

architect in the community issue

07.2

# arcca

architecture california  
the journal of the american institute of architects  
california council

East Oakland School of the Arts  
Stoner Meek Architecture and  
Urban Design, architect

# DESIGN REVIEW

## Let's Talk

The Community as Client

The Rise of the Anti-Patron

Confessions of a Design Reviewer

1964 Was Charles Moore, Now Is Now

Tribal Council: a Survivor Interview

Here's How We Do It in San Francisco

Sand Hill Road

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arcCA, the journal of the American Institute of Architects California Council, is dedicated to exploring ideas, issues, and projects relevant to the practice of architecture in California. arcCA focuses quarterly editions on professional practice, the architect in the community, the AIACC Design Awards, and works/sectors.

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Tribal Council = Design Review? A scene from *Survivor*, with San Francisco architect Sylvia Kwan, FAIA, second from left. Photo courtesy of CBS

A year ago, for our second quarter “architect in the community” issue, we focused on Los Angeles, site of that year’s AIA National Convention. This year we focus on the Bay Area. The reason this time is not temporal but topical: this issue of *arcCA* is devoted to Design Review, a process for which San Francisco and surrounding communities are noted—or, one might say, notorious.

In this issue, you will find three perspectives on design review in San Francisco: a highly critical appraisal by development and planning consultant David Prowler (originally published in the newsletter of the San Francisco Planning and Urban Research Association (SPUR), January 2007); a story of a series of design workshops presented to the San Francisco Planning Commission on behalf of AIA San Francisco; and some encouraging front-line experiences of design review by architect Owen Kennerly, AIA.

As background for these studies of design review, we offer two complementary historical perspectives by two of California’s premier architectural historians, David Gebhard and Mitchell Schwarzer.

You will also find other Bay Area-centric articles: a proposal for “Design Review Guidelines Guidelines” by San Mateo architect Ellis Schoichet, AIA; an interview with San Francisco architect Sylvia Kwan, FAIA, who was a contestant on this season’s *Survivor*; AIA San Francisco’s selection of the city’s best-loved buildings, reported by John King, urban design writer for the *San Francisco Chronicle*; an elegant and economical renovation for the East Oakland School of the Arts, by San Francisco’s Stoner Meek Architecture and Urban Design (in “Under the Radar”); and, for our “Coda,” a brief look at changing design review criteria, as seen in mid-twentieth century and early twenty-first century additions to a late-nineteenth century San Francisco landmark.

We also look at a landscape much-neglected by the architectural press: that of the suburban office park, reflecting on the role of design review in the formation of the Sand Hill Road Corridor in Menlo Park and Palo Alto.

And, as always, we try to have at least one nutsy-boltsy, how-to article, this one on how best to behave at a design review hearing, Wendy Kohn’s “Confessions of a Design Reviewer.”

We look forward to your responses.

Tim Culvahouse, FAIA, editor  
tim@culvahouse.net

A few corrections to 07.1, “Patronage”:

On page 35, we misidentified Gruen Associates as the associate architect for the United States Courthouse in Fresno; they are, in fact, the executive architect.

The Ontario Medical Office Building, shown on page 47, was designed not by HDR Architects, but by WWCOT, whose other work for Kaiser Ontario includes the master planning of the campus as well as designing the central plant and IT plant.

And, on page 51, we erroneously reported that AIA San Mateo County was preparing a Regional Urban Design charrette. In fact, the AIA East Bay Chapter, the UC Berkeley College of Environmental Design, and the City of Pittsburg are jointly hosting a charrette on the Railroad Avenue Corridor.