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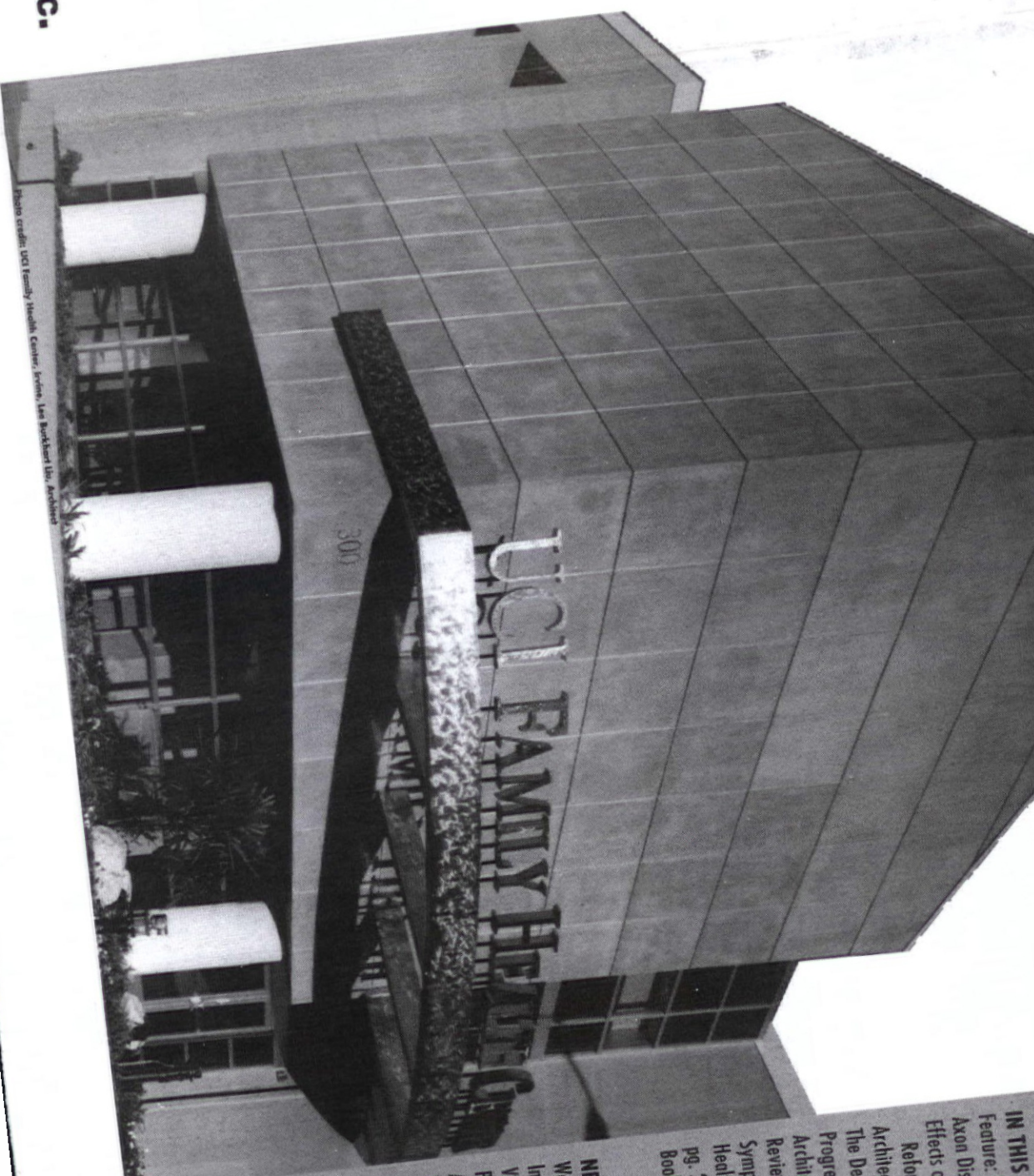


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February 1996

# L.A. Architect

HEALTHCARE:  
Trends and Changes



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**NEXT MONTH:**  
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Personally Speaking,  
LA Architects' newest  
column dedicated to  
contents of the con-  
sumer

**April:**  
Affirmative Action: LA  
Architect wants to  
know your opinion!



# February

## february

All meetings will be held in the PDC Blue Board Room, unless otherwise noted. \*Contact the Office at 310.785.1809 to verify meetings and locations.

### thursday, feb. 1

6:30 p.m. - Urban Design Committee

### saturday, feb. 3

8:30a.m. - 1:00 p.m. - AIA/LA Board & Committee retreat @ the Tanaka Residence

### monday, feb. 5

5:30 p.m. - Architecture Auction Committee\*

### tuesday, feb. 6

4:00 p.m. - LA Architect Round Table @ Chapter Office

### wednesday, feb. 7

6:00 p.m. - Architectural Foundation/LA

### thursday, feb. 8

5:15 p.m. - Codes Committee @ Chapter Office  
(bold) AIA/LA Masters of Architecture Lecture Series: Thom Mayne @ LACMA

### friday, feb. 9

12:00 p.m. LA Architect Excom

### monday, feb. 12

5:30 p.m. - Interior Architecture Auction Committee\*

### tuesday, feb. 13

7:00 p.m. - Associates Committee  
7:00 p.m. - Young Architects Forum\*

### wednesday, feb. 14

Valentine's Day

### thursday, feb. 15

3:30 p.m. - Health Committee @ Chapter Office  
5:00 p.m. - Committee on the Environment\*  
6:30 p.m. "Good Design, Good Business" Lecture Series, Marc Appleton's Office\*

