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April 1996

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Pierre Koenig,
FAIA Architect
and recipient of
1996 American
Institute of
Architects,
California
Chapter Maybeck
Award and 25-
Year Award
Photo courtesy
of the architect.
Photography by
Julius Shulman

INSIDE:
Farewell to David Gebhard
Noted Architectural Historian, Professor,
Writer, and Community Leader



April

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.

tuesday, april 2

6:00 p.m. - **Mario Botta**
Lecture, sponsored by AIA/LA & PDC Center Green
"Automating Your Practice: What's Out There Today"—Digital Technology

wednesday, april 3

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

thursday, april 4

6:30 p.m. - Urban Design Committee

monday, april 8

12:00 p.m. - LA Architect ExCom at Chapter Office

wednesday, april 10

7:00 p.m. - Associates Meeting

thursday, april 11

5:15 p.m. - Codes Committee
6:30 p.m. - "Masters of Architecture" Lecture Series featuring Pierre Koenig at LACMA

wednesday, april 17

7:30 a.m. - LA Architect Board Meeting
ULI/AIA Urban Sprawl Program

thursday, april 18

3:30 p.m. - Health Committee at Chapter Office
6:00 p.m. - Committee on the Environment

saturday, april 20

Professional Development:
"How to Bill & Get Paid"

tuesday, april 23

4:00 p.m. - AIA/LA Executive Committee at Chapter Office
5:30 p.m. - AIA/LA Board at Chapter Office
6:00 p.m. - Interior Architecture Committee at Associates Purchasing*

wednesday, april 24

5:00 - 8:00 p.m. - Chapter Office Grand Opening Reception

thursday, april 25

5:00 p.m. - International Practice Committee: "High Rises"*

thursday & friday,

april 25 & 26
AIA/CC Meeting - San Diego

tuesday, april 30

6:00 p.m. - Interior Architecture Committee at Associates Purchasing

wednesday, may 1

6:00 p.m. - Architectural Foundation/LA Meeting
thursday, may 2
6:30 p.m. - Urban Design Committee Meeting

monday, may 6

12:00 p.m. - LA Architect Excom Meeting
6:30 p.m. - House Tour Committee Meeting*

wednesday, may 8

5:45 p.m. - MicroFilm Group Lecture

thursday, may 9

5:15 p.m. - Codes Committee Meeting at Chapter Office

SAVE THE DATE

"Masters of Architecture Series"

Thursday, April 11

The third in a series of outstanding lectures will feature Pierre Koenig, FAIA. A professor at the University of Southern California, he constructed his first exposed steel-and-glass house in 1962 while a student at USC. Since then, his inventive residential and commercial structures have been

constructed in the US, Canada, and Mexico. He is among the first postwar social reformers who attempted to improve the living standards by industrializing construction and by emphasizing the relationship between interior and exterior space. He designed Case Study Houses No. 21 and 22 under the auspices of the magazine Arts and Architecture. Koenig is director of the Natural Forces Laboratory and the Undergraduate Building Science Program for Architecture at USC. He continues his own practice, specializing in the exploration of the potential of steel in residential design.

The lecture series is presented by AIA/LA Masters of Architecture Committee and LACMA. Each lecture will take place at 6:30 p.m. at the Museum's Bing Theater, 5905 Wilshire Boulevard. For more information, call the AIA chapter office, (310) 785 1809 or LACMA ticket sales, (213) 857-6010.

"Works in Progress"

An exhibition featuring the work of Morphosis through May 19

As described by principal Thom Mayne, the parallel logic inherent in computer "thinking" was the inspiration for this show, as it became apparent that computer technology was initiating significant changes in the firm's design process from 2D to 3D. "Works in Progress" is an exhibition of

94 computer-generated images with stereolithographic models representing nine projects by the Los Angeles architectural firm, Morphosis. The exhibition documents the firm's technology-driven shift in both the design and representation process.

Exhibit is at UCLA Extension at Third Street Promenade. Admission is free. Exhibitions to follow include the work of designer James Northcutt, architect Mark Rios of Rios Associates, as well as the annual Design Program Student Show. The exhibition schedule can be found in Perspectives, the Design Program's quarterly newsletter. For more information call 310/825-9061.

