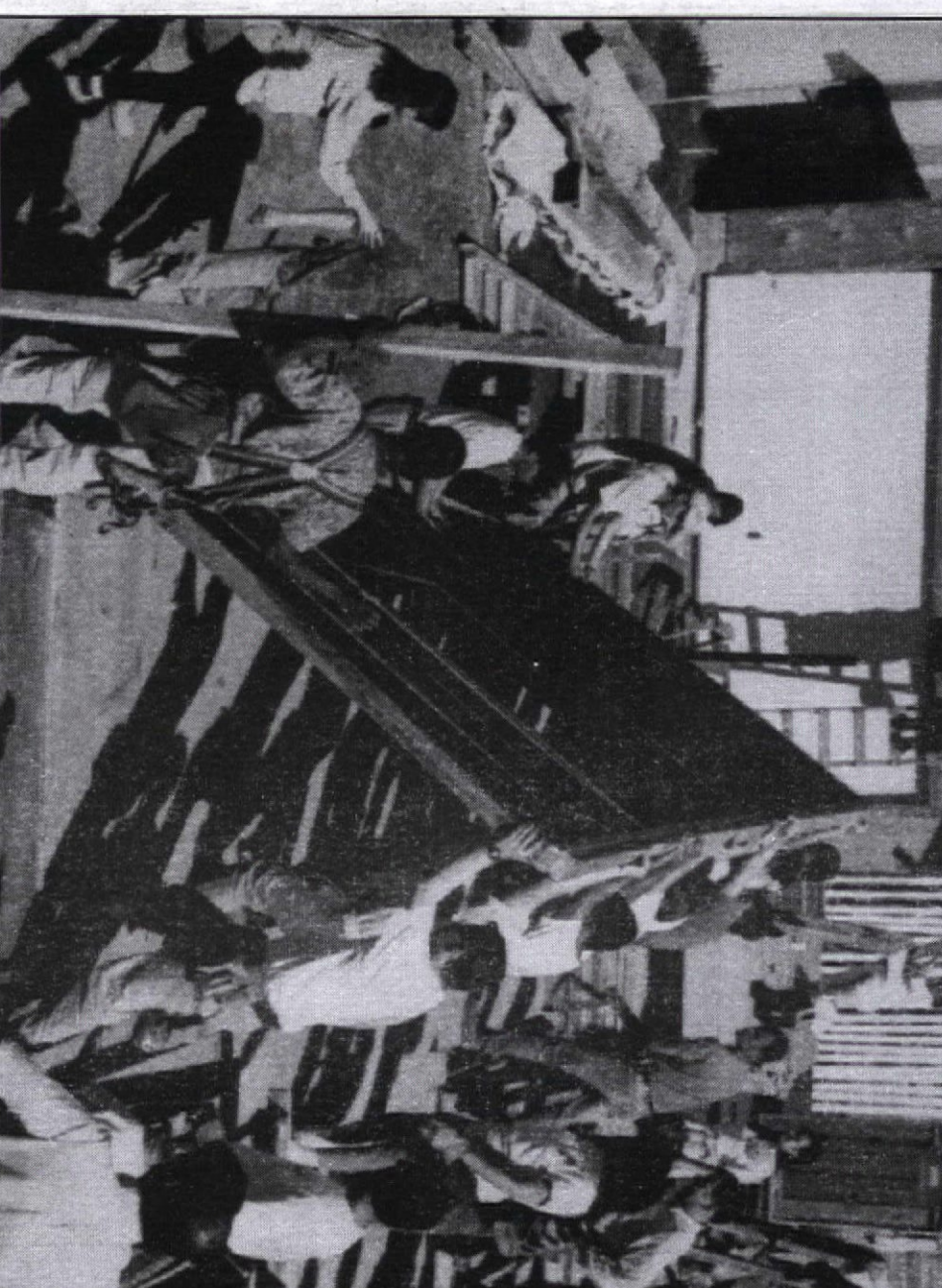


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Affordable Housing:

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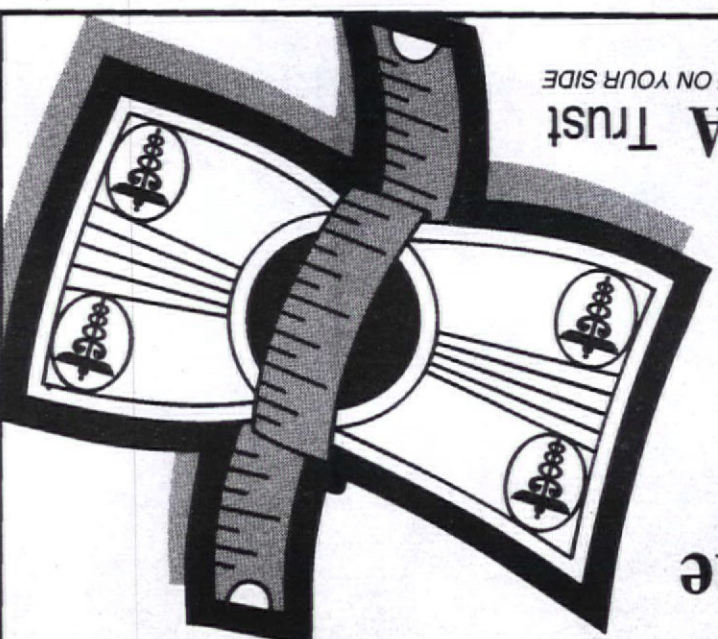
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Thursday, July 6
• Urban Design, 6:30 pm

Friday, July 7
• L.A. Architect EXCOM, 12 noon

Thursday, June 1

• Urban Design, 6:30 pm

Saturday, June 3

• A.R.E. "Building Design," USC, RSVP to AIA

Monday, June 5

• La Architect ExCom 12 pm
• Tour: Elijah Slocum Showroom, 6:30 pm

Tuesday, June 6

• SoCal Forum @ Kaiser Permanente, 4:30 pm

Wednesday, June 7

• AFLA, 6 pm

Thursday, June 8

• Codes, 5:15 pm

Monday, June 12

• Tour: Elijah Slocum Showroom

Tuesday, June 13

• Associates, 6:30 pm
• YAF (call for location), 7 pm

Thursday, June 15

• Health: "Contractors," 3:30 pm

Saturday, June 17

• IDP @ Gensler & Associates, 9 am
• "Good Design, Good Business" @ Getty Center Site Tour, 11 am. RSVP (213) 938-9356

Sunday, June 18

FATHER'S DAY

Monday, June 19

• Gae Aulenti Lecture, @ PDC Green Theater. Reception @ Snaidero, 6 pm. Lecture: 7 pm.
• Working w/ General Services for California @ Law/Crandall, 6 pm