### monday, feb. 19

5:30 p.m. - Interior Architecture Auction\*

### tuesday, feb. 20

(bold) 6:00 p.m. - AIA Interior Architecture Committee 3rd Annual Auction @ PDC, G-492

### wednesday, feb. 21

7:30 a.m. - LA Architect Board  
5:45 p.m. - MicroFirm Group Lecture, "Specifications for Small Projects"

### tuesday, feb. 27

4:00 p.m. - AIA/LA Excom @ Chapter Office

5:30 p.m. - AIA/LA Board @ Chapter Office  
6:00 p.m. - Interiors Committee @ Universal Contract Interiors\*

### wednesday, Feb. 28

8:00 p.m. - International Practice Committee\*

## SAVE THE DATE

Masters of Architecture Series

Thom Mayne, AIA will be speaking Friday, February 8 at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA). Mayne, founder of Morphosis and recipient of the prestigious Rome prize in 1987, is the first of many internationally acclaimed architects slated to speak in the 1996 series of lectures entitled, Masters of Architecture presented by AIA/LA and LACMA. Architects who have participated in the past include Fay Jones, Jean Nouvel, Renzo Piano, Frank Gehry and others. Each lecture will take place at 6:30 pm at the Museum's Bing Theatre, 5905 Wilshire Boulevard. For more information, call LACMA Ticket sales, (213) 857-6010.

Rem Koolhaas at UCLA

Rem Koolhaas, principal of O.M.A., whose work was featured in the recent exhibition "O.M.A. at MOMA: Rem

Koolhaas and the Place of Public Architecture," will be in town February 15, 1996, to promote his soon to be published book, S, M, L, XL, co-authored with Bruce Mau (The Monacelli Press, 1996.) Koolhaas will be lecturing at the School of Architecture, UCLA at 6:30 p.m., (310) 825-7858. He will also be scheduled to sign books at Hennessey + Ingalls, on the Third Street Promenade, 1:00 p.m., (310) 458-9074.

Circle of Green

The International Interior Design Association is presenting a day long environmental program entitled, Circle of Green, Tuesday February 27, 1996 at the Southern California Gas Co. Energy Resource Center in Downey. Workshops include: Recycling and Life, Environmental Illnesses, The GREENhouse, and the Recyclable Market, and a symposium, "It's Not Easy Going Green." CEU credits are available. For information and registration call 310.657.0244 ext. 7.

Winning Strategies in Russia, California Style

The Russian-American Chamber of Commerce, the Los Angeles Mayor's Office of Economic Development and the Foreign Trade Association of Southern California are co-organizing a business conference on how California companies are succeeding in Russia. The conference

will take place February 28 at the Century Plaza Hotel in Los Angeles.

Registration for the event is \$295. For information call Melissa Peterson at 800.842.5583, or fax to 303.745.0776.

## Classifieds

Steven Ehrlich Architects is now accepting applications for a Project Manager (w/min. 10 years experience) & Job Captain (Autocad 13) for large new entertainment campus. FAX ONLY (310) 828-7710, Attn: Nick Seirup.

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Interior, Shiley Eye Center at UCSD. (Courtesy of Anshen + Allen)

in the non-structural aspects - failures in sprinkler systems, equipment anchoring, suspended ceilings, elevators and guide rails, etc. - rather than in structural aspects, albeit that, for a wide variety of reasons, the Steel Moment Resisting Frame (SMRF) structures appeared to be fraught with near failures. Considering

Reducing this time frame would benefit the entire health care system. Another problem, is the cost of plan checking. Consider this: the design team for a large hospital receives about 8% of the construction costs for the design and planning of all of the facility's complicated systems, including assumption of the lia-

resolve deficiencies by the year 2008 or, (2) whether or not it would be feasible to continue to operate a licensed hospital. Further, the hospital must declare to OSHPD whether they will strengthen, decommission, or replace facilities which do not comply and that the compliance will be completed by the year 2030. The compliance plan, including details for resolving non-structural as well as structural issues plus a feasibility study, must be submitted by the year 2000. This is an excellent opportunity for architects to assist owners in complying with the regulations as well as implement the work noted in the conformance plans.

#### TECHNOLOGY

The problems with the proliferation of technology have become overwhelming. As Michael S. Broder, Chief Resident in OB/GYN at UCLA Medical Center, stated in an article the LA Times Editorial Section at the end of December, "The problem is that as consumers (and providers) of health care, we are all too willing to accept 'progress' that bypasses scientific methods of testing when we feel there is the chance to get something extra or new because of it. The moment

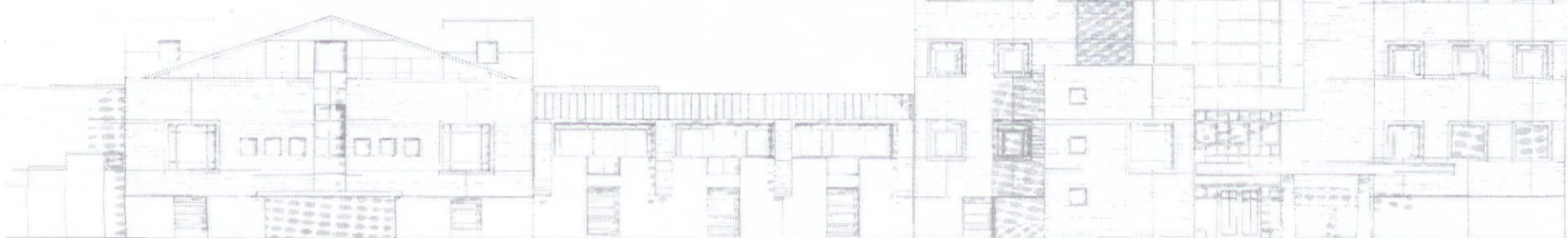
ulated by the robotic system on board the ambulance, performs the actual surgery by remote control!