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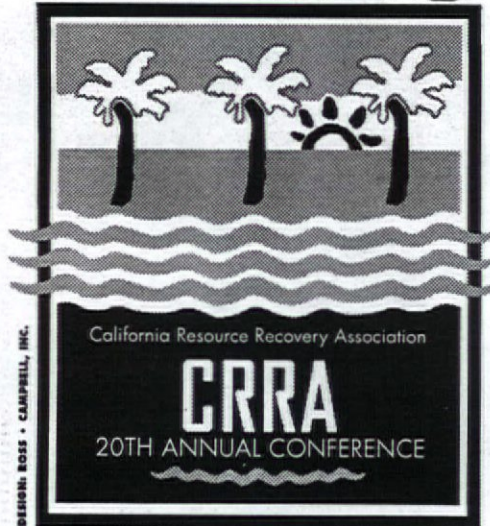
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L.A. Architect April 1996

Sustainable Construction Workshop

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This workshop is part of the 1996 Annual Conference of the California Resource Recovery Association (CRRA) and will be held June 16-18, 1996 next to beautiful southern California beaches in Newport Beach. The theme for this year's CRRA Conference is "The Next Wave: Achieving 50% Diversion and Sustainability".

The workshop will highlight:

- Developer/Owner Requirements for Sustainable Designs
- Costs, Specs., & Building Codes for Reused/Recycled Building Materials
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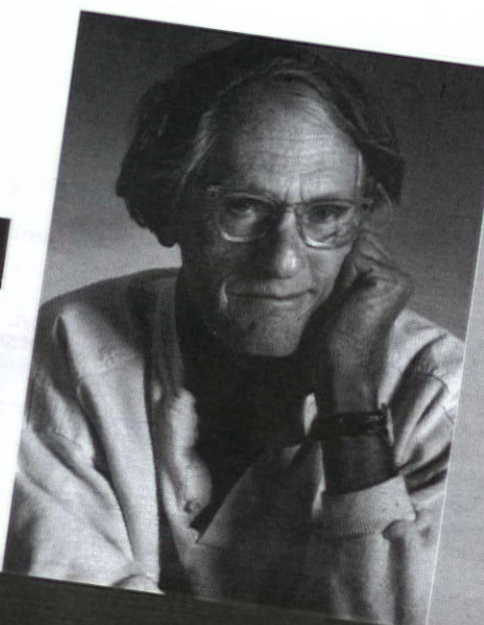
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David Gebhard Remembered

Portrait photo courtesy of the Learning Resources/Photographic Services, UC Santa Barbara.



5 L.A. Architect April 1996



The history of architecture and the role of architecture in history command little attention in the public arena. The man who became the voice of both may be remembered more than many of the figures about whom he wrote. David Gebhard died on March 3, 1996, but he left behind a body of work which had already become standard reference material for students and aficionados of architecture. He once told his good friend and co-author, Dr. Robert Winter, that he would never retire, and indeed he did not. He suffered a heart attack while riding his beloved bicycle near his home in Santa Barbara, active till the end. One of Gebhard's favorite words is a fitting description for his sudden death—ZAP!

Gebhard acquired his early interest in architecture from his uncle, an architect in Minnesota. Gebhard's home state. He designed a home for his parents and years later, his own home in Santa Barbara, which he shared with his wife Patricia and their two daughters.

Though it was architecture for which he was noted, the breadth of his passions extended far beyond that topic. He was an expert on pre-historic art and his first published article was on petroglyphs. He was an authority on Native American art. He spent a year as a Fulbright Scholar at the University of Istanbul and was director of the Roswell Museum in New Mexico. Gebhard came to the University of Santa Barbara in 1961, where, in addition to his classroom schedule, he was director of the Art Gallery until 1980. He was responsible for founding and organizing the architectural drawings collection at UCSB, and he curated many exhibitions on architectural history. He was extremely active in local civic

affairs, serving on the Santa Barbara Architectural Board of Review and many other committees and organizations. With regard to the role of architects, developers, and others involved in public projects, he was once quoted as saying, "It is our job to squeeze out a creative response." Last year he received the Big Canvas Award, given to Santa Barbara area residents, for his many contributions to maintaining and improving the qualities of Santa Barbara. This busy man always made himself available to assist with issues of Historic Preservation, both locally and nationally.