Tuesday, June 20

• Environ Resources, 6 pm

Wednesday, June 21

SUMMER BEGINS

• LA Arch Board, 7:30 am
• AIA/Inland. Gas Co. Tour, Downey, 6 pm

Monday, June 26

• Tour: Slocum Showroom, 6:30 pm

Tuesday, June 27

• Ex Com, 4 pm

Wednesday, June 28

• International Practice, 4 pm

Friday, June 29

• Pro Practice, 5:45 pm

Monday, July 3

• Tour: Elijah Slocum Showroom, 6:30 pm

Tuesday, July 4

INDEPENDENCE DAY

• SoCal Forum @ Kaiser Permanente, 4:30 pm

Wednesday, July 5

• AFLA, 6 pm

They Say the Lights Are Bright on Broadway

The Los Angeles Conservancy is sponsoring the Ninth Annual "Last Remaining Seats," a celebration of L.A.'s historic movie palaces featuring period films. The event is occurring each Wednesday night in June, at 8 pm.

June 7: Orpheum Theater. Buster Keaton's masterpiece, "The General," accompanied by a full orchestra.

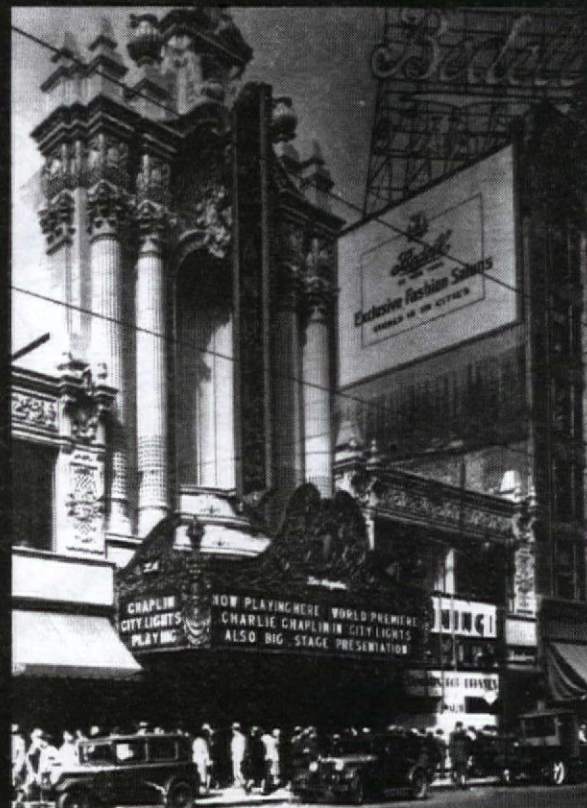
June 14: Palace Theater. Screening of "His Girl Friday."

June 21: Los Angeles Theater. Laurel and Hardy's "Sons of the Desert," preceded by a parade of vintage cars, celebrity comics and a marching band starting with festivities at Pershing Square.

June 28: State Theater. Hitchcock evening, with an original release print of "Vertigo."

Advance tickets are \$12 each or \$40 for the series. Conservancy member prices are \$10 each and \$35 for the series. Remaining tickets to be sold at the door for \$15. To charge tickets, call THEATIX at (213) 466-1767, or write: Los Angeles Conservancy, 727 W. Seventh St., #955, Los Angeles, CA 90017....

The Society of Architectural Historians, Southern California Chapter, is hosting an afternoon of art and architecture at the Familian House in Beverly Hills, designed by the late John Lautner. The event is on Saturday, July 22, 1995 from 4 pm to 7 pm. If you missed SAH's recent tour of Lautner projects, this is your chance to see his work up close. Additionally, the owners have graciously agreed to showcase their extensive art collection, making this an afternoon you won't want to miss. The cost is \$50pp, and includes live music, sumptuous refreshments and valet parking. For reservations, call SAH/SCC at (818)-6758.



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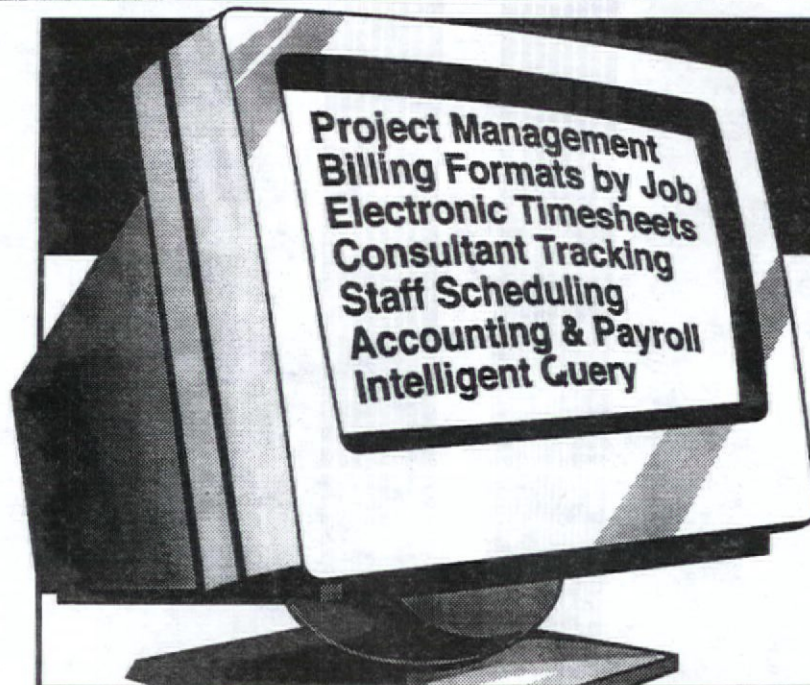
POSITION AVAILABLE. Major Los Angeles-area-based trade association is interviewing graduates of recognized architectural schools who have worked at least 2-3 years in architectural firms; license not required but proficiency with computer assisted drafting is essential; ability to effectively communicate verbally and in writing is important.

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Candidates are requested to furnish a curriculum vitae no later than June 23, 1995, to Jurg Lang, Chair, Department of Architecture and Urban Design, School of the Arts and Architecture, UCLA, Los Angeles, CA, 90095-1467.

