40" boards.

**AWARDS:** \$50,000 in prizes, plus opportunity for office towers commissions.

**PROFESSIONAL JURY:** Ricardo Bofill: *architect* Regula Campbell: *landscape architect* John Morris Dixon: *architectural journalist* Richard Meier: *architect* Rai Okamoto: *urban designer/city planner* James Wines: *artist/designer*

**PROFESSIONAL ADVISOR:** Michael John Pittas

**ELIGIBILITY:** First Stage is anonymous and open to any interested party. Up to five finalists will be invited to compete in the Second Stage.

**SCHEDULE:** Program plus video available May 30. First Stage deadline August 26. Second Stage finalists announced September 12.

**INFORMATION:** Contact Deborah Rosenthal Phone 1-800-451-7270 • 213/312-3600 FAX 213/479-3086

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## BEYOND ENERGY: SEWERS?

In the December issue of *LA Architect*, the Energy Committee announced its intention to "expand its area of interest and purview to include issues of environmental and natural resource conservation, both of which are intimately involved with low and no-growth issues in Southern California, particularly in suburban and smaller city areas." In response to the latter, it also announced its intention to expand geographical scope by seeking to become a joint committee of the Los Angeles and San Fernando Valley Chapters of the AIA. The article speculated as to how the broader issues, of which energy was but a part, would actually surface. It suggested that "one direction had since become clear and that it is one which is growing both in public awareness and in its impact on the practice of architecture: pressures for reduced development and the role that energy, land, water, air pollution, and sewage (along with community infrastructure services such as roads, fire, schools, and parks) play in the concerns of communities, citizens' groups, and neighborhood associations."

Unfortunately, what was speculation but a few months ago, has become reality with the recent Los Angeles City Council ruling that will effectively reduce the number of building permits to be granted in the city by 30%, due to the resulting impact on Los Angeles' aging sewer system. Equally unfortunately, if recent experience in neighboring counties where growth control issues are on the June ballot are any indication, so explosive an issue in Los Angeles will doubtless cause an immediate "taking of sides" and an angry call to do

battle, by both the building and development industry that is responsible for providing space for commerce and housing and citizens groups concerned about the impact of continued growth on the city's services and its quality of life. As is often the case, much will be said in anger before all the facts are known and rules will be passed without a full understanding of all their implications (eg., "problems solutions create").

It is an opportunity for the AIA to assume a statesmanlike role in growth issues that can only continue over the next few decades. After all, is not the quality of life in terms of both natural and built environment a natural concern of the architect as well? By gathering and publicizing the facts and developing creative alternatives, the AIA can be perceived by all "sides" as seeking positive and constructive solutions to what might seem to be intractable problems.

To that end, it is the intent of the co-chairs of this committee and its original members, to open its activities to the public on a regular basis and to invite participation by not only all members of the LA and San Fernando Valley chapters of the AIA, but by interested citizens, students of local universities, and all others seeking ways to resolve these substantial natural and built environment issues.

To initiate this effort on a positive note, the Committee will adopt an attitude expressed in a phrase long operative in the very modest offices of RSA Architects, Inc. to wit: "constraints bring opportunities". It is here where the special technical and environmental skills of the architect can be brought to bear, for example by making city officials and the public aware of environmentally responsible on-site waste processing technologies, ranging from the simple composting toilet to new "high-tech" mini-waste processing plants. We have the opportunity to encourage others to be creative as well.

But it will take substantial effort by people already involved in a full day's work, to gather and digest information, design solutions, and disseminate findings. It will require substantial selflessness to temper one's concerns about the future of a project in the office, with concerns about community well-being. It will take insight and imagination to

develop responses that can define both that project's and the community's future in positive terms.

The committee invites all those interested in this approach and willing to commit time and effort to the work of the committee to attend its first expanded meeting at the offices of Fisher/Morse AIA and Associates, 5567 Reseda Bl., Suite 209 (south of Burbank Boulevard/1 block south of the Ventura Freeway), on the evening of June 13 at 7:30 pm. Call Richard Schoen, UCLA Graduate School of Architecture and Urban Planning, (213) 825-1345 or at RSA Architects, Inc., (818) 702-9654.

### Beautification Awards

Westwood Place, on the corner of Wilshire and Glendon, the Federal Reserve Bank building in downtown Los Angeles, and the West Palm multi-residential development in Westchester were among the winners of the Los Angeles West Chamber of Commerce's 18th annual beautification awards. The Chamber's annual Landmark Award went to the Pacific Design Center on San Vicente Boulevard in West Hollywood. Westwood Place also won the Jeffrey L. Tamkin Award for outstanding new commercial development completed during the past year.