Another presentation was delivered on digital imaging, which we witnessed first hand at Madigan Army Hospital in Tacoma, WA. The technician placed the cassettes in a processor which excited and digitized the phosphors and created an image on an adjacent computer screen. With the miracle of digitizing, the technician can manipulate the image to make it brighter or darker, blow it up for more detailed examinations, remove the "soft tissue" or perform nearly any procedure needed for analysis. The truly marvelous thing is that the technician did not have to be in the Madigan Hospital Imaging Department, he/she could have been three thousand miles away. Imagine what these two examples of modern technology could do for both rural and urban health care centers providing access to competent care swiftly and safely.

#### AVAILABLE RESOURCES

As is currently being played out in Los Angeles County, the issue of shrinking resources is wreaking havoc on the public

Orchard Pavilion, El Camino Hospital (Courtesy of LBL)



WEST ELEVATION

the several aspects of SMRF's that come into play (design requirements, design analysis, installation procedures and inspection policies), it is easy to develop scenarios in which there could be problems for architects occurring at any phase of the design and construction process.

As a result of SMRF "failures", various agencies are attempting to correct the problem by writing design codes that they feel would better solve the issue. Risk management, life safety, operational continuity and long term costs need to be better analyzed in the early design phases of projects.

The truly onerous aspect of the California Building Code, however, is not the structural safety aspect, but rather the plan checking process, which can take more than a year to accomplish.

bilities involved. Of that amount, the State takes nearly 25% to review the plans without incurring any responsibility or liability whatsoever. Obviously, change is needed. The AIA/CC and Los Angeles Chapter Health Facility committees must take the lead in discussions with OSHPD to effect this change.

On the bright side, regulations are being developed by OSHPD and SBSC, and legislation has been passed (SB 1953). Essentially, this law states that all acute care facilities in California must develop a long range plan to bring their facilities up to current code. Facilities built prior to 1973 are most "at-risk" in this concept. Acute-care facilities will not be "grandfathered in" and permitted to continue operation. They must demonstrate, (1) how they propose to

we hear that something will be taken away from us, however, we demand testing and rigorous proof". There seems to be a feeling among health care providers that each must own the latest in technology in order to "stay ahead of the pack," and for the user, the public, to assume that if one institution does not possess all of the latest technology, then that institution is not up to standards.

In the same breath, I should also state that we, as architects and planners, should be providing facilities that are adaptive to change, so that when new technologies are installed, the facility can adapt to the change with minimum costs and disruption to on-going operations.

At a recent AIA/AAH symposium, we witnessed several examples of modern technology that may have lasting and long range effects on the health care field. The first was a visual demonstration of "virtual surgery" being developed by the Department of Defense and others. During the height of the Desert Storm campaign, it was learned that, if wounded in the field, a soldier's chances of survival depended upon care being received within the first hour after the incident. As described to us, the field medic takes a picture of the soldier and the wound site, transmits it to a remote base and immediately gets the soldier to a new style "ambulance" resembling a tank. This ambulance contains a television, computer systems and a robotics system capable of performing actual operations. The robotic system is activated by a surgeon at the remote base, perhaps a thousand miles away, who, placing his/her hands in identical robotic gloves and picking up the surgical instruments sim-

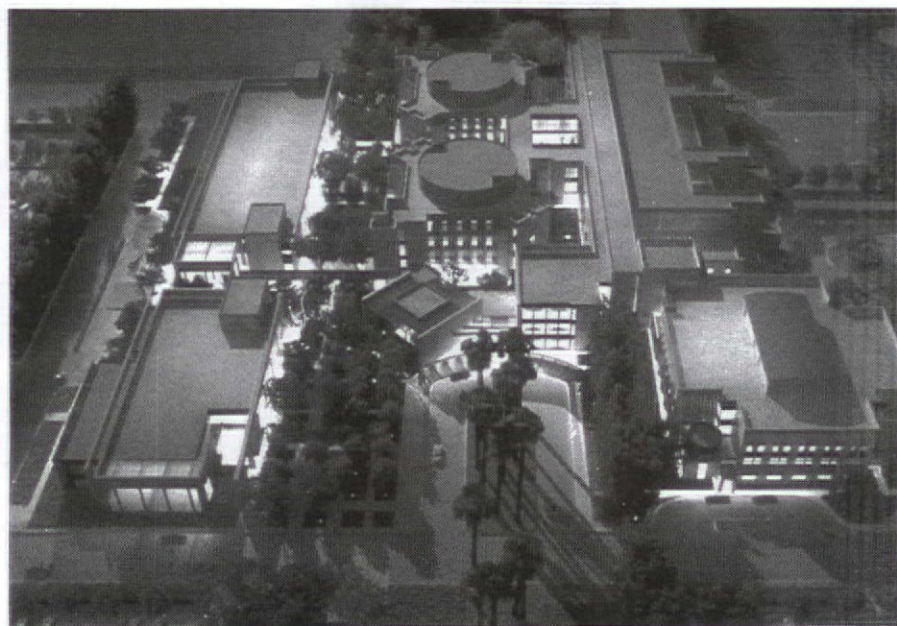
health care delivery system, primarily for its poor and under- or uninsured. Fortunately, this situation seems to be headed for some positive conclusion with the move toward public-private cooperation in the management and operation of many of the county's health centers.