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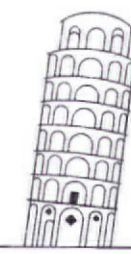
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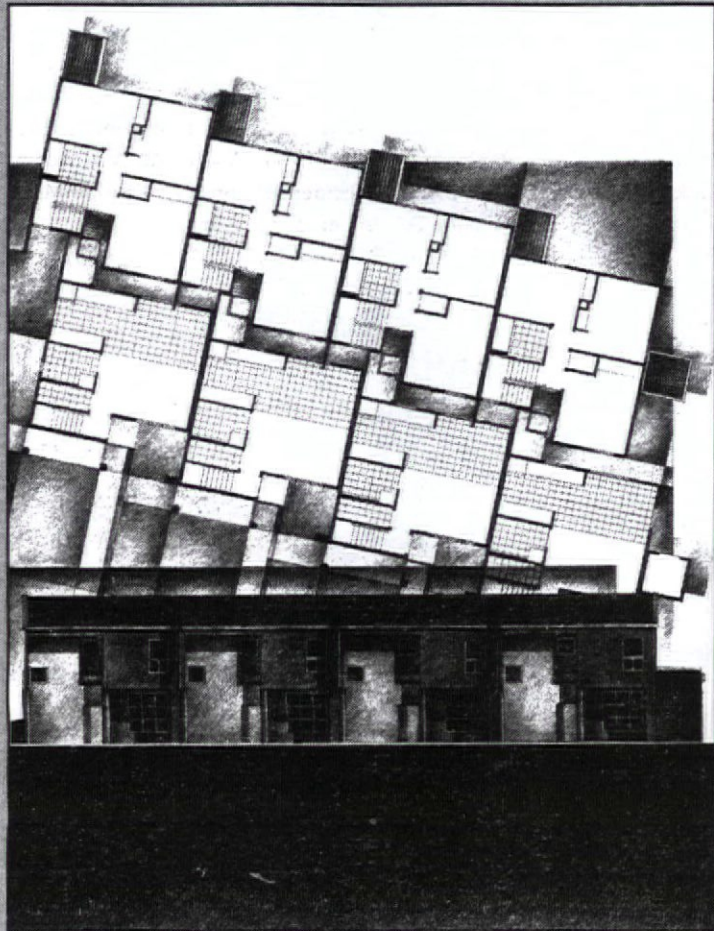


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AFFORDABLE HOUSING:

Design as Research

New ideas in affordable housing often go unheralded. That's too bad, because innovative projects can provide solutions that work in other places. Dan Solomon's scheme for South Central Los Angeles is a mixed use development that combines housing, historic preservation and office uses. John Mutlow's design for Rancho Sespe provides something entirely new for many migrant workers: housing itself.



RANCHO SESPE II, PIRU, CALIF. (VENTURA COUNTY)

The project provides cooperative townhomes for very low income farm workers families, many of whom were displaced from their previous labor camp, a group of dilapidated board-and-batten cottages owned by a growers' cooperative. The average household income is \$17,731 for a family of five.

The idea of the new camp was to design a series of identifiable small neighborhoods. Each neighborhood grouping faces one another or a courtyard. A central pedestrian spine connects all the grouping and a major courtyard, which provides the focal point and acts as a central place. Anchoring the spine is a community building, with a multi-purpose room and child care center for 60 students. Aesthetically, the project is designed as a farmyard, organized around a central courtyard, with the community room serving as the "barn."

To avoid repetition and emphasize the individual identity of the units, the architects developed eight different buildings, varying the mix, arrangement and number of units in each building. Although the budget limited the unit types to three models, (for two, three and four bedrooms, respectively) Further economies were achieved through the use of only two prefabricated lengths two lengths of prefabricated roof trusses, forming a continuous roof line. All units share private rear gardens with sliding glass doors.

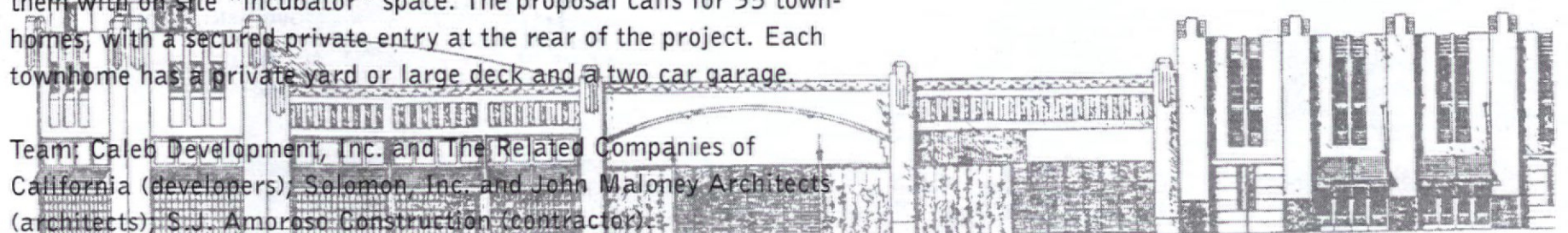
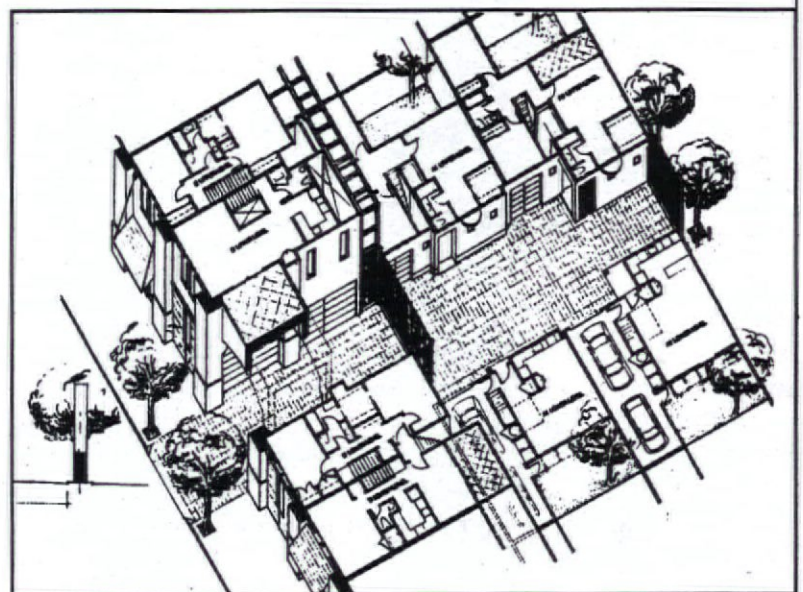
Team: John Mutlow, FAIA Architects. Owner: Rancho Sespe Workers Improvements Association Corporation. Landscape architect: William Morgan (phase I); Jordan and Gilbert (phase 2)

MIXED USE DEVELOPMENT AT VERMONT AVENUE AND 81ST STREET LOS ANGELES

"Isolated development initiatives and autonomous architectural works will not begin to redress the problems of South Central Los Angeles," says architect Dan Solomon. "South Central is confronted with the task of building whole streets and linking separated enclaves to a larger community. It is these notions of street making and linkages that mitigate this proposal and shape both its program and its architecture."