There was hardly an area of architecture in which David Gebhard was not interested and well versed. He had a deep interest in Islamic architecture. Long before anyone else, David Gebhard understood the Spanish Colonial and Mission Revival styles. He felt particularly strong about the role of those styles in the Santa Barbara area. When Highway 101 was rerouted through town, he insisted that the State Street Bridge be designed in a Spanish Revival mode. He was among the first to recognize the significance of Art Deco. After a long delay, his book on the subject is scheduled for publication this Spring. His books and articles on R.M. Schindler, John Lautner, Lloyd Wright, Robert Stacey Judd, and Lulah Maria Smith rescued them from obscurity and brought their work into the public eye. Indeed, the list of reviews, articles and books on his C.V. runs to twenty-seven pages.

Although he authored more than fifty volumes, it is his Los Angeles: An Architectural Guide, co-authored with Dr. Robert Winter, which has become the handbook for all architecture aficionados. It is essential material for anyone

wanting to become better acquainted with L.A.'s historic buildings. Dr. Winter was devastated by the news of Gebhard's death; he has lost both a friend and colleague.

Last year, Gebhard and architectural photographer Julius Shulman spent a great deal of time together when both attended and spoke in Vienna at a lecture series and exhibit of Shulman photos of early émigrés such as Neutra, Schindler, Frankel, Gruen, Zimble, and others. They spent many hours together, exploring the city and exchanging ideas.

Shulman related a story from many years ago, an incident in which Richard Neutra and his client Mrs. Masselin (in Palm Springs) disagreed about interior furnishings. He showed Gebhard photos of both architect's and client's interior designs. Shulman related, "I asked him, if you were researching contemporary architecture, what standards would you

architects and architecture. Although often critical, his criticisms were based not on a subjective aesthetic, but upon contemporary context, contribution, practicality and personality, as well as historical precedent. Despite his academic and scholarly approach, Gebhard had a wry sense of humor about architecture. A few years ago, in a piece for LA Architect, he wrote that his favorite building in Los Angeles was the (former) "Hamburger That Ate L.A." cafe on Melrose Avenue. "He was completely dedicated to relating architectural stories and concepts that were unique to this area," said Julius Shulman.

It is difficult to account for his particular insight into what would turn out to have considerable historic influence. What set him apart from others was his ability to recognize the significance of an architect, a style or an era without having to be too far removed from them.



abide with? What do you think of this furniture in the Masselin House? And David replied, 'Well, I wouldn't have shot down the able, it looks good, it fits in the house.' Which Neutra disregarded and disrespected. That, I think, is the key to the essence of David's integrity. In looking at how it worked on a personal level, without condemning the architect, he was the first, if not the only, genuine—not pedantic—academic researcher. He didn't have to prove anything." Shulman and Gebhard were making preparations to collaborate on a book about Neutra.

David Gebhard was never reticent about expressing his opinion of

On a personal note, I was privileged to know David Gebhard and to call him a friend. We both attended the First World Congress on Art Deco in Miami Beach in 1991, and we had discussed his participation in the Fourth World Congress on Art Deco, scheduled for May, 1997 in Los Angeles. He was always helpful and encouraging, and his intellectual playfulness was a rarity in a community in which most people have only intellectual pretensions. It is not easy, and perhaps impossible, to guess who will succeed Gebhard in the community of historians. He was much admired and his reputation was one which few others command. Architecture has lost a great champion.

