

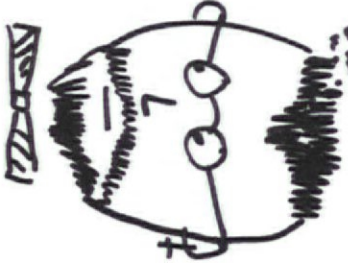
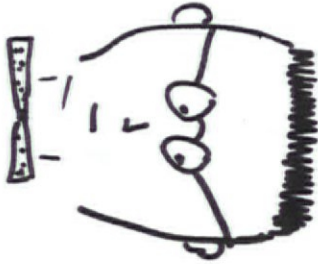
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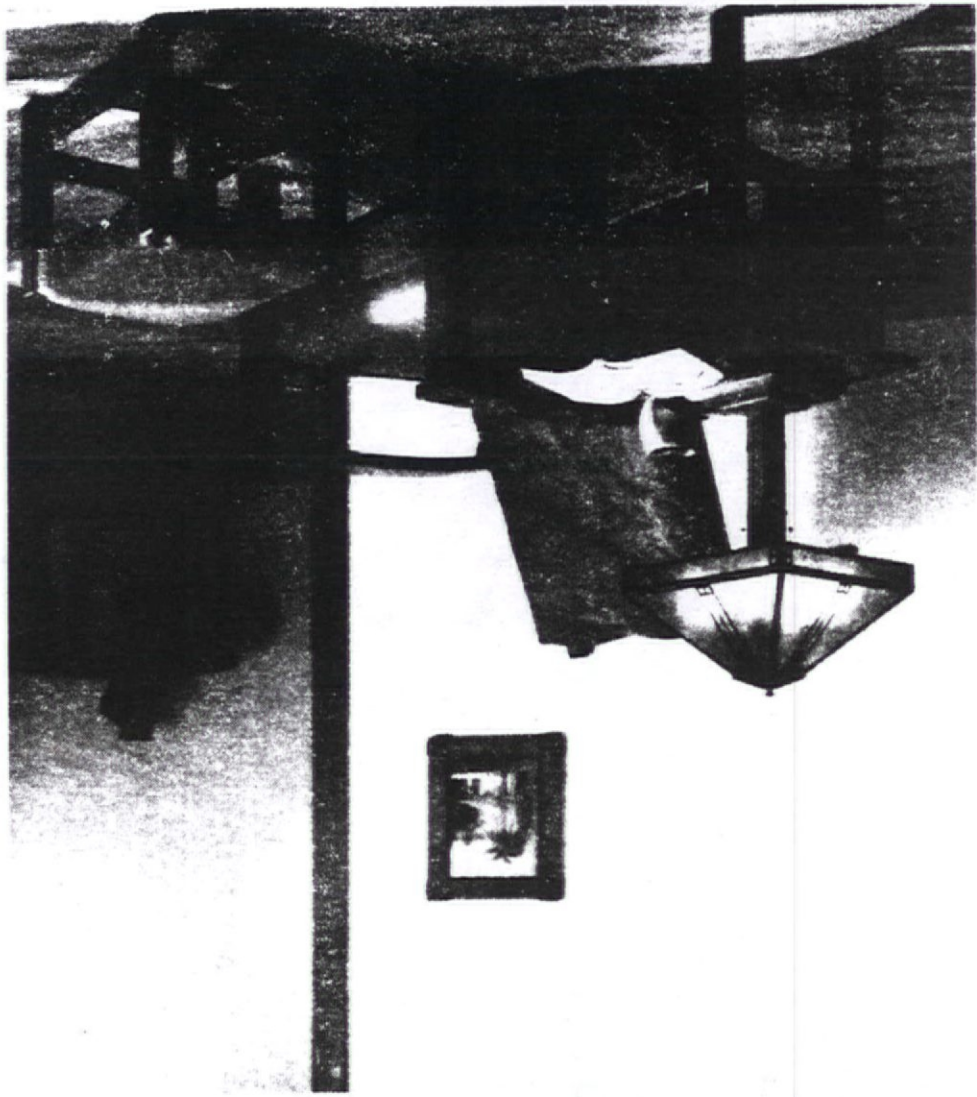
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INSIDE:

Affirmative Action: Your Comments and Views



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Cartoon by
"Cheapskate
Cartoons"
(Tell the Editor
Your Opinion)