The current trend toward out-patient care has altered the chain of command for the delivery of health care. Access to specialists is not always direct and is being switched to a system in which the Family Physicians or Primary Care Physicians are now acting as the "gatekeepers" to the health care system. Undoubtedly, this will result in less need for as many specialists. The down-side is that there are not enough trained Primary Care Physicians.

However, in the bigger picture, there is a driving need to better establish a reasonable and realistic level of funding, and for the provision of adequate and accessible health care in the United States. As employment has dropped drastically, particularly in Southern California, funds are not available to provide unending and complete health care services to all that demand it. We need to develop a system of personal health care education, sickness prevention and "public" health care to provide those services and ensure that our population stays healthy and productive.

It behooves us, as socially conscious health facility architects, not only to advocate and support such a system, but to come forward with creative and cost-effective methods to build the envelope to house it.

Donald C. Axon, FAIA



Model of High Desert Medical Center. (Courtesy of Anshen + Allen)



# Report on Healthcare

*Donald Axon, FAIA analyzes trends and changes in the health care industry and their effect on the practice of architecture*

## CHAPTER ANGELS

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## CHANGES ARE A'COMING

I am frequently asked what the future will be in the health care field and how this will relate to the practice of architecture as it currently exists. The answer will depend upon the focus of the question; there are a number of directions from which change is taking place. Taking them one at a time, perhaps we can come to an overall picture of what the future portends for architects in the health care field.

## INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBILITY

The Public Health aspects - disease prevention, health enhancement - have become less important as technology becomes more in demand. Vanishing funding resources accelerate the trend for federal shift of responsibilities to state and local agencies, without proper policy and funding. The agencies responsible for funding health care in the future will be assuming short-term, bottom-line policies that have proven so disastrous in the business world today: less concern for the purchaser, the worker and the environment, with stockholders' profit emerging as a commanding

motive in the operation of health facilities. It has been quite evident that "for-profits" tend to spend less for capital improvements and new technology than the "not-for-profits" and their public or university based counterparts, resulting in less work for architects and the construction industry. What work that will be available will be leaner, the struggle to obtain adequate fees will continue to worsen and stricter standards with less creativity will prevail in the design field.

## ORGANIZATION AND POLICIES OF HEALTH CARE DELIVERY SYSTEM

With the shifts in cost controls have come a very large increase in the provision of out-patient or ambulatory care and a subsequent decrease in the demand for in-patient bed care. The trend is to keep patients out of the in-patient milieu and move them into the out-patient sector, with significant reductions in the apparent costs for health care. Two aspects have arisen out of this trend which are discomfiting: (1) in-patients now tend to be much sicker than previously experienced and, (2)

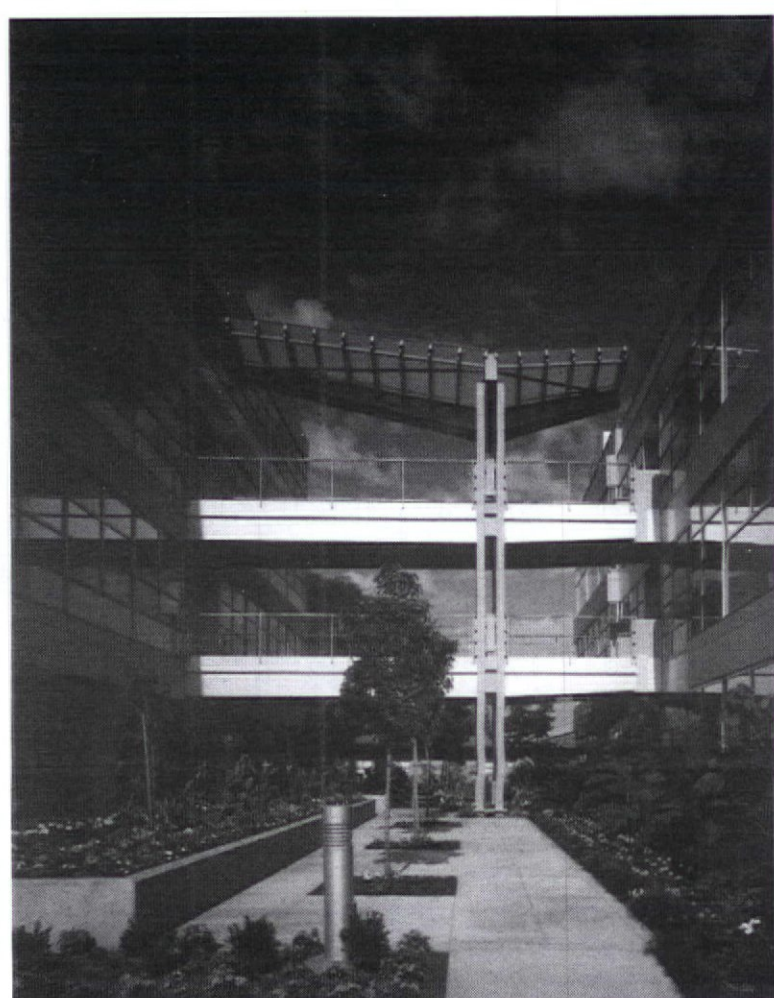


Photo Credit: The City of Hope Lab and Office Building demonstrates the total integration of indoor/outdoor spaces in a hospital in the tradition of Japanese design. (Courtesy of BTA.)



The 98,000sf Kaiser Regional Reference Laboratory in North Hollywood consolidates laboratory services for several Kaiser hospitals in the area. The consolidation releases space in existing facilities for alternative patient care functions and reduces staffing. (Courtesy of SMP)

patients are being discharged earlier, still ill and without adequate follow-up care, requiring repeat admissions to the in-patient status. Many of the protocols being applied in the name of "cost control" have not been adequately researched, nor have they proven cost effective. The same concerns are true, on the opposite side of the coin, for the overuse of technology and certain non-essential procedures. Many others should be questioned as to their efficacy and to the profit motive of the providers.