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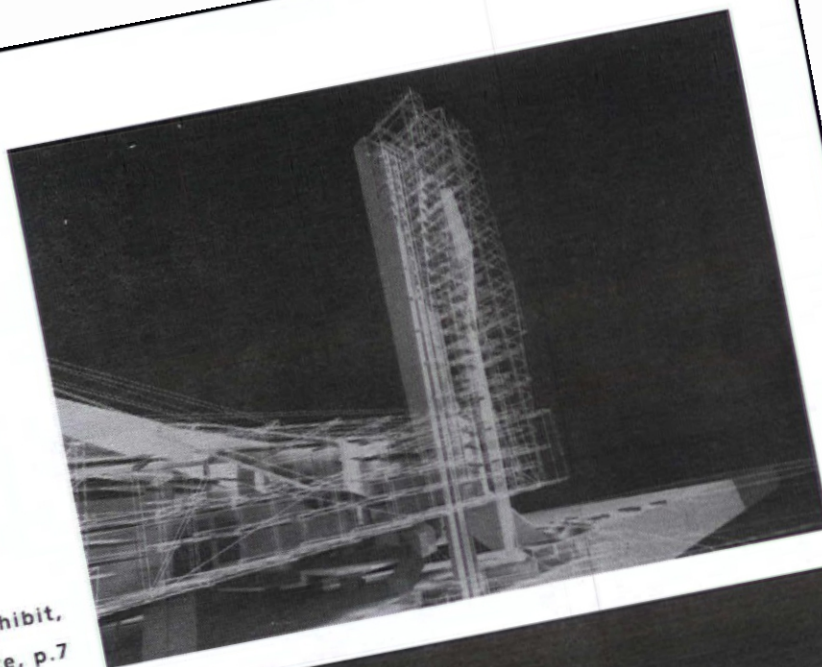
Top: View of Gebhard's home library from the loft

Bottom: Gebhard's self-designed canyon home

Photos: courtesy of Julius Shulman

Critique

Morphosis Exhibit,
see save the date, p.7



CHAPTER ANGELS

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Los Angeles: The End of the Rainbow by Merry Ovnick; (Balcony Press, LA; \$34.95 pb)

At last there's an LA publisher (Ann Gray) who is committed to creating handsome books on local architecture. This is the first — a social history of LA's residential architecture, what it says about the people who built these houses, and the political and economic forces that shaped the city's growth. It celebrates the eclecticism that's usually disparaged. —MW

Structure, Space and Skin: The Work of Nicholas Grimshaw & Partners; Edited by Rowan Moore (Phaidon/Chronicle; \$39.95 pb)

Grimshaw is one of a quartet of contemporary British architects (Foster, Rogers, and Hopkins are the others) loosely bundled together as high tech. Grimshaw reminds one of the great Victorian engineers like Brunel in his bold expression of the bones, muscles,

and joints of his steel and glass structures. The curved vault over the Eurostar platforms at Waterloo Station in London, and the British Pavilion at Expo 92 in Seville shine out among the 14 projects that are described in photographs, drawings and text. —MW

The Other Tradition of Modern Architecture: The Uncompleted Project by Colin St John Wilson; (Academy Editions; \$35 pb)

A slim, readable revisionist theory of modernism by the controversial architect of the new British Library in London. Wilson suggests that Le Corbusier and CIAM hijacked modernism and turned it into a rigid ideology that excluded such original spirits as Wright and Schindler, Aalto and Scharoun, whose work can inspire fresh thinking today. —mw

Streamlined: A Metaphor for Progress by Lars Muller (Chronicle; \$29.95 pb)

A richly illustrated anthology of planes, trains and automobiles, with several essays on "The Esthetics of Minimized Drag," as the sub-head describes it. Here is the electrical crackle and pop of the Machine Age, and the book even looks as though it was produced in the 1930s. —MW

Contact Geraldine Forbes, AIA at 818/767-0888 x 330.

"Public Art/Public Memory," Sunday, April 14. This is the second in a three-part series of public art walks which focus in the downtown area. Sponsored by Urban Art, Inc. Contact Michael Sevel at 213/975/1721.

"Urban Sprawl Conference," Thursday, April 18 at the Biltmore Hotel, Los Angeles. Nationally recognized architects, planners and builders discuss their visions for alternatives to Southern California "sprawl." Larry Mantle of KPCC will moderate. Call 310/576-0903 for registration information.