May/June

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

monday, may 27

Memorial Day - Chapter Office Closed

tuesday, may 28

4:00 p.m. - AIA/LA Executive Committee @ Chapter Office
5:00 p.m. - International Practice Committee
5:30 p.m. AIA/LA Board Meeting @ Chapter Office
6:00 p.m. Interior Architecture Committee Meeting *
6:30 p.m.
International Exhibit and Reception for New Graduates @ PDC Blue Theatre
7:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Symposium Moderator: Panos Koulermos PDC blue

wednesday, may 29

6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Professional Development
"How to Avoid Being Sued" \$30, \$20 members

sunday, june 2

10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
AIA/LA West Side Homes Tour. Call Chapter Office for advance tickets.
NO TICKETS SOLD DAY OF EVENT

tuesday, june 4

4:30 p.m. - Southern California Forum @ Kaiser Permanente, Pasadena

wednesday, june 5

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

thursday, june 6

6:30 p.m. - Urban Design Committee Meeting *

saturday, june 8

Professional Development
"Making Effective Presentations"

tuesday, june 11

7:00 p.m. - Associates Meeting

thursday, june 13

5:15 p.m. - Codes Committee Meeting at Chapter Office
6:30 p.m. - "Masters of Architecture Lecture Series: John Johansen, FAIA"

saturday, june 15

LA Architect Annual Retreat

tuesday, june 18

11:30 - Fellows Lunch @ Fusion Restaurant

thursday, june 20

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

Chapter Office Open until 7:00 p.m.

tuesday, june 25

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

wednesday, june 26

5:00 p.m. - International Practice Committee*
6:00 p.m. - "On the Boards," Pac-Rim @ RTKL

thursday, june 27

6:00 p.m. - "How to Build Your Own Website"*
Chapter Office Open until 7:00 p.m.

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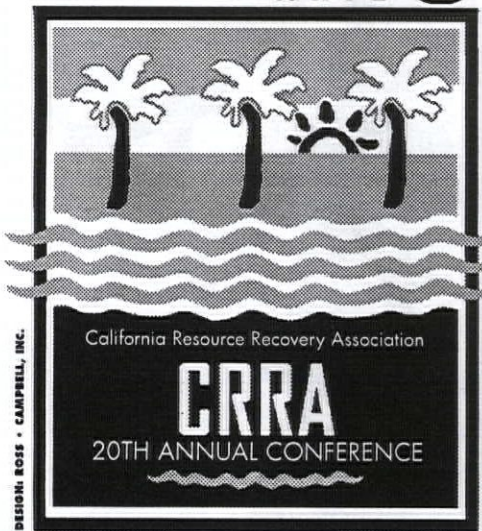
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Is it or Isn't it?

5

L.A. Architect May/June 1996

Letters: Con't.

Affirmative Action was established to make opportunities available to groups who had not had access before, such as women in "male" professions. Affirmative Action has succeeded in opening many doors. It has not yet achieved parity and is therefore needed.

Without "goals" set by public entities for the participation of under-represented groups on proposed teams, these groups would never have been added to the equation.

From my personal experience as a woman who was told explicitly that "women do not belong in Architecture" by the senior design critic at my school, that a woman in the drafting room would be such

a distraction that the men could not do their work, that women "did not need a job," that potential clients would "feel uncomfortable" dealing with a woman, or that "men would not take orders from a woman," and "I wouldn't let my wife do that" called out by a workman at a construction site, I feel that affirmative action was critical to my ability as a woman-owned architectural firm to break into public work projects.

We will be able to abandon affirmative action only when competence will be sufficient as a selection [criteria], when opportunity will be open to all, and when success will depend only on ability, hard work and dedication.

Margot Siegel, AIA
Siegel Diamond Architects

Affirmative Action: Based on an Historic American Economic Principle

Now if you belong to the Exeter-Yale GOP club, that's not going to bother you greatly because, as we know, it is not their children who get bused out of South Boston into Roxbury; it is not their brothers who lose contracts because of minority set-asides; it is not the scions of Yale and Harvard who apply to become FBI agents and construction workers and civil servants and cops, who bear the onus of this reverse discrimination. It is the sons of middle America who pay the price of reverse discrimination advanced by the Walker's Point GOP to save their consciences at other people's expense. If I am elected, my friends, I will go through this administration, department by department and agency by agency, and root out the whole rotten infrastructure of reverse discrimination, root and branch.

— Patrick J. Buchanan, GOP Presidential Candidate on the 1991 Civil Rights Act, at the annual Conservative Political Action Conference February 21, 1992

Affirmative action has become the hot button issue for 1996. Although presidential hopeful Patrick J. Buchanan said this statement more than four years ago, anti-affirmative action continues as

part of his presidential platform. Here in California, if the proponents of the so-called California Civil Rights Initiative gather enough signatures to qualify the measure for the November ballot, voters will decide the fate of these assistance programs for women, minorities and other individuals and groups that allow for economic opportunity and competition. Regardless if the measure qualifies, those of us with the ability to think critically must find new and creative ways to explain the benefits of affirmative action to those among us who haven't taken the time to sort through the rhetoric and grandstanding.