Health care providers are in a consolidation mode, with no end in sight. Consolidation gains them an edge on the purchase of supplies and the ability to offer a broader range of services. Staff is being down-sized at the administrative and management levels to reduce overhead costs and remain more competitive. In many cases, these efforts are long overdue, from a realistic point of view, and probably should have been started long ago when the inflation factors for health care were first noted.

The increase in ambulatory care and the subsequent decrease in inpatient care brings with it opportunities for architects to

assist owners in converting the excess inpatient space into well-functioning outpatient spaces. Other than merely converting existing patient rooms directly into outpatient space, there are several ways to accomplish this task. Depending upon the configuration of the existing inpatient space, such as single or double loaded corridor schemes, the "race-track" plan, triangular schemes, circular plans, etc., there are as many methods of accomplishing the conversion.

## REGULATORY AGENCIES

The regulatory process for the design and construction of hospitals and skilled nursing facilities in California is the most onerous of any place in the world at this time. The fact that California is on the Pacific Rim and subject to severe earthquakes has produced a very strict set of seismic requirements for the construction of health facilities. After the 1994 Northridge earthquake, these codes have proven to be reasonably adequate in ensuring the continued operations of "essential services" required by California legislation. Anomalies in the codes seem to occur more often



# Critique

3  
L.A. Architect February 1996

## Book Reviews

**The Architecture of Latin America**  
Edited by Miguel Angel Roca.  
(Academy Editions: \$38pb)

Too little is known in the US of its neighbors to the south. Attention is paid only when these countries are disrupted by a coup, and the coverage of architecture is equally spotty: Niemeyer stands for Brazil, Barragan and Legorreta for Mexico; the rest of Latin America is rarely featured in books and magazines. This cursory survey of Mexico and five countries of South America whets the appetite, but does little to satisfy it. The general and section introductions are almost unreadable, and only a handful of architects are represented. The Mexican section comprises work by two architects in their 70s, Legorreta (mostly foreign projects) and a younger partnership of landscape architects. There's only a passing mention of Enrique Norten/TEN and other adventurous spirits. A similar imbalance may characterize the remaining sections—it's hard to know.

—M.W.

**John M. Johansen: A Life in the Continuum of Modern Architecture.**

Essays by Richard Rogers and Lebbeus Woods, with text by John M. Johansen.  
(Rockport Publishers: \$39.99pb)

Over the past 50 years, Johansen has followed his own star, and it has led him in contradictory directions. "His work appears to be that of a dozen different people," remarks Peter Blake in an accompanying note. Johansen was born in New York, and studied with other post-war masters at the Harvard Graduate School of Design. But he soon departed from the orthodoxy of Gropius, to explore biomorphism, brutalism and plug-in structures (of which the Mommers Theater in Oklahoma City has become his best-known building). Text and pictures are integrated to create a vivid and provocative self-portrait. He damns Phil Donohue, who bought Johansen's 1966 Taylor house in Connecticut for nearly \$7 million in order to demolish it and "improve" the view from his own

mediocre house—the kind of crass "Philistinism" one would expect of someone whose experience of the world was shaped by television. And he blasts the self-indulgence of the post modernists—arguing for true symbolism in architecture rather than a parade of showy historical motifs. And he concludes with a series of visionary proposals that make one wonder if he is preparing to resuscitate Archigram. A splendidly challenging book by an architect who refuses to defer to fashion.

—M.W.

## EVENTS AROUND TOWN

**Franklin D. Israel Opens at MOCA**

The Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles (MOCA) will host an exhibition featuring the work of Franklin D. Israel entitled, "Out of Order: Franklin D. Israel" February 18, 1996 through May 26, 1996. The exhibit, part of the museum's Focus Series, is the first solo exhibition at MOCA by a "mid-career practitioner", and is presented as part of the Museum's "distinguished architecture programming." The exhibition will be composed of "dynamic, angular spaces" within the gallery rather than a retrospective and will include video commentary as a backdrop to images of selected current and recent projects.

Several events will be held in conjunction with the exhibition including "Art Talks" at MOCA, Sundays, March 3 and 24. The School of Architecture and Fine Arts at UCLA is planning a symposium, February 10 at the UCLA Fowler Museum, in honor of Israel's 50th birthday with guests Mitchell DeJarnett, Sylvia Lavin, Frank Gehry and others. Tours of several projects by Israel are scheduled for March 16 and 17.

For more information regarding the exhibit or "Art Talks" and to show your support for architecture programming, call MOCA at 213.621.2766. For information regarding the symposium at UCLA, call 310.825.6540. For information regarding tours, call Architours at 213.294.5825.

**Avenues, Arts and Architecture of South Central Los Angeles**

The Society of Architectural Historians, Southern California

Chapter (SAH/SCC), the National Organization of Minority Architects, Los Angeles, and the Los Angeles Conservancy are joining forces to present "Avenues, Arts and Architecture of South Central Los Angeles." Organized by Los Angeles Conservancy, this 2-hour bus tour gives a detailed history of the architectural and multi-cultural significance of this community from the late 1800's at Biddy Mason Wall and Park downtown and includes sites such as the Dunbar Hotel by Paul R. Williams.

The Central Avenue Symposium, which will discuss historic and contemporary issues in urban Los Angeles, will be moderated by architectural historian Carson Anderson, who developed the tour and accompanying pamphlet. Invited guests include mystery writers, Paula Woods and Gary Phillips, and Los Angeles Times staff writer, Lynell George. It promises to be a thought provoking afternoon!

