

SAH/SCC

SOCIETY OF ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIANS
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAPTER

post office box 92224, pasadena, ca 91109-2224

800.9SAHSCC

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1996
march/april 1996

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Parrot imagery is popular in Catalina tile work. (Photo: From Catalina Tile by Lee Rosenthal.)

CATALINA CALLING

SET SAIL FOR SANTA CATALINA ISLAND
SAH/SCC WEEKEND TOUR: MARCH 22-24, 1996

Tile, tuna, trams, and more await you on the island of Catalina when you embark on a weekend tour of this historical and exciting island, from Friday, March 22, to Sunday, March 24. On this special weekend tour, you'll discover secret places and extraordinary sights known only to Catalina natives and aficionados. The tour will be led by SAH/SCC board members Grant Taylor and Nancy Smith, with guests Roger Kenvin, co-author of an upcoming book on John Gabriel Beckman (the interior designer of the Casino Building), and Lee Rosenthal, author of *Catalina Tile of the Magic Isle*.

The tour is limited to 32 lucky people who will experience insider views, exclusive tours and special lectures. Tour highlights include:

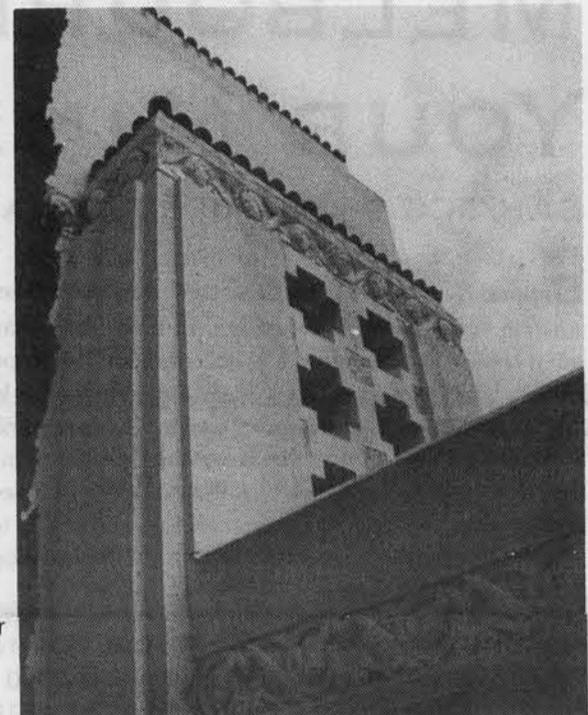
- Museum tour
- Theatre tour and lecture
- Casino Building—exclusive tour for SAH/SCC participants before public is welcome
- Ballroom tour
- Tuna Club
- Yacht Club
- Avalon Tram tour
- Botanical Garden

- Wrigley Memorial
- Bird Aviary
- Catalina Country Club
- Cubs Village
- St. Lauren Hotel
- Catalina Tile and Pottery lecture
- Rancho Escondido
- Airport in the Sky
- Avalon's Tile Hideaways
- Optional attendance of 3rd Annual Catalina Country Dance Celebration

The tour includes arrangements to leave for Catalina from San Pedro at 7:30PM Friday, with return at 7:30PM Sunday. Alternate arrangements may be made to leave San Pedro early Friday, or at 7:30AM Saturday morning. Complete tour fee varies with accommodations, from \$386 to \$426.

Package A: Two-night stay at Zane Grey Pueblo Hotel and Bed and Breakfast. This 1926 "Hopi Pueblo" was the home of author Zane Grey. It features original living room, fireplace and piano, natural gardens, swimming pool, and ocean and mountain views. Experience bohemian living in this wonderful, rustic hideaway. \$386.

The Yacht Club by architect Harry Vaughan, 1924. (Photo: Grant Taylor)



Wrigley Memorial by Bennett, Parsons & Frost. (Photo: Grant Taylor)

Package B: Two-night stay at the Hotel St. Lauren. A Victorian setting with old-style charm and modern convenience, the hotel was built in 1987 with AAA approval, beautifully decorated suites with ocean views, Jacuzzi tubs, and rooftop patio. One block from the beach, you'll have both traditional feeling and modern accommodations. \$426.

For more information, call Grant Taylor at 213.931.1140, or Nancy Smith at 213.663.9421.