Since the passage of the Civil Rights Law of 1964 and the Equal Employment Opportunities Act of 1972, affirmative action has been providing opportunities to the disadvantaged for more than 30 years. However, in a discussion with a friend who is a history teacher, I realized that assistance programs for the disadvantaged have been part of our nation's principles long before affirmative action. The Truman Doctrine and the Marshall Plan, for instance, were initiated at the end of World War II.

At the height of the Cold War and under threat of a complete Communist takeover of Europe, President Harry S. Truman in 1947

asked Congress for \$400 million to aid Greece and Turkey. Later that year, Secretary of State George C. Marshall proposed the Marshall Plan which aided European nations by authorizing \$12 billion over a four-year period. Of course the context of these programs is the Cold War; Communist threat was a reality and the United States was working to stop it. However, the results of these programs were economic assistance, solid infrastructures and stronger economies.

Therefore, one of the economic philosophies of the United States has always been to provide opportunities to the disadvantaged. Many of these nations today are major players and our partners in the global economic marketplace.

The same principles hold true for affirmative action programs. We provide assistance to protect our self-interests whether the reason is protection from Communist threat or protection from becoming a welfare-driven society. The United States could not allow communist regimes to take over Europe. We cannot allow minority and woman-owned businesses to fail, minorities and women to become unemployed or remain stagnant in lower level positions because we live in an imperfect society.

Affirmative action programs have

played a great role in benefiting the American economy because more people have been given job opportunities that they may otherwise not have gotten. Minority and woman-owned architectural firms, engineering firms and other consulting firms receive contracts and parts of contracts that they may have otherwise not received because of the institutional disadvantages women and minorities still face.

Moreover, it is because of affirmative action programs that more people contribute to the economy and are given economic opportunities to compete in the marketplace. The dollars we earn circulate throughout the economy and strengthen it.

While Buchanan attempts to influence the public debate through his use of fear, hatred, intolerance and ignorance, we must strengthen our coalitions and defend affirmative action programs. It is in all our self-interests to do so. It will be to the detriment of our society if affirmative action programs are destroyed. In the short run, Buchanan and those like him may triumph in their victory. In the long run, we will all lose when our economy fails.

Trisha Murakawa is a principal of Lang, Murakawa & Wong, a public affairs and political consulting firm based in the San Gabriel Valley.

Deceptive "Civil Rights Initiative" Makes Sex Discrimination Legal!

A REPORT FROM THE AIA/LA DIVERSITY COMMITTEE

This was the main topic given by Katherine Spillar, National Coordinator for the Feminist Majority Foundation on the topic of Affirmative Action at the "Women's History Month Celebration." The event was co-sponsored by Woodbury University and the AIA/LA Diversity Committee on April 11, 1996.

This November, voters in California will decide whether to pass a deceptive "Civil Rights Initiative" placed on the ballot by opponents of women's and civil rights. The initiative will not only ban affirmative action programs, but will make discrimination against women and girls legal by gutting the state's

constitutional protection against sex discrimination.

Currently the statistics indicate that women are 22.7% of lawyers and judges, 11.8% of college presidents, 8% of police officers, 14.7% of college and university professors, and 34.8% of college athletes, yet women are more than 50% of the population of this country.

If you are interested in helping the Campaign to Save Women's Rights and Civil Rights or want more information, contact Helena L. Jubany, AIA at 213/625-7909 or Geraldine Forbes, AIA at 818/767-0888 x330. Both are Co-Chairs of the AIA/LA Diversity Committee. —HLJ

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Affirmative Action:

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CONTINUED NEXT MONTH

A Cacophony or a Chorus?

There is a backlash, across the country and especially within California, which threatens to undo the advances won by the proponents of affirmative action.

Michael Woo in his inspired keynote address to the AIA National Diversity Conference last year provided many thoughtful insights into the issues and value of diversity within our profession and society. His conclusion, after considerable reflection on his part, is that "we cannot compromise on this issue." Mr. Woo goes on to explain, "That is, we can't satisfy the goal of opening up the doors of opportunity to people who have been excluded while at the same time appeasing those

who don't want either the heavy hand of government or any other heavy hand to force contractors or governments or others who have money and contracts to change their way of doing business."

Senator Dole, originally in favor of affirmative action, last year writing for the Los Angeles Times criticized those "purveyors of preferences.....who view every social problem through a racial prism." Quoting Patrick J. McDonnell's recent piece in the LA Times, Dole "now says such programs are divisive and have outlived their usefulness."

Affirmative action took another body blow this past June. Writing on this issue, construction attorney Daniel Corner, of the firm

Crawford Bangs, described the United States Supreme Court as ruling "that the affirmative action regulations were not, per se, unconstitutional but they had to conform to the most rigid and minute scrutiny to be valid."