The bus tour (\$40, \$30 for members) will take place Sunday, February 11, 1995, the Symposium (\$15, \$10 for members) is scheduled for Sunday, February 18, 1996 at the Dunbar Hotel [please note the change in date earlier reported for the Symposium]. For information call SAH/SCC, (800) 9-SAHSCC.

## COMPETITIONS

**House Beautiful Architecture Award**

The year 1996 marks the 100 year anniversary of House Beautiful, and in celebration, the magazine announces its Centennial Award which recognizes outstanding residential architecture in the U.S. The winning design will be featured in the centennial issue of House Beautiful and an award of \$20,000 will be presented to the architect of the project at a ceremony in the fall of 1996. Entries will be juried by Walter Chatham, President of the Architectural League, Deborah Dietsch, Editor in Chief, Architecture magazine, Frances Halsband, Partner, R.M. Kliment & Frances Halsband Architects, Donlyn Lyndon, Architect, Writer, and lecturer, Terence Riley, Chief Curator, Architecture and Design, Museum of Modern Art and Louis Oliver Gropp, Editor in Chief, House Beautiful. Entries must be

received by April 30, 1996. Competition guidelines are available in the January issue of House Beautiful magazine, page 41.

**1996 AIA Photography Competition**

AIA St. Louis, sponsor of the official AIA photo contest, is now accepting entries for the annual competition of photography with an architectural theme. All architects registered in the U.S., as well as Associate members of the AIA and student members of AIAS in good standing are eligible to enter. (Sorry, Professional Affiliates are not eligible.) Cash prizes in the amounts of \$700, \$500, and \$300 will be awarded. Images for the 1998 AIA Engagement Calendar will be selected from all submitted entries. The entry fee for five slides is \$20 for members, \$25 for non-members. Entry forms and complete details can be obtained by sending a self-addressed, stamped envelope to: AIA St. Louis, 911 Washington Ave., #225, St. Louis, MO, 63101. Hurry, the deadline for submissions is March 1!

## HELP!

LA Architect's computer and monitor have died!

Help us in our efforts to get a new system by contributing to our computer fund or donating equipment. We need the following: 21" screen monitor, Macintosh Power PC, Zip drive, and current versions of QuarkXPress, Microsoft Office, and other graphics software. The Editorial Board thanks you for your continued support of the paper. Call Rochelle at (310) 785-1813.

## ERIC OWEN MOSS BUILDING SEEKS REVIEW AS ART

On February 21, 1996 at 7:00 p.m. the Culver City Arts Committee will review under the City's Art in Public Places requirement, (APP), an application from Samitaur Constructs for Eric Owen Moss's latest building, 3535 Hayden Avenue, a new office building. This application is the first to test the new ordinance allowing architecture to qualify as public art.

The meetings open to the public, held in the Culver City City Hall, 9770 Culver Boulevard.

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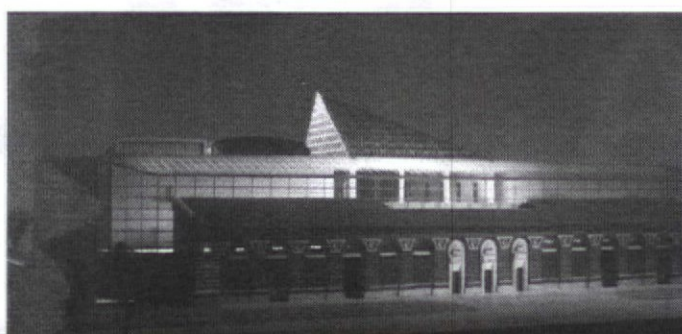
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# AIA/LA

Model of the California Museum of  
Science and Industry by Los Angeles  
architects, ZGF.



## Essay

### Times Trials by Michael Hricak

Stop me if you've heard this one.

You're eighteen years old. Did pretty well in high school. Your study habits and general learning skills are considered advanced by current standards. Perhaps you've crammed for the occasional final, but you've always been able to balance school, extracurricular activities, a so-called social life and a part-time job.

Your future is bright.

During the first day, week, or month of architecture school, you are told in one way or another, that "if you've chosen architecture because you want to make money (read, 'a living'), you're sadly mistaken." Another subtler, but more insidious lesson, is a shift in the value of your time. These two messages are inextricably linked. Except for waiting for the Rose Parade or maybe prom night, you've never been up all night, and certainly not for work or school. Suddenly you find yourself in a situation where hours have no value, yet there are never enough. Your time management habits, which served you well for the first part of your life, are now useless.

Unrealistic expectations aside, you are learning new habits. Not only is it necessary to work incredibly long hours, those of your classmates who attempt to maintain some form of life balance are considered slackers. The message is clear: good design necessitates countless hours, and it is a badge of honor to live or work in this manner. Your time is of secondary importance to the product. The more time spent, the better the result. (Both of these beliefs are suspect, especially in light of current thinking about how humans work and thrive.)

From a financial perspective, the result of these attitude shifts towards time appears to be useful to the profession. Every year the schools deliver thousands of intelligent, talented, and skilled graduates who are willing to work long hours for poor wages. Their belief in the need to do this is one of the more memorable messages they have received.

But now the problems begin.