"Architecture: East-West," April 28 through December 31, 1996 at the Hollyhock House Gallery. This exhibit features the work of award winning architect Ted Tokio Tenaka, FAIA. Call Diana Ho at 310/306-5432.

Events Around Town

"Women's History Month Celebration," Thursday, April 11 at Woodbury University. This event will feature Kathy Spillar, National Coordinator for the Feminist Majority Foundation on the topic of Affirmative Action. Invited guests include the California Women in Environmental Design, Association for Women in Architecture, Women in Construction, and Women in Design. Co-sponsored by Woodbury University and the AIA/LA Diversity Committee.

MAK Center for Art and Architecture, L. A. Inaugural Exhibitions and Opening Events

Architecture Again The Havana Project

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Eric Owen Moss, Culver City
Morphosis/Thom Mayne, Los Angeles
Carme Pinós, Barcelona
Lebbeus Woods, New York
C.P.P.N., Vienna
at the Schindler House
April 13 through July 27

The Garage Project

with installations by
Liz Larner, Los Angeles
Peter Kogler, Vienna
Paul McCarthy, Los Angeles
Heimo Zobernig, Vienna
and a joint project by artists-in-residence
Plamen Dejanov, Svetlana Heger,
and Jochen Traar, Vienna
at the Mackey Apartments
April 13 through July 14

The Rudolf M. Schindler Houses Tour

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How House
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Oliver House
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Mackey Apartments
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Kallis House
Tischler House
Wilson House
Armon House

Saturday, April 13 from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm
Tour Information and reservations: 213/651-1510

A Roundtable Discussion The Havana Project

with
Wolf D. Prix
Eric Owen Moss
Thom Mayne
Lebbeus Woods
Carl Pruscha
Peter Noever
Michael Rotondi, Moderator
El Rey Theater, 7:00 p.m.
Drinks and dancing follow the discussion.

Information: 213/651-1510

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3
L.A. Architect April 1996

The AIA Elects New Fellows

The American Institute of Architect has elevated 91 architects across the nation, including four architects from the Los Angeles Chapter to its prestigious College of Fellows: Katherine Diamond, Panos Koulermos, Bruce M. Sellery, and Robert (Buzz) J. Yudell. Katherine Diamond, FAIA is principal of Siegal Diamond Architects and former AIA/LA President — the first female president in its 99-year history. Panos Koulermos, FAIA, RIBA is founder of his own firm, Panos Koulermos, Architect. He is currently professor at USC School of Architecture. Bruce M. Sellery, FAIA is principal of Bruce M. Sellery, AIA-E Architect. An active community leader, he has led the Southern California Chapter of the Architects, Designers, and Planners for Social Responsibility and Architects for Shelter. Robert (Buzz) J. Yudell is a principal in the firm of Moore Ruble Yudell. Yudell was principal-in-charge on the Maryland Center for Performing Arts and the California Center for the Arts.

Fellowship is conferred on AIA members with at least 10 years of continuous membership who has made significant contributions to the aesthetic, scientific, and practical efficiency of the profession; to the standards of architectural education, training and practice; to the building industry through leadership of the AIA and other related professional organizations; to the advancement of the living standards of people through their improved environment; and to society through significant public service.

Committee News

Urban Design Committee
Call John Dale or Rob Marshall for more information at 310/246-5757

Public Art Forum
Thursday, April 4
Guests will discuss the role of the artist in the creation of the public

built environment and the way in which artists interact with public and private agencies and other design professionals. Guests include Julie Silliman, MTA Public art Program; Noel Kortin (Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery, Barnsdall Park; and Adam Leventhal, artist.

Urban Design in Glendale

Thursday, May 2
Glendale has launched an ambitious urban design center for its civic center. Stefanos Polyzoides, Moule + Polyzoides Architects and others will discuss current projects under way.