The design is the winner of a competition sponsored by First Interstate Bank, which plans to finance the \$15 million project and others in the immediate area. The 75,000 square foot site is a narrow service street, paralleling a major commercial boulevard. Existing is the historic Pepperdine Building (also known as Hattem's Market), an Art Deco tower. The building will house the Business Expansion Network, which assists start up businesses and provides them with on-site "incubator" space. The proposal calls for 35 townhomes, with a secured private entry at the rear of the project. Each townhome has a private yard or large deck and a two car garage.

Team: Caleb Development, Inc. and The Related Companies of California (developers); Solomon, Inc. and John Maloney Architects (architects); S.J. Amoroso Construction (contractor)



Critique

Blues for Affordable Housing

Affordable housing is a wearisome paradox: No other form of building is as critically needed by society. And, at the same time, no other form of construction has less political support or fewer financial resources.

If there is one field in design, however, where the idealistic premises of our education in architecture—to improve people's lives, enhance the environment, solve problems—holds true, it is housing for people in the low- and moderate-income range, both in the realm of public housing and privately owned non-profit housing.

The need is almost unfathomable. The City of Los Angeles says 12,000 new dwelling units are needed annually. The city's Housing Authority will provide fewer than 1,000. While independent non-profit builders and other public agencies will add to that number, the final total will remain a small fraction of the need. And judging from the high number of households in Los Angeles which are doubled up, and even tripled up, in apartments, that need may be understated.

In the current political *Walpurgisnacht*, both money and political support appear threatened. HUD, the poorly managed federal agency that is the largest source of public housing finance, is under attack by the current Congress. To help salvage the agency, the Clinton Administration has embraced the doctrine of vouchers—that is, direct subsidies to renters, rather than to landlords. The result could be a loss of a major source of affordable housing construction.

Charles Cofield, the development director of the city's housing authority, has tried to identify new opportunities for affordable housing amid the federal disinvestment. "Through collaborative work, particularly with private sector businesses, the agency sees the opportunity to increase the viability of its role," he said recently. In this scenario, the private sector includes local businesses, banks, non-profit home builders and local officials. What remains uncertain, however, is how to provide housing for people who pay below-market rents in a purely market driven system.

Cost is perhaps the most persistent issue bedeviling the produc-

tion of affordable housing. Recently, the fine housing scheme for the Franklin-La Brea Apartments, designed by Adele Naude Santos, were criticized for costing \$150,000 a unit, when \$75,000 or so is the industry standard. But the assumption that affordable housing must always be the lowest in cost to produce often results in housing that is lacking in design interest and will be harder to maintain over time.

Policy is another problem. To date, the public policy for supporting affordable housing currently has simply been a density bonus for developers who include at least 20 percent of their units as "affordable." Often, these units are studio apartments, not the two- and three- and four-bedroom units needed by households with children. The city's new General Plan Framework proposes to introduce higher densities into certain neighborhoods, while sparing others. That means ghettoizing older neighborhoods with ugly, high-density buildings, while sparing affluent, single-family neighborhoods. A better solution would be a slight increase in density across the board, and to liberalize the parking requirements for accessory apartments, such as "granny flats" in converted garages. Neighborhood groups strongly oppose such notions, so reactionary politics may again destroy a housing opportunity.

An internal problem in the culture of the affordable-housing community is a preference for new construction over rehab. If cost is the issue, rehab should be the priority. Housing rehab is a good urban strategy and gives new life to buildings and neighborhoods alike. In a time of diminished resources, housing and city design can reinforce one another, rather than destroy one another.

— MORRIS NEWMAN

A CD-ROM For FLW The Frank Lloyd Wright Companion. William Allin Storrer.

Available from Prairie Multimedia, 31 W. 165 Smith Rd., West

Chicago, IL, 60185. (708) 513-0978. \$75.

The recently released CD-ROM, "The Frank Lloyd Wright Companion," is based on the 1993 book by William Allin Storrer. The

book is an exhaustive reference source (or data base, if you will) of FLW's built work with plans and photographs. The CD-ROM and the book each cost \$75, so price cannot be a factor in the choice. Whether one buys the database in book or CD-ROM format will depend on other criteria, such as which medium makes Wright's work more accessible and/or more useful.

The book arrays the buildings in chronological order, with black-and-white photographs, floor plans and text. In that regard, the book is linear and horizontal in form. Its index is conventional, listing projects in alphabetical order. As one thumbs through the pages, one can see an accelerating clarity in Wright's ideas, an emerging grammar, intentions manifested. For example, readers who are intrigued by the impact of Wright's 1910 Wasmuth Portfolio on early European Modernists can quickly look at his work leading up to that seminal publication on preceding pages.

In contrast, to hunt through the colorful CD-ROM is to fall into a soft waterbed with no bottom. The CD-ROM is quite the opposite of a book which is linear in conception. Instead, the configuration of the CD-ROM is lateral, with neither perceptible beginning nor end. The CD-ROM presents itself as a tree with branches, each branch of one's own making. Therefore, one never really grasps an entire body of work. Instead, there are opportunities for searches that can be highly personal and idiosyncratic.

It is that idiosyncrasy, after all, that is part of the fun of a CD-ROM: It was only by clicking on parts of a world-wide map that I discovered Wright experimented with low-cost, pre-fabricated elements in the construction of demountable beach cottages in Egypt. The cross-reference index, another great feature, is fat with fascinating explications of devices such as the grid and cantilever, textile blocks, and the like.

The CD-ROM appears to hold more information than the book, and that's a strong mark in its favor. But it also has at least one drawback: a frustrating "infomercial" for "Canvas for Windows," a cumbersome graphics program which must be run every time the reader wants to view or "access" a large drawing. (Technically, the drawings could be accommodated without Canvas, a program which allows viewers to manipulate

everything except the drawing, so where's the fun?) A 33-second wait, timed on a first-floor plan for the 1905 Mary M.W. Adams Residence on a 486/66MHz, seemed interminable.

The graphic wizardry also seems beside the point when one wants to compare different projects at the same time. The comparison can be done, of course, by opening separate windows containing separate images, but that can't be done either quickly nor easily.

Books still have advantages, even as databases. With the book, it is easy to compare plans by flipping through the pages. And books, unlike computers, respond to the environment. Light falls on the pages, instead of emanating from them. Given decent care, the book will be around for at least a century or two. CDs and the accompanying hardware have yet to prove their longevity. But it is also true that the CD format excels in versatility when it comes to searches, and his CD provides plenty of ancillary material to enrich the pursuit. And readers who miss hand-written margin notes could scan them into the CD-ROM, even though that would seem slightly disingenuous.