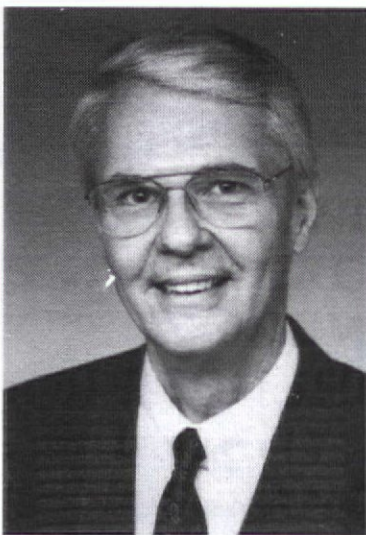
Although they have poor to no time management skills, and even less respect for their own time, we expect them to now value and take seriously the schedules and time allotments we've established based on our contracts and fees. And if it takes more time than is budgeted? No problem. We'll put them on salary. This is not only a misinformed and eventually self-destructive tactic, but it flirts with labor law compliance.

Ultimately the continuing discount in the value of time for professional services reduces the quality of service a profession can deliver. As professional services are considered more and more a commodity and society insists upon both a "deal" and flawless service, financial and/or legal conflict becomes inevitable. The graduates who got the message that services must be unfairly given away are those who will do the same as practitioners.

The Institute, a few years ago commissioned an extensive report on architectural education. I eagerly await the Boyer Report's examination of the issue of time and the student/graduate's attitude towards it. What exactly is learned in school and from whom?

Oh, by the way, about the Boyer Report, it's late. Don't worry, its only time.

## PEOPLE AND PLACES



Wantland J. (Jay) Smith, AIA, Vice President, Director of Justice Services for HOK, Los Angeles.

Wantland J. (Jay) Smith, AIA joins the Los Angeles office of Hellmuth, Obata & Kassabaum (HOK). Smith, Chair of the AIA

National Committee for Justice comes to HOK from Rosser International where he was the Vice President of West Coast Operations. With more than 20 years of experience focused in justice facility design, Smith will be assuming the position of Vice President, Director of Justice Services....Ethel Rubio, Associate AIA has established her own planning and design consulting services, Ethel G. Rubio, Associate AIA. She is an active member in AIA/LA, the Editorial Board of LA Architect, USC Architectural Guild, the Junior Chamber of Commerce, and the Riordan Volunteer Leadership Development Program. Rubio was Assistant Project Manager at HNTB Corporation, LA prior to opening her own office....Michael Bobrow, AIA, Design Principal at Bobrow/Thomas and Associates has been appointed as a member of the Board and Chair of the new Westwood Village Business Improvement District's Strategic Planning and Design Committee. He is charged with helping to formulate a new vision for the community based upon the community's architectural characteristics and direct reassessment of the Specific Plan....Jamie Lee Roach joins HCA Partners, Inc. in Pasadena as Project Director. Roach has 20 years experience in the design field. Her list of projects includes the design of the 50,000sf corporate offices and sound studios for the KABC/KLOS Radio Facility in Culver City with her own firm, Jamie Roach Design....Nadel Architects, Inc. was awarded the coveted contract for the renovation of the Old Broadway building in downtown Los Angeles. Nadel a 23 year fixture in Los Angeles is known for their public sector work, but has a track record in renovation, historic restoration and private sector projects as well....Construction is now underway for the California Museum of Science and Industry designed by Los Angeles architects, Zimmer Gunsul Frasca Partnership (ZGF). The California Science Center will be one of the few facilities in the U.S. to combine a major science center, a neighborhood elementary school with a science focus, and a professional development center for science educators in one location....The AIA/LA Chapter Office welcomes Erin Kennedy to the staff as the new Events Coordinator/Executive Assistant.

## IDP Overview

UCLA Extension is offering a 2-part course in the Intern Development Program. This overview, led by Ronald Takaki, AIA, is designed to give guidance to graduates seeking licensure as to the skills and experience needed in their internships. For information, call 310.825.9971 or 818.784.7006.

## COMMITTEE NEWS

### LA Architect Round Table

The LA Architect Editorial Board invites you to attend our Round Table Discussion, Tuesday, February 6, 1996 at 4:00-5:30 p.m. at the Chapter Office to discuss the format and content of the publication. RSVP to 310.785.1813.

### Urban Design Committee

The Urban Design Committee will have its first meeting this month. See Calendar page 7 for details.

## OOPS!

The photograph in the lower corner on page 3 was incorrectly placed. It should have accompanied the critique of Frederick Fisher's monograph because it is a rendering of his office. The caption should have read: Frederick Fisher & Partners, Architects has recently purchased and moved into the former offices of architect A. Quincy Jones, at 12248 Santa Monica Boulevard in West Los Angeles. Built in 1956 and enlarged three years later with a two-story addition, the building is a classic example of the California Modern. The new tenants intend to preserve the original A. Quincy Jones office structure and built-in furniture. (Rendering courtesy of the A. Quincy Jones Architecture Archive)

The Chapter Office has new hours:

Monday, Tuesday,  
Wednesday and Friday  
10:00 a.m. to  
5:00 p.m., and Thursday  
10:00 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.



# L.A. Architect

L.A. Architect February 1996

## The Sudden Demise of Progressive Architecture

On January 2, the owner of Progressive Architecture informed the staff that the publication had been sold to a competitor and was abruptly going out of business. The January issue, which would have contained the annual P.A. Awards, would not be published.

The buyer was Billboard Publications Inc., which owns Architecture magazine, among other trade journals. In a market of only three national magazines devoted to architecture, Billboard's move is a bald attempt to capture market share and advertising revenues. But hey! Nothing personal. It's only business.