AIA International Practice Committee

Call Amy Phillips at 819/441-7700

High Rises: Touching the Skies

Thursday, April 25

Trends in High Rises — Office, Mixed Use and Residential Towers

Interior Architecture Committee

The Auction Sub-committee did an outstanding job organizing the recent furniture auction in February. Congratulations goes to Cookie Dash, who designed the graphics, Denese Menard, Donna Greco, Steve Holt and Mac Billups, and event co-chairs Barbara Blasko and Lynda Adams.

ARE Seminars

The 1996 Architectural Registration Seminars continue this month with the following scheduled sessions:

April 4 Div. I: Codes and Access Issues
April 18 Codes
April 25 Div. G: Mech., Elec., Plumbing
May 2 Div. G: Mech., Elec., Plumbing (cont.)
May 9 Div. A: Pre-Design

The seminars will continue through June 8. For a complete listing of the schedule and for information regarding registration, fees and locations of all seminars, call the Chapter office.

Competitions

The Concrete Masonry Association of California and Nevada and the AIACC are co-sponsoring the Concrete masonry Design Awards

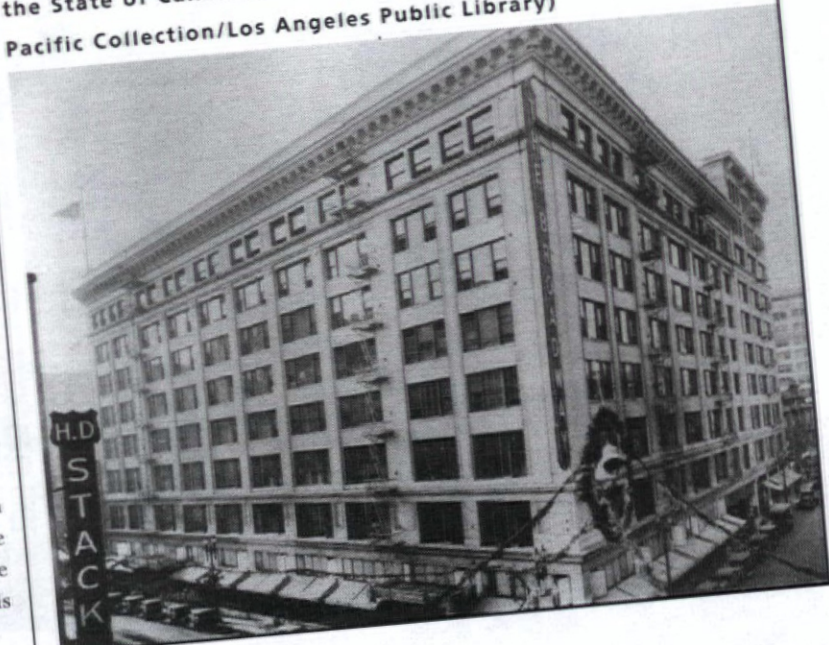
Program which recognizes and encourages outstanding architectural design that incorporates the use of concrete masonry. The entrants must be members of the AIACC and projects must have been completed after January 1, 1989. All built projects that incorporate concrete masonry units in their design, including single structures or a group of related structures such as parks, plazas and monuments are eligible. Deadline for registration is April 26, 1996. Submission deadline is June 7, and awards will be presented August 2, 1996. For information, call 916/448-9082.

People & Places

Katherine Diamond, FAIA was one of four women honored recently with the title "Woman of the Year" by the YWCA of Santa Monica.... Construction is now underway for the California Museum of Science and Industry in Los Angeles. Designed by Los Angeles architects, Zimmer Gunsul Frasca Partnership (ZGF), it is one of the few facilities in the country to combine a major science center with an adjacent neighborhood elementary school which focuses on science, and a professional development center for science educators.... Johnson Fain and Pereira Associates, Architects and Planners in Los Angeles (JFPA) has received the commission to provide masterplanning