BARBARA LAMPRECHT

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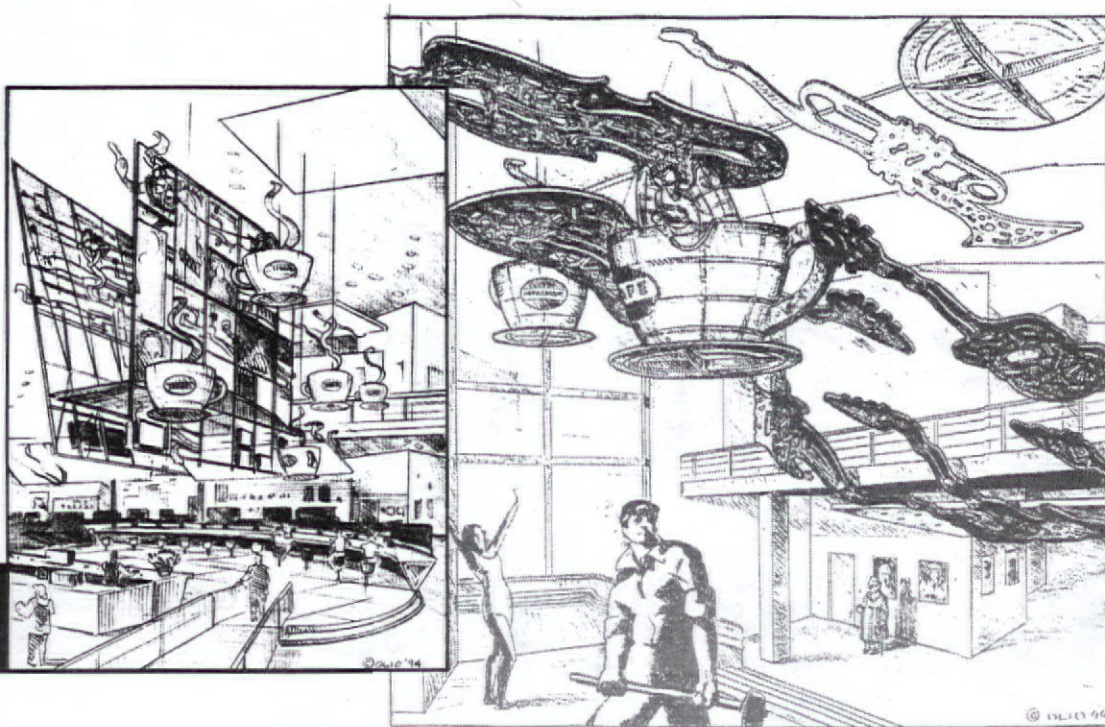
ARCHITECT. Specialized architectural consulting firm seeks architect with justice facilities experience. Programming, design, writing, and AutoCAD skills. Resume to: Roberta Simmons, SMC, 123 105th Ave. S.E., Bellevue, Wa. 98004.

WEEKEND TOUR OF CONTEMPORARY PHOENIX ARCHITECTURE. The Society of Architectural Historians, Southern California Chapter, is hosting a weekend tour of contemporary architecture and landscape in the Phoenix area, August 25-27, 1995, featuring several much talked about public and private projects, as well as some surprises.

Tour cost is \$500pp, and includes round-trip airfare from LAX, hotel accommodations at the Arizona Biltmore, and more! The tour is being arranged by Architours. For information and reservations: (818) 792-6758 or (213) 294-5825. Ask about family and group packages.

Left:
Fields & Devereaux is in charge of the second phase of historic renovation on the El Capitan Building, home of the Walt Disney theater of the same name. The work is sponsored by the building's new owner, Century Life of America, and is being aided by a \$225,000 grant from the President's Discretionary Fund.

Right:
Environmental design by Venice-based Olio for the Sam Goody store in Horton Plaza, San Diego.



at Lakewood Boulevard in Rosemead, turn right (south) on Lakewood, and continue two blocks. Turn left on Firestone Boulevard. The building is one-half block farther on the right, next to the Toyota dealership. Entrance and parking is to the rear. Further information and directions can be obtained by calling (310) 785-1809. RSVP.

In the furtherance of fusing the concept of sustainability into architecture, the AIA/LA Committee on the Environment has adopted the following mission statement:

1. Promote the business of sustainable architecture. Help create business opportunities for architects engaged in sustainable architecture.

2. Demonstrate the economic viability of sustainable architecture.

3. Demonstrate the design potential of sustainable architecture.

4. Make ecological architecture a focal point for business creation for architects.

5. Engage in the general promotion of ecological architecture by participation in the ongoing planning and rebuilding of the Los Angeles area.

DEBORAH WEINTRAUB AIA
HOFU WU AIA

Letters: Bob Kennard

(The following letter could not be included in last month's tribute to the late Robert Kennard, FAIA, because of space limitations:)

I've lived in Southern California since 1969, and have known Bob nearly the entire time. When I was working for Kaiser Permanente, I was asked to interview minority firms for a Women/Children Center in Watts, and I recommended the firm then known as Kennard/Silvers for this project. Although most of my contact with the firm was with Arthur Silvers, I had the opportunity of getting to know Bob quite well, and found him to be a warm, sensitive professional who was vitally interested in all aspects of his projects. Later, I worked with Bob and his firm on several proposals and learned much from our association.

I'll miss his warmth, his concern, his attention to minority students, and most of all, his unfailing kindness and accessibility. Speaking at his funeral service, Bob's daughter Gail described his approach to

life most eloquently, when she said that Bob had taught his children to respect, accept, and tolerate diversity, unconditionally.

DONALD C. AXON, FAIA

Get it Right, L.A. Architect!

In regard to the article, "Specifically Green," in the April issue of L.A. Architect:

As a member of the architectural community of Los Angeles, I would appreciate a more accurate use of the title *architect* in L.A. Architect.

Specifically, you referred to the principal of Environmental Enterprises Inc., John Picard, as an architect. To my knowledge, he is not an architect, nor does he likely have any desire to become one. It is difficult enough trying to get the public to understand what an architect is, without the organization which supposedly represents architects confusing the issue. I accept these simple-minded mistakes from other newspapers and magazines, but the editors of L.A. Architect should know better.

KEVIN SOUTHERLAND

Publish, Or...

Publisher John Wiley & Sons is preparing for publication a photo-book based on Home Office Design, set for release in September 1996. Members are invited to submit client projects for possible inclusion, such as workstations, tightly organized apartment workspaces, or elaborate additions.