This country has been often referred to as an ongoing experiment, an attempt at crafting a framework so that we can live our lives according to a few core principles. We have learned, not without a price, that we can live in a society where a variety of viewpoints can co-exist as long as they do not directly conflict. Legislating liberty, as provided for in the laws of our land, demands constant vigilance. Legislating opportunity is even more difficult.

Although I dislike addressing complex issues with easy slogans, President Clinton is perhaps the voice of reason in this case with his sound-bite suggestion of "mend it, don't end it." Affirmative action has benefited a great number of people. It needs fine tuning like all the documents and decisions that make up the fabric of American democracy. To keep affirmative action as a policy intact, it must be resilient enough to adapt if it is to be an ongoing vehicle of change. To take a position of "no compromise," certainly an ever popular strategy in our halls of government, I fear will result in the same kind of intransigence. The policy needs work. This will necessitate compromise. To deny this is to court its demise.

Letters to the Editor

Affirmative Action appears to be on its way out, thanks to the Supreme Court's Adarand Decision. I should have seen it coming. The MBE/WBE's should have seen it coming. Unfortunately, I'm on the wrong side of the decision.

For the past five years, half our work has been in the public sector. We were up to our ears in affirmative action. Sadly though, we found that our MBE/WBE consultants were usually costlier when compared to others on our private work. We were developing good, professional relationships that could only be used on the public side. Had they learned the more expensive way of doing work, the paperwork and numerous other formalities required in the public sector? Analysis paralysis is expensive. So, unfortunately, we've rarely been able to hire a DBE consultant on a private job when bidding was required.

Sometimes, in order to get the numbers just right, we came up short. The consultant couldn't perform. We were selecting consultants, perhaps, for the wrong reasons. Quality should have been the first criteria, not location or political connections. As an architect, if the consultant can't deliver, we have to make up for the shortcomings - sometimes with considerable embarrassment. On one occasion, good, solid mentoring made the difference. Cost us a bit of money, but we both felt the rewards.

The white, male-owned firms, in a way, also had a 'level playing field'. We all had to meet a minimum level of 'disadvantaged-business' (DBE) participation for public work. If there were only a few Disabled Veteran Business Enterprises (DVBE's - min. 3% were required by the State) in the region, so be it. But, with such small numbers to choose from, competition was on it's way out the window. And, how could anyone have meaningful participation at a 3% level? And there are other anomalies -

like one MBE engineer had been in business twice as long as us and was three times our size! Some of us grumbled about the unfairness of the system and the rigors of proposing on a public job. If you haven't completed the affirmative action part of a State, MTA or City of Pasadena RFP, you're blessed. It's a good reason to leave the profession or hire a marketing coordinator. It can be 90% of the RFP.

But wait. I'm writing to tell you I believe in Affirmative Action. Well, sort of. It's not perfect. Why didn't we as an organization (AIA) work to improve the system? Maybe we've all been too busy trying to survive to worry about how to improve another government regulation. Why didn't those that benefited most directly, work to improve the imperfections? The MBE's, the WBE's and the DVBE's.

I believe in the power of diversity. Most of us believe the broader our experience-base, the better our decisions. My wife will tell you, "if only he listened..." And my self-employed, accomplished son would say, "analysis paralysis will never get you there. Use your instincts." That's just gender and age diversity. Throw in ethnicity and culture. Now you're cooking! And that's why I believe in working with diversity.

The benefits of a diverse team should be better projects. Better projects improve our reputations, profitability and (hopefully) make the next job easier to get. The price will be patience and a commitment to mentoring.

Keep the faith,

Lance Bird, AIA
Regional Director, AIA/LA Immediate Past President. Lance is a principal with La Canada Design Group, a 14-person, white, male-owned architectural practice in Pasadena.

Editor's note: See "President's Message" in the June and October 1996 issues of LA Architect for additional writings from Lance Bird on this topic.

It seems to me that the goal of implementing an affirmative action policy should be to make such a policy unnecessary. To do otherwise is to institutionalize the state of being disadvantaged.

There is a by-product of this timely debate of which we, as a profession and as participants in the construction industry, should be mindful. The fragmentation of what were formerly our common interests has reduced our influence as a whole. Rather than a united voice speaking for the design and construction community we have the discordant sounds of numerous competing opinions.

We would be well served to remember that public policies that assist us in our method of practice and our industry as a whole, should be supported by all the various constituencies that currently make up the building community. Our strength is our role in an industry that, when taken together, contributes more to the economy than any other single component. We must foster a consensus viewpoint as to what is best for all those involved rather than being distracted by how this work is to be distributed. If government policies do not support sound, thoughtful and creative investment in the public sector, there will be little about which to debate.