The Federal Reserve Bank building, at 650 S. Grand Avenue, by Daniel L. Dworsky & Associates, was commended as the outstanding new large scale institutional building.

The West Palm, by Johannes Van Tilburg, was chosen as outstanding new large scale multi-family residential project. It also received the second annual Alan Casden Award as the outstanding new multi-family residence.

Additional winners and their categories were, for new mid-rise commercial: St. John's Medical Plaza, Santa Monica, Rochlin, Baran & Balbona, Inc.; for new low-rise commercial: One Rodeo, Beverly Hills, Johannes Van Tilburg & Partners; for new small-scale institutional: L. Beerman Early Childhood Center, Leroy Miller Associates; for remodeled institutional: Brighton Way Building, Beverly Hills, Richard Magee Associates and the Jerde Partnership; for new small-



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# L.A. ARCHITECT



Thomas P. Rossiter House, 11 West Thirty-eighth Street, New York City, 1855, Richard Morris Hunt.

## LA/AIA Salutes Richard Morris Hunt

On Thursday, June 2, from 6 to 7:30 pm, the LA/AIA will hold a reception at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art in honor of the Richard Morris Hunt exhibition. Hunt, a founding member of the American Institute of Architects, was known by his 19th-century contemporaries as the "dean of American Architecture."

The comprehensive selection of original drawings, watercolors and photographs is the first major exhibition of Hunt's work. The

exhibition explores the architect's career beginning with his student days at the Ecole des Beaux-Arts in the 1840s to his last major commission, Biltmore House, and is drawn largely from Hunt's extensive records, held by the AIA Foundation Prints and Drawings Collection.

The exhibition, featuring 200 drawings and historic photographs as well as four of Hunt's sketchbooks, includes drawings from the never-executed gates for New York's Central Park, numerous photographs of wooden houses in Newport, Rhode Island, early townhouses in New York, and Biltmore House (1888-95), the largest private home in the United States. The architect's most spectacular domestic commission, Biltmore House was built for George Washington Vanderbilt in Asheville, North Carolina.

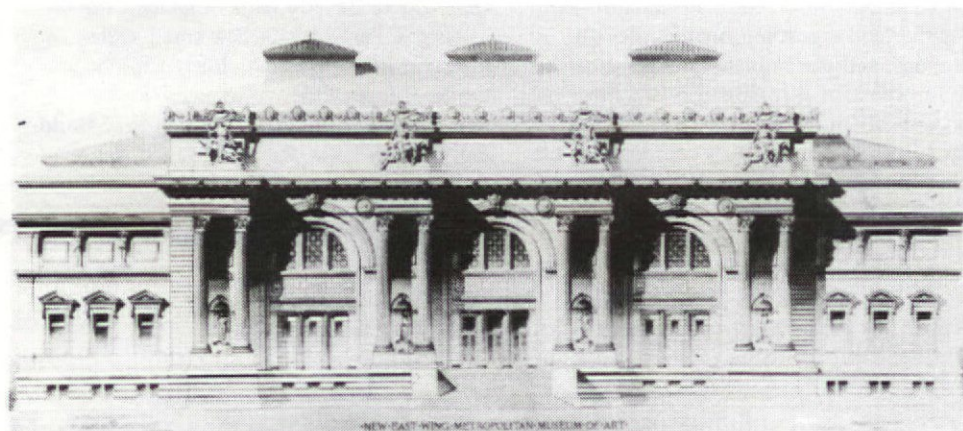
As teacher and architect, Hunt helped shift American taste in the 1860s and '70s away from English Romanticism to French monumentalism. This grand classical architecture—recalling Rome, the Renaissance and Baroque Europe—became fashionable among America's social and industrial elite and earned Hunt many public, commercial and residential commissions. In addition to major civic buildings, Hunt built important examples of various modern building types: iron-front stores, elevator skyscrapers, and apartment houses.

*The Architecture of Richard Morris Hunt* will remain on view at the County Art Museum through July 31, and is accompanied by a fully-illustrated catalogue. Complete details of the LA/AIA reception were not available at the time *LA Architect* went to press. For further information and reservations, call the Chapter at (213) 659-2282.