Submit inquiries or non-returnable review material as soon as possible to: Neal Zimmerman, AIA, Home Office Design Book, 744 Trout Brook Drive West Hartford, CT 06119.

People and Projects

Gensler is designing the executive offices for First Hawaiian Bank's new headquarters in

Honolulu. Interiors will incorporate stone floors with contemporary shoji walls of wood and glass, finished with white plaster walls. The color palette is neutral to complement and frame the bank's mauka and makai (mountain and ocean) views, according to project designer Robert Green.

Construction has started on three buildings of the Brandeis Bardin Institute in Simi Valley. The new buildings replace three structures destroyed in the Northridge earthquake.

Designed by Widom Wein Cohen, the one-story buildings are to be used for multi-purpose meetings, dining, and administration. "The underlying design concept calls for reflecting the human values of the institute and integrating the architecture with the area's rustic environment," said Chester A. Widom, FAIA.

IEDC, a design consulting firm headquartered in Manila, the Philippines, has opened a Los Angeles branch and appointed Craig Kronenberg, AIA, as partner. IEDC and its affiliated firm PRSP are responsible for such projects as the 35-story Citibank Headquarters, the PDLT Tower, and the Renaissance Towers, an office and mixed use project located in Manila. Most recently a partner at Johannes Van Tilburg and Partners, Kronenberg designed the Oxford Factory Outlet, as well as medical and office buildings in Los Angeles and Rotterdam. Earlier at Skidmore Owings and Merrill, he was engaged in such projects as the Asian Development Bank in the Philippines and Symphony Towers in San Diego.

Melendrez Associates has been selected to design the landscape and site work for the proposed Pasadena Transportation Center, a new multi-modal transportation hub being developed by the City of Pasadena and the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transit Authority. The center, which will be constructed on MTA property to serve MTA light rail trains as well as various other modes of transportation, will consist of a

multi-level parking structure and various other support facilities.

The multidisciplinary project team is headed by International Parking Design and CHCG Architects. Melendrez Associates is also developing a plan for Old Pasadena streetscapes and alley walkways.

George Wein, AIA, Northridge, has been reappointed as a director of the Metropolitan Water District. Wein, a partner of Santa Monica-based Widom Wein Cohen, is a director and member of the executive committee of the Valley Industry and Commerce Association (VICA) and immediate past chair of its water committee.

Johnson Fain and Pereira Associates is designing a 57,000-square-foot mixed-use office building for Newhall Land & Farming Company in Valencia. The three-story building will be the first structure on Town Center Drive. JFP is also at work on a 25,000-square-foot wine production facility in northern Santa Barbara County for the Byron Winery. The structure will be the latest major addition to the expanding winery region, including Santa Teresa, Santa Inez and Santa Barbara.

The Los Angeles Board of Airport Commissioners in May selected Kaplan/Mclaughlin/Diaz to redesign the departure and mezzanine levels of the Tom Bradley International Terminal at Los Angeles International Airport. The 85,000-square-foot project involves 14,000 square feet of additional retail space.

Richard Weinstein, the former dean of the UCLA Graduate School of Architecture and Urban Planning, has been selected to design a 46,000-square-foot Ralphs Grocery Store immediately south of the Wilshire Center and Theatre. The developer is The Ratkovich Company.

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AIA/LA



President's Message

Last month's 1995 AIA Convention in Atlanta had the theme of "ReVISIONing: Seeing Ourselves as Collaborative Leaders." Apparent throughout the conference was the importance of continuing education. This year's most controversial resolution was 95.2, which was a motion to abolish the current **mandatory** continuing education system, replacing it with a **voluntary** program.

I support the requirement for continuing education as a condition of membership! The results of a recent Chapter survey, as well as a long debate at our April retreat, however, suggests that one-third of our members have serious reservations about this issue. This disagreement reflects our nature: architects are independent minded. They don't like to be told what to do. We believe in continuing education, of course, but why should it be mandatory?

Rapid changes in our society, our economy, our demographics, our technology, are forcing us to change. As our friends at the AIA Pasadena and Foothill Chapter say, "Evolve or Die." Our fellow architects, as well as those in allied professions, are nipping at our heels. From strategic planning and program management, on one side, to design/build and construction management, on the other, we're losing work at both ends. We are falling behind by failing to adapt to the changing needs of clients. Architects who haven't stayed current and those few who have been irresponsible, have hurt us all. Those architects who "blow" budgets and schedules and neglect the client's needs have made us vulnerable. Other professionals who definitely assume responsibility for meeting clients' needs for a well-functioning project, built within a budget and schedule, are getting our work. The result is construction management and design/build.

Some state registration boards are so concerned about the inability of architects to stay up-to-date that they are implementing mandatory continuing education to renew registration. These requirements should not be necessary. AIA, with our mandatory continuing education system, (AIA/CES) demonstrates leadership and the

appropriate solution. Regulatory agencies need not mandate education, if our Institute can accomplish the same goals.

Delegates at the convention reaffirmed their support for mandatory education by voting against Resolution 95.2. Mandatory continuing education is successful in other professions, such as medicine, law, and accounting. A successful program will improve our value to clients and heighten our impact on the built environment. We may lose members through the requirement, but hopefully, the loss will come from those who have fallen behind, and those who have hurt the reputation of responsible architects.

Now is the time for our Institute to refine AIA/CES. The program must be accessible, not only to those in Los Angeles, but to members in remote areas. Through our journals, video tapes and yes, AIA Online, we should reach all members. The cost of programs must be affordable and charges for recording credits free. And through AIA Online, members could record earned credits on an Honor Basis.

Are you interested in earning learning units? Call our Chapter office, or the chair of our Lifelong Learning Committee, Michael King, at (310) 578-6278. We offer several programs currently, and, with your support, they can multiply.

LANCE BIRD, AIA PRESIDENT

Los Angeles Invades Atlanta

To paraphrase a popular ad: I can't believe I did the whole thing! For whatever reason, I found the National AIA Convention in Atlanta even more exhausting than our own L.A. convention last year, and I spent two years involved in the planning and execution of that event. (And, of course, we all know that the L.A. Convention was the best ever.)

In Atlanta, we were on the go from dawn until almost midnight for five days. Starting with regional caucus breakfasts—at 7 am, no less! — we attended theme sessions, business sessions, professional development seminars, investiture of the New Fellows of the Institute, receptions and evening events.

Five AIA/LA members were elevated to Fellowship: Martin Gelber, Steve Johnson, Hendrik Koning, Takashi Shida and David Martin. The investiture ceremony was, as always, very moving. Congratulations to all.