For most architects, the first reaction to the sale is the loss of the annual P.A. Awards, which had become the most prestigious in the profession. I would suggest that the loss goes deeper still, however. In 1993, P.A.'s editors took an enormous risk by redefining its mission. Forgoing the formula of publishing glamorous layouts of dazzling projects, P.A. chose to be the only magazine that consistently addressed issues at a time of unprecedented instability and insecurity in the profession. Many recent issues dealt with uncomfortable topics, such as the abuse of interns, sexual harassment, the lack of progress in the profession by minorities, and even the relevance of the AIA itself. And among all the American magazines, P.A. was the one most committed to design criticism, even if it meant alienating some "star" architects, whom, ironically, the magazine had helped make famous in the halcyon 1970s and '80s.

It's hard to say who was more callous: Billboard, or P.A.'s former owner, Penton Publishing. By knowingly selling P.A. to Billboard, Penton acted contemptuously toward a distinguished staff of editors, including John Morris Dixon, who had headed the magazine for more than 25 years. During that time he had become a major tastemaker in American architecture. Sending P.A. to the glue farm was strange, even appalling behavior, toward people who had operated the most honored architectural magazine in America, which had been in continuous existence for 75 years.

No conceivable rationale justifies the action of killing what was, in the eyes of many, the country's most important architectural magazine. It was no secret that P.A. was losing money, and it is understandable, given the bottom line mentality of the 1990s, that Penton would want to "spin it off." What is unforgivable, however, is the cynicism of a quick sale (the rumored price was a mere \$1 million) in the sure foreknowledge of the magazine's demise. (The sale appears to have completed just before the closing of 1995, presumably for tax purposes.) The respective

presidents of Penton and Billboard are said to be good friends, and one can almost imagine this deal being hatched on the golf course.

Penton should have had enough respect for P.A., as well as the architectural community, to have held out for a good faith buyer who would give the magazine a chance to prove itself in the marketplace. (Editors told me that, in fact, the first three issues of 1996 had sold enough advertising to be profitable.) Penton and Billboard apparently did not understand that P.A. was more than a property. P.A. was an institution, and its loss leaves a gap in American journalism, particularly in criticism, that no other journal can currently fill. True, business is business, and there are winners and losers. In this corporate "buyout," however, everybody loses.

Morris Newman  
Los Angeles Correspondent  
Progressive Architecture  
(1991-1995)

## Review of Symposium on Healthcare Design

The Eighth Annual Symposium on Healthcare Design: Discovering New Strategies, Skills and Resources, was held in San Diego this past November, 1995. The Symposium, presented by The Center for Health Design (CHD), was attended by more than 1500 participants. Editorial Board members Don Axon, FAIA, Chair, and Treasurer Janice Axon, Hon. AIA, represented LA Architect as moderators of two of the eleven presentations during the Symposium. Topics included "Improving Lighting Quality with Light Spectrum" by Sam Berman, Ph.D., "Understanding Psychoneuroimmunology (PNI) and its Application for Healthcare" with George F. Solomon, M.D., "Using Color and Light as Medicine" by Graig Roeder, IALD and "Strategies for Incorporating Art as a Healing Force" by Michael Samuels, M.D. were "pushing the edges of the envelope" and "Understanding and Applying the Benefits of Therapeutic Gardens" with Clare Cooper Marcus and Marni Barnes both from UC Berkeley.

Among the featured speakers was Patch Adams, M.D., founder of the Gesundheit Institute in Arlington, WV, also a professional clown, advocates free healthcare, the powerful connection between the environment and wellness and who is building a benchmark hospital in West Virginia. Patricia A. Moore, President of Guynes Design, Inc., Phoenix, AZ gave a 5-hour experiential workshop highlighting the life-enhancing benefits of good design and the challenges of implementing those concepts.

One of the most moving presentations was that of Evan Handler, an actor from New York City who was diagnosed at 24 years old

with acute myeloid leukemia. His one man play, "Time on Fire," described his bizarre and often hilarious experiences in and out of medical centers and hospitals.

Wayne Ruga, AIA, IIDA, President and CEO of CHD, and noted as the healthcare environment's 'Ralph Nader', and his great staff are to be congratulated on providing a series of thoughtful, informational programs under one roof. D.C.A., FAIA

## Historic Angels Flight To Reopen

In March of 1995, Councilwoman Rita Walters joined representatives from the Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA), the Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA), the Los Angeles Conservancy, and the Angels Flight Coordinating Committee for a groundbreaking ceremony to launch the renovation and restoration of one of Los Angeles' oldest historic and cultural landmarks: Angels Flight. Almost a year later to the day, on February 24 and 25, 1996, Angels Flight is scheduled to reopen amidst a weekend of music, entertainment and festivities.

Angel's Flight transported more than 100 million passengers between 1901 and 1969. Its new site, Hill Street between Third and Fourth streets is only one-half block south of its original location. The 315 foot-long funicular was purchased by the CRA in 1963 from the Lester Moreland Family and dismantled in 1969 to make way for the redevelopment of Bunker Hill. It was expected that the railway would be returned to operation within two years, however setbacks in the economy and real estate market delayed portions of the redevelopment plan indefinitely, putting off the return of the Angels Flight which was to be coordinated with the development of Phase 3A of the California Plaza Office Tower project.

The restored railway will provide a link between downtown's historic core and Bunker Hill. It also feeds directly into a Metro Red Line Station at Fourth and Hill streets.

The original cable cars, station house and archway will all be restored, upgraded and returned to service. The 1969 one-way fare of 25¢ will also be reinstated thanks to the Angel's Flight Railway Foundation, the non-profit organization and present owner of Angels Flight, which works to replace the discrepancy between the revenue from the low fares and the real costs of operating the historic rail system.

## Time to renew

Subscribers, LA Architect doesn't want you to miss a single issue! Renew your subscriptions for 1996 quickly so that you may receive our annual Westweek issue in March. Mail your check for \$30, (\$48, international) to the Chapter Office immediately.

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