SAH/SCC 24-HOUR HOTLINE:
800.9SAHSCC

SAH/SCC'S INTERNET
HOMEPAGE:
<http://www.ccsf.caltech.edu/~mac/sah/index.htm>



The majestic and modern Melbourne skyline. (Photo: Jeff Samudio)

MELBOURNE ON YOUR MIND

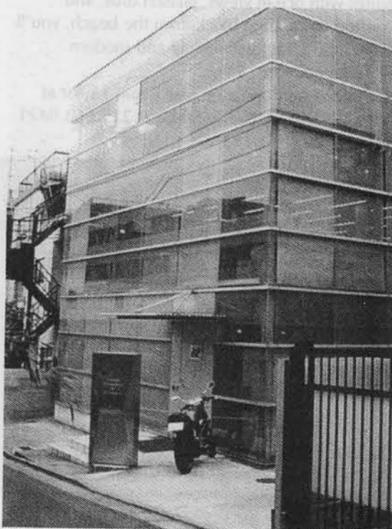
SAH/SCC 9-DAY TOUR: JANUARY 2-10, 1997

Defined by dramatic economic ups and downs, Melbourne is the jewel and heart of Australia's culture and commerce. Its broad boulevards and impressive park lands are an ideal setting to understand the architectural development of a continent. Noted as one of the world's great Victorian cities, Melbourne's charm is hard to resist. Join noted architect, historian and heritage planner Timothy Hubbard, and SAH/SCC President Jeff Samudio as they lead you on a tour to discover the development of Australia. From Gold Rush towns to Californification, enjoy the sites that tourists rarely see, as local historians shed light on historic sites that will be opened exclusively for our tour.

The tour will cover several themes in the development of Melbourne, from the 1830's to the 1960's. Tour themes:

- Colonial Melbourne and the Gold Rushes, 1835-1875
- Marvelous Melbourne, Boom and Bust, 1875-1895
- Federal Style and Early Modernism, 1895-1930
- The Modern Movement and Americanization, 1930-1965
- Tour to Historic Ballarat, the Gold Rush Towns and rural Victoria

Accommodations are in the Newman College, designed Walter Burley Griffin and Marion Mahoney Griffin, at the University of Melbourne, within walking distance of one of the world's finest transit systems and bustling urban core. Enjoy summer and the blooming of the Royal Gardens and beach-side resorts. Total package is \$2,300. There are only 35 spaces, so send in your \$500 deposit. Call Jeff Samudio for more information at 213.962.4585.



TOUR TOKYO IN SEPTEMBER

SAH/SCC TOUR:
SEPTEMBER 15-22, 1996

Check your calendar and save the date for a stunning tour of historic and contemporary Japanese architecture. Organized by globe-trotting tour guide Jeff Samudio, this tour will include wonders and jewels of Tokyo you never knew existed. Approximate price: \$2,800; deposit \$500. Keep an eye on SAH/SCC News for more info.

The "F" Building by Toyo Ito was built in 1991 in the Aoyama District of Tokyo. (Photo: Jeff Samudio)

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Editor: Julie D. Taylor
Newsletter Committee: Barbara Lamprecht;
Rebecca Kahn
Executive Assistant: Grace Samudio

Information for the newsletter should be sent three weeks before the issue date.

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July/August 1996	June 10
September/October 1996	August 12
November/December 1996	October 14

Please send all notices of events, exhibitions and news—plus photographs—to the attention of the editor:

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SAH/SCC News welcomes reviews and articles by chapter members. If you are interested in writing for the News, please call the editor.

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VIVA LAS VEGAS

SAH/SCC WEEKEND TOUR: NOVEMBER 9-10, 1996

CO-SPONSORED BY THE FREEMAN HOUSE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Robert Venturi, Denise Scott Brown and Steven Izenour helped us learn from Las Vegas. Alan Hess helps us learn how it got that way. This tour will help you see how its past is reflected in its future. *Learning From Las Vegas* is even more enlightening today than when first published by Venturi, Scott Brown and Izenour some 20 years ago. The SAH/SCC and the Freeman House propose a weekend expedition

into the city's past, present, and future that will not soon be forgotten. This is the third tour in the successful series "Modernism in the Desert Southwest," which included "Wright in Phoenix" in 1991, and "Modernism in Palm Springs" in 1993.