## Wright Night

On Wednesday, June 29, at 7 pm, the Architecture Foundation of Los Angeles will present a program on Frank Lloyd Wright, featuring lectures entitled "Wright, the Architect," by architectural historian Robert Winter, and "Wright, the Man," by Wright's grandson, Eric Lloyd Wright. The event, which takes place in the Municipal Art Gallery will be followed by a reception at Frank Lloyd Wright's historic Hollyhock House. Both buildings are located at Barnsdall Park, 4800 Hollywood Boulevard. There is free parking on site.

The event is by prepaid reservation only, and cost \$15 for AFLA member, \$20 non-members. Tax-deductible checks should be made payable to AFLA and forwarded to LA/AIA, 8687 Melrose Ave, Suite BM-72, Los Angeles, CA 90069, and received no later than Friday, June 24, 1988.



The Metropolitan Museum of Art, rendering of East Wing, Richard Morris Hunt.

## Interview: Gary Squier

Gary Squier is the Housing Coordinator for the City of Los Angeles. He is an experienced housing developer, and has been Executive Director of the Los Angeles Community Design Center and of Community Corporation of Santa Monica. He was also Vice President of the Corporate Fund for Housing. This interview was conducted for *LA Architect* by Karin Pally.

*Tell me about your job.*

I am Housing Coordinator for the City of Los Angeles, which involves being the Mayor's eyes and ears on housing issues. It doesn't involve being the Mayor's eyes and ears on homeless issues—that's somebody else's responsibility. The principal agencies I interface with are the Housing Authority, the Community Development Department (CDD) and the Redevelopment Agency (CRA). I work with these agencies on certain projects or problems—sort of an ombudsman for housing. For example, the Mayor bought 102 mobile homes and I've been working with Grace Davis on placing these mobile homes on Housing Authority properties. The grand scheme is that I am to work with a blue ribbon committee to develop policies and strategies for housing as a framework that these agencies can work within.

*Is the blue ribbon committee going to evaluate the three agencies you work with?*

The committee is not going to look at the Housing Authority. It will look at the housing

production entities which really are the CDD and the CRA. It will look at the need and determine what the housing problem is. What I'm struggling with now is to get the City's data, find more data, mesh it all together and coherently describe what is wrong with our housing system and supply. We're in 1988, the census is 10 years old and it's very difficult. We don't know, given the data that we currently have, whether we should be producing housing for large families or single people, whether we should be rehabilitating housing, or producing housing, whether we should be producing housing for people that earn 50 percent of median income or 120 percent of median income.

What's frustrating is that you know people are just hanging on at the bottom tier of the housing market and that thousands of families are a paycheck away from being homeless, but the statistics that we have don't support that. The data I need doesn't exist.

I commute to work everyday on the Santa Monica Freeway and my view of Los Angeles is two ivy banks with overpasses. I'm going through neighborhoods where people are sleeping in cars, but I never see them. Nearly every policy-maker and corporate head of the city has the same experience. The housing problem is geographically segregated. You have a housing problem in East LA, you don't have a housing problem in West LA. You have a problem in South LA, you have a less obvious problem in the Valley. This geographic segregation of problems complicates policy making. Los Angeles is so huge that residents of one part of the city don't see how a particular public policy might benefit them. Housing isn't like traffic—a problem that's experienced throughout the city so any individual can see that it's a legitimate concern.

My challenge in briefing the blue ribbon committee is to give them a picture of what exists. That picture will be a montage of information that points to the problem so that it can be rationally addressed. I'm assembling a briefing book that will contrast need with current housing production, to see if it's adequate or inadequate, and to see if it's effectively targeted. Is current assistance going to areas of greatest need? How much public assistance is necessary to solve the housing problem? How much public assistance is necessary just to stay even?

*How bad is the housing problem?*

This is my "sky is falling" speech. We're in a tight housing market today. There are people who are paying too much for housing, there are people who are underhoused, there are people who are homeless, and there are people who are doubling up. We have 40,000 households living in garages in Los Angeles County according to the LA Times. We have 130,000 households who pay more than 50 percent of their income for housing. That's half a million people. We have 30,000 homeless.

In the very near future we have 18,741 expiring subsidies on federally subsidized projects built 15 or 20 years ago. These projects are sprinkled all over the Westside and the Valley. These units were rented by people who were 60 years old when they rented them and now they're 80. The landlords are getting maybe \$250 a month rent in areas where they could get \$900 a month. The first units will probably be lost in June, and the losses will be experienced over a ten-year period.

Continued on 5