and architectural design services for the AMGEN Corporate Headquarters in Thousand Oaks. They are also currently designing new Science and Arts facilities for the Marlborough School in Los Angeles.... Construction is underway on the "World's Safest Hospital," the San Bernardino County Medical Center, by Bobrow/Thomas & Associates (BTA) of Los Angeles, with associate architect Perkins & Wil of Chicago. The hospital has been designed to withstand a magnitude 8.3 earthquake with the help of 392 base isolators that will allow the building to move side to side without extensive damage.... Tishman Construction Corporation of California has been named project manager for the renovation of the historic former Broadway Department Store building in downtown Los Angeles into a modern office complex for the State of California.... Nila R. Leiserowitz, ASID has joined the Los Angeles office of Gensler Architecture, Design & Planning Worldwide as Director of Interior Design.... Phyllis Dubinsky-Klein, a principal and Director of Marketing at Dworsky Associates has been awarded the prestigious Leonardo Award by the Los Angeles Chapter of the Society for Marketing Professional Services (SMPS), an organization which provides marketing services for the built environment. This award recognizes the top marketing professional and is the SMPS' highest accolade.

Tishman Construction Corporation of California is slated to transform the historic Broadway Department Store building in downtown Los Angeles into a modern office complex for the State of California. Photo courtesy of the Security Pacific Collection/Los Angeles Public Library)



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UC Berkeley Art Museum is recipient of AIA/CC 25-Year Award by Mario Ciampi, FAIA Design Associates; Richard Jorasch and Ronald Wagner. Photo courtesy of the architect.

Los Angeles Firms Recognized in 14th Annual AIACC Awards

The American Institute of Architects, California Council presented its 14th Annual Awards Presentation in March at a reception held in celebration of California's "Architecture Week" and in conjunction with WestWeek96. Los Angeles based Albert C. Martin & Associates was selected the recipient of the 1996 Firm Award. The University Art Museum at the University of California, Berkeley and the Case Study House, No. 22 in Los Angeles each received the Twenty-Five Year Award. Pierre Koenig, FAIA of Los Angeles, architect for the Case Study House No. 22 is this year's Maybeck Award recipient. Since 1906, Albert C. Martin & Associates has designed landmark environments for both the public and private sectors throughout Southern California. Koenig has practiced architecture for 50 years with the goal of utilizing industrialized methods to produce well designed, highly livable housing at a low cost.

Jury comments include, "Albert C. Martin & Associates is an obvious choice for the Firm Award. This firm is a consistent and valuable example of an outstanding architectural firm. They not only have developed consistently distinguished architecture, they have successfully dealt with many types of buildings and have been intimately involved

in educational programs and pro bono work within their community." Regarding Koenig, the jury commented, "Koenig is deeply involved in the technology area. His work is exemplary, in a particular vernacular course, design. The very modern poster design of the Case Study House No. 22 is so delicate....This level of care is very rare and interesting. He has a unique devotion; his own specialty."

Other awards presented include the Design and Achievement Awards.

Life in the Past Lane National Conference Explores Los Angeles as Postwar Prototype

Los Angeles is seen by many as the capital of the car-based society. From the elaborate freeway system, to roadside architecture, to the evolution of the corner strip center, the automobile has had a tremendous effect on developing the way cities look and function; the culture as a whole. The

national conference, "Life in the Past Lane" will explore the Los Angeles area's place in the 20th century urban development. It will look into why contemporary landscapes look the way they do and investigate the effects of the automobile on developing the urban environment. The five-day conference includes discussions on land use, the development of the car culture, the transit system and other topics which will consider southern California as an urban prototype. Several bus tours through areas of greater Los Angeles will round out the program and cover areas such as the Miracle Mile, a and the I-5 Corridor into Orange County. Guest speakers include Thomas Hines of UCLA, Robert Post of the Smithsonian, and Greg Hise and Jeffrey Chusid of USC and other experts in 20th century urbanism and architecture.

The Conference takes place April 17-21, 1996 at the Biltmore Hotel in Los Angeles and is co-sponsored by the Society for Commercial Archaeology, the Los Angeles Conservancy and the Automobile Club of Southern California. For information on registration and tours call the Los Angeles Conservancy at 213/623-2489.



"Life in the Past Lane" Conference explores car-based commercial environments like the one depicted in the photograph of this early Los Angeles intersection. Photo courtesy of Corporate Archives, Automobile Club of Southern California.

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