MICHAEL HRICAK, AIA
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Freund-Koopman Residence by Lorcan O'herlihy Architects. ,
Featured on AIA/LA WestSide Home Tour, June 2. (see page 1)



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ARCHITECTS

1995 Annual Report

The 1995 Chapter Annual report is available for review at the Chapter Office. In addition to the customary financial reports, the organization, committees, office relocation and awards are featured.

Competitions

Chapter Initiates Interior Architecture and Design Awards Program

AIA/LA has initiated the Interior Architecture and Design Awards to promote professional and public awareness of current outstanding interior architecture and design. Eligible projects must have been completed between January 1, 1992 and May 15, 1996. Projects can be located anywhere in the world, but must have been designed by architects and designers located in Los Angeles County. Submittals must be received in the AIA/LA Chapter office by 5:00 PM, Friday, May 31, 1996. Winning entries will be part of a traveling public exhibit. For additional information or entry forms contact Erin Kennedy at 310 785 1809 ext. 17.

Culver City: East Washington Plan

AIA/LA wrote in support of the East Washington Plan, designed by Sussman/Prejza & Co. together with Campbell & Campbell. Letters addressed to the City Council and the Redevelopment Agency were read during the public hearing. The City Council approved the next phase of the project, while some portions await an RFP process. The designers consider the results of AIA/LA efforts a success.

Greenport Waterfront Park Design Competition 1996

The waterfront village of Greenport in Long Island new York is sponsoring a competition to propose creative and innovative design ideas for a 4-acre park and harborwalk. The landscape will incorporate various architectural pavilions, a carousel, facilities and dock master's offices. \$20,000 in total prizes will be awarded, and entrants need not be licensed in New York. For information and registration contact the Greenport Waterfront Park Competition at 516.477.3000.

ARE Seminars

The 1996 Architectural Registration Seminars continue this month with the following scheduled sessions:
May 18 Div. B: Site Design
May 25 Div. C: Building Mock Exam
June 1 Div. B: Site Mock Exam
June 8 Div. B: Site Mock Review
June 8 Div. C: Building Mock Review

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 at 310/785-1809.

People & Places

Julie Oakes, AIA, of Oakes and Associates in Santa Monica, was recently appointed Mayor of the City of Hermosa Beach....Joseph Catalano, AIA, has been appointed to the Cultural Heritage Commission in the City of Sierra Madre....Anshen and Allen Architects was presented a Merit Award by the State Department of Rehabilitation's

Building a Better Future Design Awards Program for their work on the Engineering Science Building, Unit I, at UC Riverside....The Los Angeles Community Design Center's affordable housing development, the Young Apartments, was recently honored by the LA Conservancy with a 1996 Historic Preservation Award and the LA Business Council with an Urban Beautification Award (Architect: Cavaedium). The LA/CDC was also honored by the LA Business Council with another Urban Beautification Award for the affordable housing design for the Hollywood El Centro Apartments (Developer: Thomas Safran & Associates)....Urban Art has been awarded a \$10,500 grant by Save Outdoor Sculpture! to obtain condition assessments of the 25 most significant outdoor sculptures located in Los Angeles County.

CITY WATCH

Los Angeles: MGD 110

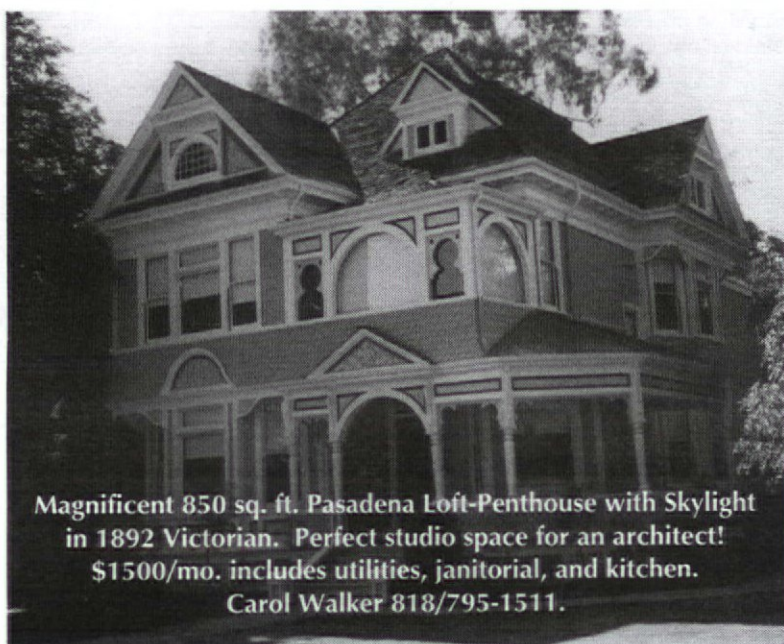
The Board of Building and Safety Commissioners have crafted an amendment titled "Proposed Amendment to the Los Angeles Municipal Code To Adopt Emergency Provisions Pertaining To Structural Observation." On February 20, 1996 the Commission approved the ordinance draft and allowed it to proceed towards final approval and implementation. The amendment is called Memorandum of General Distribution No. 110, Structural Observation. MGD 110 for short.