Newly elected officers, effective 1996, include: First Vice President-President Elect: Raj Burr Kumar, FAIA, of Washington, D.C. Vice President: Richard Bradfield, FAIA, of Georgia. Michael Stanton, FAIA, of California (Hooray!). Joseph J. Wisniewski, AIA, of Virginia. Treasurer: L. Duane Grieve, AIA, of Tennessee. Raymond "Skipper" Post Jr, FAIA, will be AIA President in 1996 and James H. Anstis, FAIA, will continue his two-year term as Secretary.

Among the resolutions passed at the convention:

95.1 Rescind the Interior Design Accord. Intent: to rescind the AIA, ASID, IBD and ISID Title Certification Accord, entered into in 1988. **Defeated.**

95.2 Re-Direct the AIA Continuing Education System. Intent: to redirect the current system of mandatory education to one that recognizes continuing education as a learning achievement and assures compatibility with requirements of regulatory agencies. **Defeated.** (Note: The AIA Continuing Education System will remain mandatory. The Board has directed management to waive fees for creation or maintenance of Continuing Education records.)

Among the amendments to bylaws:

95.A Governance Policies. Discussion postponed to 1996 Convention.

95.B Transfer of Assigned Membership. Expedite the transfer process and stipulates that transferring members pay due only once a year. **Approved.**

95.C Hardship Dues Reduction by the Component. Gives the component, in consultation with the Institute Secretary, the responsibility of deciding whether a member is eligible for a hardship waiver of dues or fees at any level of AIA membership. **Approved as amended.**

Spaces does not permit full information on several other Board actions, including: 1) Revised and proposed AIA Public Policies. For copies, contact Nancy Sommerville, Hon. AIA, at (202) 626-7386; 2) Raising Awareness of about Intern Compensation Laws; 3) Standard for Licensure; and 4)

Single-Point Dues Collections. Further information can be obtained by calling AIA/California Council at (916) 448-9082.

You would have really enjoyed the Theme and General Session, particularly the one anchored by Arthur Gensler, FAIA, and the 1995 AIA Gold Medalist Cesar Pelli, FAIA, as well as the panel discussion on "Building New Relationships," moderated by Kim Taylor Thompson.

It's difficult to convey the excitement—and fun—of an AIA Convention to those who have not attended: the stimulation of "networking" with colleagues from all over the country; the opportunities to enhance your professional practice and competence; and, not least, the chance to learn about, and influence, the direction of the Institute. As they say, you had to have been there! Maybe in Minneapolis, next May?

JANICE AXON,
HON. AIA

Committees: IDP Workshop

The CBAE.AIACC Intern Development Program Implementation Task Force is coming to Los Angeles. Hear what task force members have to say about the future California IDP Mandate. Learn how it is going to affect both yourself as a professional and your firm when Mandate is enacted. Engage in the discussion.

All this will take place at IDP Mentor/Sponsor Workshop scheduled for Saturday, June 17, from 9 am to 12 pm, at the office of Gensler & Associates, 2500 Broadway, Suite 300, Santa Monica. More information can be obtained by calling Ethel Rubio at (213) 386-7070, ext. 255.

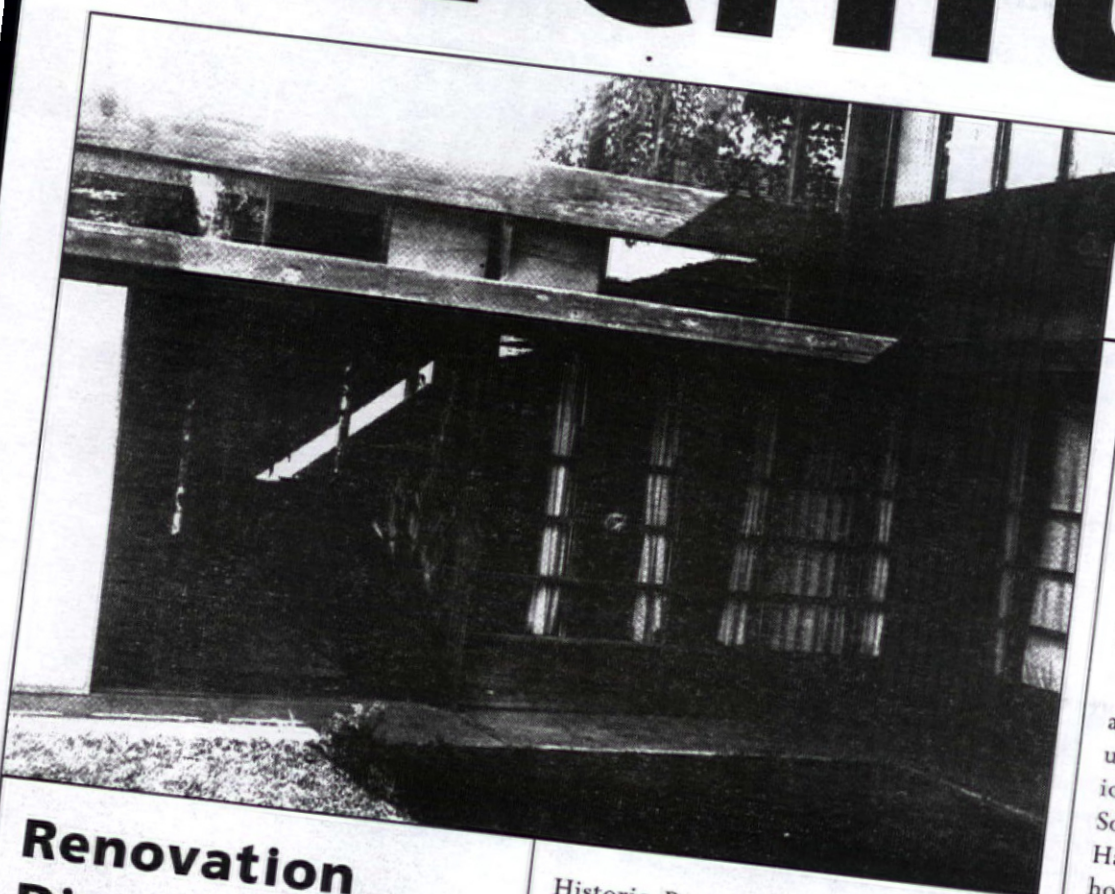
Environment

Join the Committee on the Environment for a tour on June 20 of the new Energy Resource Center, recently completed by Southern California Gas Company. The building is one of a handful of structures in Southern California that has been designed for sustainability, and it is well worth the tour. Project architect is Wolff, Lang, Christopher.

The address is 9240 E. Firestone Blvd., Downey, CA. The tour is at 6:30 pm. Directions: Take the Santa Ana (5) Freeway south, exit

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Renovation Dispute at Schindler House

The City of West Hollywood issued a stop work order in late April, after officials discovered that the Friends of the Schindler House had started renovating the historic structure without a building permit.