The spirit and intent of the proposed code change is simply that the architect or engineer of

record, or a qualified designated architect or engineer shall be retained by the owner of the structure to conduct structural observations during the course of construction at critical phases of the project. Good idea! However the language of the proposed amendment makes for considerable unnecessary risks and exposure on the part of architects and engineers and in no way addresses the role and responsibilities of the building contractor.

In short, this proposed change to the code will dramatically alter how we practice within the City of Los Angeles. More troubling is the fact that the Commission thought it proper to proceed with a task force made up of representatives from The Department of Building and Safety and the Structural Engineer's Association of Southern California, with no representatives from the architectural profession. To request a copy of MGD 110 fax a note to the chapter office, attn. MGD 110. (310) 785 1814. This could be the most valuable thing you do for your practice.

City Watch promises to be a regular feature focusing on events and issues upon which AIA/LA is taking a position. It is also meant as a sounding board for concerns regarding local governing agency policies that affect our practices and the built environment. This is the place to make your voice heard, your concerns known and to share your experiences. Material is encouraged from all members of the Chapter. Speak up, speak out! — MH



Magnificent 850 sq. ft. Pasadena Loft-Penthouse with Skylight in 1892 Victorian. Perfect studio space for an architect! \$1500/mo. includes utilities, janitorial, and kitchen. Carol Walker 818/795-1511.

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KARYN LOVEGROVE
RANDY SMITH

STUDENT

NANCY JOHNSON
MARGARET BEATRICE
JEFF HEUERMAN

American Bungalow Style

Text by Robert Winter,
Photographs by Alexander
Vertikoff (Simon & Schuster, \$40
hc)

A fond backward glance to a popular building type of a century ago that's enjoying renewed popularity. There's no denying the appeal of these woodsy, Craftsman houses, with their spreading eaves, enveloping interiors and integration of the container and the contained. The text is brief but apposite, the images enticing. — Michael Webb

Barragan: the Complete Works

(Princeton Architectural
Press/Chronicle Books, \$60 hc)

A comprehensive survey of the dozen familiar masterworks and over a hundred other buildings and projects, with essays, plans and elaborate documentation. One's admiration for the Mexican master is enhanced by this thoughtful, handsome study that fills in so many gaps. — M.W.

Ten Houses by Gwathmey Siegel; Ten Houses by Peter Forbes & Associates

(Rockport Publishers, 19.99 pb each)

Exemplary, modestly priced surveys of two masters of residential architecture. Each shows a set of variations on a theme of enclosing space and creating a whole world in a little structure. — M.W.

Access Guides to Miami, Las Vegas, Atlanta, Philadelphia

(Harper-Collins, \$18.95 each)

Having written the first Access guide to Las Vegas and two edi-

tions of Los Angeles, I should probably recuse myself from reviewing this series. But it's worth making the obvious points that (a) Wurman's concept of color coded entries arranged by proximity is inspired and (b) the guides ultimately depend on the quality of the writing and the timeliness of the editing. I've recently used Miami, which was a year out of date when it appeared and told me nothing I didn't already know, and Las Vegas which was uneven but led to many discoveries. In May, I'm off to Europe with the indispensable Paris and London guides. Why can't the publisher find writers like that here? — M.W.

Events Around Town

"Architecture: East • West, Ted Tokio Tenaka, FAIA" through December 31, 1996
Exhibition of Past and Current Projects of the award winning architect at the Hollyhock House Gallery, Barnsdall Art Park, 4800 Hollywood Blvd. Call Diana Ho at 310/306-5432.

Dr. Robert Pierson Dies

Dr. Robert Pierson, professor, author, and tour guide extraordinaire, died on March 21, 1996, of complications from AIDS. He was 41.

Bob Pierson was a "local boy," raised in Arcadia, California. Although he loved to travel, and did so extensively, he always had a special affection for Southern California. His walking tours often focused on obscure neighborhoods, cultural diversity, urban legends, and contemporary developments as well as historic perspectives. He

had a unique aptitude for noticing details, and delighted in pointing them out to friends and tourgoers. Once a year he conducted a tour of Death Sites of the Famous. His enthusiasm for his subjects was infectious, and those who took his tours or classes came away with new appreciation and awareness.

He was a professor at USC, directing the "L.A. Semester" Program through the university's School of Public Administration. The course promoted field research which provided students new insights into the urban environment. He founded and directed the Neighborhood Place Project, which organized tours of off-the-beaten-track communities and helped tourgoers discover unusual areas and aspects of Southern California. Among his many accomplishments, he authored the books "Walking Tours of the Beach Cities" and "Labyrinth: A Student's Guide to Los Angeles" and was a frequent contributor to the L.A. Times, L.A. Magazine, and other publications. He was also a founding member of the West Hollywood Urban Conservation League and was an active member and supporter of several preservation and education organizations.

He held a undergraduate degree in Sociology and Religious Studies, a master's in Theology and Urban Studies, and a doctorate in Social Ethics.

In 1994, Bob and I co-chaired the West Hollywood Centennial Celebration and last summer, we planned and conducted a series of walks commemorating the 100th birthday of Wilshire Boulevard.

The program was sponsored by the Society of Architectural Historians, of which Bob was a Board member. He became ill shortly after we completed the Wilshire Walks.

Bob had an often wicked sense of humor, loved to play practical jokes, and was the master of bad puns. A brilliant man, but never afraid to show a sense of humor about even the most frustrating issues, what sometimes looked like a casual attitude belied the seriousness of his approach. He was able to lighten a stressful moment without losing sight of the goal. He was always thinking up new ideas for books, tours, programs, and events; there was never enough time to do it all.

Bob Pierson was a man of the highest integrity, sensitivity, and insight. His outgoing and friendly nature and his egalitarian attitude attracted a wide range of admirers and co-opted even those who opposed him. He had a way of bringing people together, taking special effort to make everyone feel at ease and necessary to any proceedings. In meetings he strove always to reach "consensus," so that all involved were satisfied with the conclusion. Bob was always honest and direct, but never hurtful. No matter what his personal feelings or difficulties, he always took time to listen to others. Even at the end of his illness, he never complained and thanked his caregivers for performing even small tasks.

As an educator of the highest standards, Bob Pierson's death is a tremendous loss. As a friend, he is irreplaceable.



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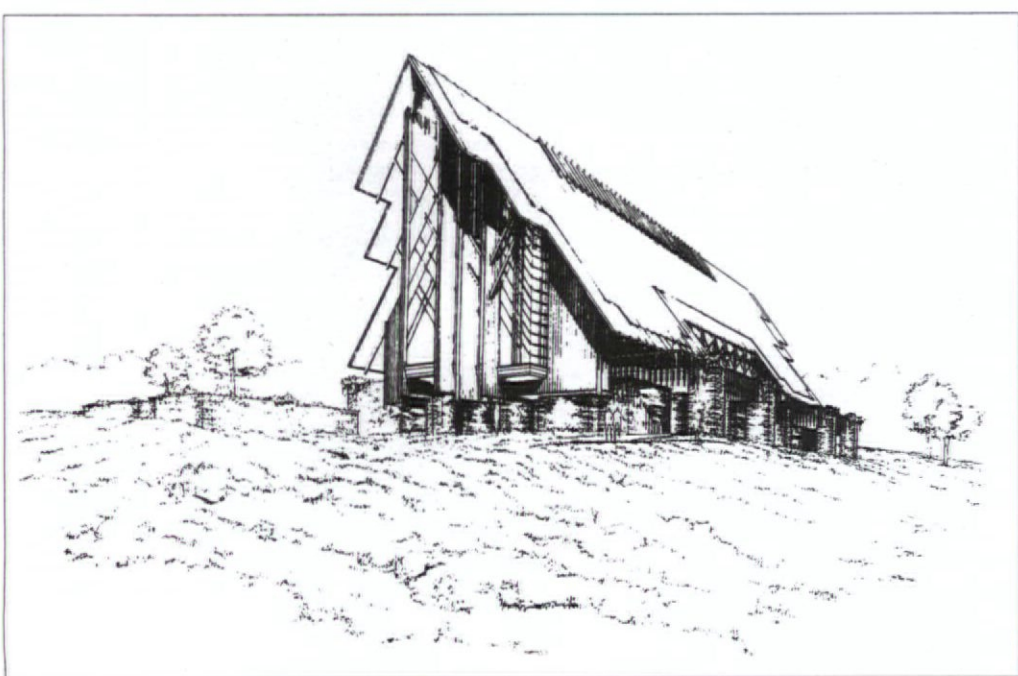
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L.A. Architect

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L.A. Architect May/June 1996



SkyChapel at Rose Hills Memorial Park. Rendering by Fay Jones/Maurice Jennings Associates

A Chapel For the Southland

What must have been the best kept secret in the architecture community is finally out! Construction of SkyRose Chapel at Rose Hills Memorial Park is well underway. The latest entry from the award winning Arkansas based architecture team of Fay Jones and Maurice Jennings will be their largest chapel to date! Probably best known for their Thorncrown Chapel in Arkansas, the serenity and grandeur of which created so much stir, the architects were called in to build a second structure to house the overflow traffic. This chapel will mark their first built project in California. By contrast, the firm, which many years ago would not accept commissions outside of a 50 mile radius of their office, currently has no projects within its home state.