Members of the Los Angeles AIA Historic Resources Committee alerted West Hollywood officials, when they learned that the Friends had allegedly removed historic fabric, as well as used materials that were allegedly out of keeping with the original structure.

The city's Cultural Heritage Advisory Board subsequently held a hearing regarding the house, and approved the renovation work retroactively. Last year, the Austrian government provided funds to renovate the building.

"This particular house is an extremely important resource for Los Angeles and for the architectural community here. It was disturbing that work was going on without the proper reviews," said Gordon Olschlager, AIA, chair of the Chapter's

Historic Resources Committee, adding that the unauthorized work "sets a bad precedent for historic properties."

Olschlager also expressed concern about plans to build a bookstore behind the house, and its potential impact on the house's carefully designed landscape plan.

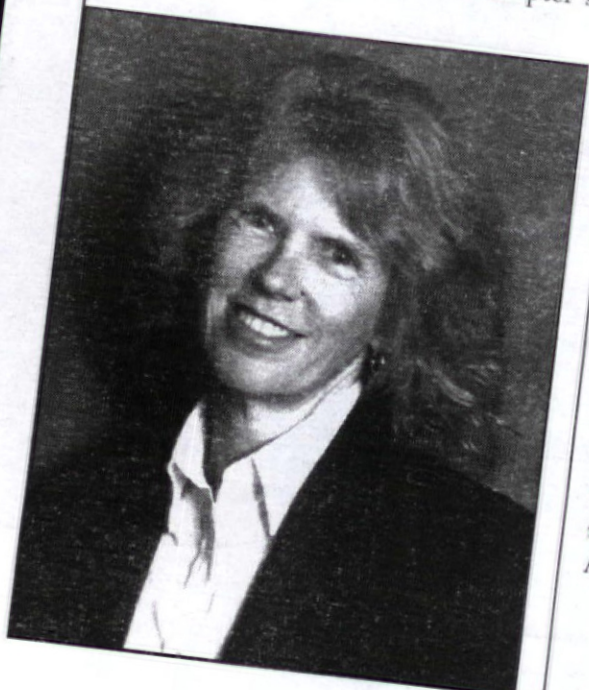
Bob Sweeney, long-time president of the Friends of the Schindler House, in an interview asserted that all the renovations were historically correct but acknowledged that he had not consulted with any Schindler experts outside the Schindler House board before undertaking the work.

The Historic Resources Committee has asked West Hollywood to review all work to be done at the Schindler House, as well require a historic structures report to be used as a guide for any future renovation work.

Built in 1921, the Schindler house was the architect's first independent work in California and was his long-time residence. The design is noted for its building techniques and the use of industrial materials, as well as an unusual plan that integrates courtyards and landscaping.

Julia Thomas Honored

Julia Thomas, chairman and CEO of Bobrow/Thomas & Associates, was the honoree in May at the annual Tribute to Women luncheon, sponsored by the Westside Women's Health Center in Santa Monica. Thomas, a non-architect who heads one of the city's most active health-care design firms, was recognized "for her long history as a community and business leader and her special concern for health issues." She sits on many boards and commissions, and is Chair of the Health Issues Committee of the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce.



Habitat Hits L.A.

Habitat for Humanity, the non-profit group that builds housing for low-income residents, plans a "Blitz Week" starting June 18, when volunteers plan to build 21 houses in Willowbrook, an unincorporated area of Los Angeles County near Watts.

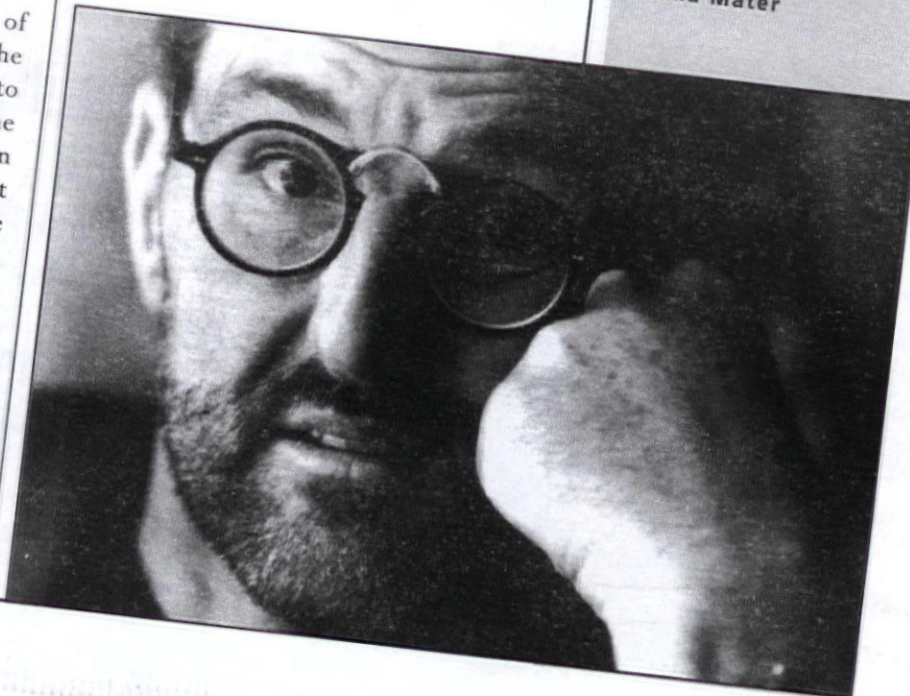
Habitat bought the property two years ago, but delayed construction until an understanding could be reached with residents about the nature of the housing. Some residents reportedly feared that the Habitat-built houses would be public housing and attract "undesirable residents." Habitat subsequently hired Lawrence Williamson, a developer, as a community liaison. In response to the community, the houses will be multi-bedroom houses, which are larger than those typically built by Habitat.

The group plans or has built houses in South Central Los Angeles and in Venice. Habitat relies on volunteer labor and design. Seraphima Lamb, AIA, is among the architects contributing a design to the Willowbrook project.

USC Fetes Morphosis' Mayne

Thom Mayne, co-founder and principal of Morphosis, was honored in May as 1995 Distinguished Alumnus by the University of Southern California School of Architecture.

Dean Victor Regnier described Mayne, who earned his Bachelor of Architecture in 1969 and established Morphosis in 1975, as "one of the school's most illustrious graduates," adding, that his work "continues to be thought-provoking and to stimulate discussion about the nature of architecture as we enter the 21st century."



Top right:
Schindler House:
Unauthorized
Renovations

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