Jones and Jennings were considered a natural for the commission after Bruce Lasenbee, the company's engineer, showed Dennis C. Poulsen, President of the Rose Hills Company, a photograph of the Thorncrown Chapel in Smithsonian magazine.

Fay Jones continues his tradition of translating gothic church imagery into a contemporary language which transforms the enormous 28,000 sq. ft. structure into a delicate, graceful landmark despite its size. The structure is exposed within the chapel proper and takes on a basket weave appearance, not unlike the firm's other signature chapels. As a foil to its Gothic roots, the structure actually becomes heaviest at its top. However, even when adapting to California's rigorous earthquake standards, the chapel is filled with natural light including a 24' x 72' ridge skylight. Maurice Jennings is quick to point out the team is also responsible for designing light fixtures, as well as other features within the chapel.

Rose Hills is planning to landscape the Chapel to create a woods-like atmosphere around the hilltop where it is located. Though used primarily for funeral services, this chapel will also be available for concerts, weddings, and other celebrations in the tradition of the Wayfarers' Chapel. (And no wonder — SkyRose Chapel will be home to approximately 4000 organ pipes.) It is set to open in the Spring of 1997, but may open as soon as December of this year. LA Architect will keep you posted on its progress.

USC Honors Chester (Chet) Widom, FAIA

May 14, Chet Widom, a 1962 graduate of the USC School of Architecture, was honored as Distinguished Alumnus of the Year at the annual Banquet of the USC Architectural Guild. Widom, a founding partner in the Santa Monica based Widom Wein Cohen, is past national president of the AIA.

Widom served as president of the Los Angeles Headquarters City Association for two terms and is a founder and past president of Alternative Living for the Aged, a non-profit organization which provides housing alternatives for the elderly. He also serves as a member of the mayor's Special Advisory Task Force for the Renovation of City Hall and on the Dean's Board of Counselors at the USC School of Architecture. Some projects his firm has designed are the Autry Museum of Western Heritage, Kaiser Permanente Data Processing center, Maple Drive Restaurant as well as numerous healthcare facilities.

AIA/LA West Side Home Tour

The Los Angeles Chapter of the AIA invites you to explore the best of contemporary residential architecture in Brentwood, Pacific Palisades, and Venice on Sunday, June 2 at the AIA/LA West Side Home Tour. This tour a follow-up to the much talked about (and sold-out) Malibu Home Tour held earlier this month. The tour features projects by award-winning AIA members including Steve Ehrlich, FAIA, Ted Tokio Tanaka, FAIA, Trevor Abramson Architects, Lorcan O'Herlihy, AIA, and Rockefeller Hricak Architects.

Ticket prices are \$25, general admission, \$20 AIA members and students. Advance ticket purchases are required. No tickets will be sold the day of the tour. (Tickets are expected to sell out.) Mail checks payable to "AIA/LA", 8687 Melrose Ave., Suite M3, Los Angeles, CA 90069. Credit card orders can be made by calling the Chapter Office at 310/785-1809.

A/E/C Systems '96

The Seventeenth International Computer Technology Show for the Design and Construction Industry will be held at the Anaheim Convention Center June 17-20. More than 25,000 design and construction professionals are expected to attend the more than 150 conference sessions and the 475-vendor/1400-booth exhibits. Visit the AIA/LA at their very own booth!

A/E/C/ Systems '96 is the world's largest automation exposition for the design and construction industry. For information, contact 800/451-1196 or <http://www.aecsystems.com>.

Scoop!

A bright beam of southern California sunshine shone through the overcast skies at the 1996 AIA National Convention and Expo96 in Minneapolis May 10-13. Ronald A. Altoon, FAIA (AIA/LA) was elected National Vice President/President Elect along with Brian Dougherty, FAIA (AIA/OC) who was elected National Secretary. The Young Architect's Award went to Christopher Coe, AIA (AIA/LA). Of the 91 architects elected to the prestigious College of Fellows, more than 16%, or 15 architects, were from California alone! (See LA Architect, April 1996-p.1 for names of the four Los Angeles Chapter winners.) Several Los Angeles area architects received top design awards. A full report of the Convention and Awards will follow next month.

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