Join us for a fascinating look at this strange, and possibly prophetic construct of American urbanism of the late 20th century. The tour will

leave Los Angeles in the lap of luxury in a double-deck bus for the city of dreams—Las Vegas. Jeff Chusid, adjunct professor of architecture at USC, and Jeff Samudio, president of SAH/SCC, offer views to the future of Vegas through the work of Antoine Predock and other architects.

The tour will begin with a look at the remnants of the original Las Vegas clubs and casinos in Downtown. We'll have a peek at the graveyard for one of the most unique American art forms, neon signs, and the last remains of the strip's first great casinos. Among the historic sites the tour will visit is the Moulin Rouge, which was recently placed on the National Register of Historic Places, and tells the story of the city's only integrated hotel and casino during the 1950's and 1960's.

We will also go behind the scenes of one of the new mega casino-hotels to glimpse the future of entertainment in this unique city. No trip to Las Vegas would be complete without an evening tour of the illuminated city in all its glitzy neon—and sometimes crass—expressions. Plus, two nights out on the town!

From the strip, the focus will shift to the incredible infrastructure that made this city in the desert possible. We will visit the massive WPA projects of Boulder Dam (now, Hoover Dam), with architectural details designed by Gordon Kaufman, and tour the city created to build it, Boulder City, before returning to Los Angeles.

Stay tuned to SAH/SCC News for more details of this tour of the city that has tantalized and enchanted architects, historians, gamblers, filmmakers, writers and thrill-seekers of all kinds. Tour price has not been set, but you can reserve you space with a \$100 deposit. Call Jeff Samudio at 213.962.4585 for more information.



The Fremont Hotel, built in 1956 by Wayne McAllister and William Wagner, was covered in pink and reddish-tan concrete panels, and was the first high-rise on Fremont Street. (Photo: From Viva Las Vegas: After-Hours Architecture by Alan Hess)

'LIFE IN THE CITY' CONTINUES

The monthly book readings sponsored by SAH/SCC at Urban Inversion continue throughout the year with discussions of books pertinent to our lives in the city. Past participants have included authors and experts on such books as *City Life*, *Devil in a Blue Dress*, and *How Buildings Learn*. At presstime, arrangements for the March and April talks were not finalized. Please call 800.9SAHSCC for up-to-date information.

For each sale of the featured books, Urban Inversions donates 30 percent to SAH/SCC. The store is located at 8246 Santa Monica Blvd. in West Hollywood. Readings are at 7PM, and there is a \$5 donation.

We are always looking for new people to share their latest books, review past triumphs, or discuss favorite texts. If you have any ideas, or would like to participate yourself, please call Jeff Samudio at 213.962.4585.

And, don't forget, Urban Inversions is still selling books at a discount that will benefit SAH/SCC. Titles left are: *Art and Architecture*; *Frank Lloyd Wright: Hollyhock House*; *Robert Stacey Judd: The Creation of a New Style*; *Viva Las Vegas*; *World of Fairs*.

BAGS PACKED FOR PITTSBURGH

The "Purity in Pittsburgh" tour scheduled for Memorial Day Weekend is all booked up. Responses flooded in at the first mention in the January/February 1996 SAH/SCC News. Thanks to all who will join us, and to Rob Rothblatt for his excellent organization, and Rebecca Kahn for her great assistance. And if you missed this one, be sure to reserve your spot now for upcoming tours of Catalina, Tokyo, Las Vegas and Melbourne.

SAH/SCC ESTABLISHES ENDOWMENT FUND

SAH/SCC kindly asks our members and friends to consider the organization when making donations of real estate or other substantial property. Through the administration of a new endowment fund, we anticipate proceeds being used to insure the SAH/SCC's long-term benefit and survival. Proceeds from gifts will be professionally managed to cover operation costs of the organization. Our goal for 1996 is \$200,000. We ask your help in achieving this goal to help stabilize the organization. Please direct all questions and inquiries to Jeff Samudio at 213.962.4585. A sincere thank you in advance from SAH/SCC.

6 EXHIBITS



Tina Modotti's photograph of Edward Weston is among those shown at SFMOMA.

Craft and Folk Art Museum

5800 Wilshire Blvd., LA. 213.937.5544.

School of Fisch, through March 17. Contemporary jewelry design by Arlene Fisch and her students from San Diego State University.

100 In the Sun: Art by the Yard, March 29–June 2. Surface design exhibition of 100 pieces of patterned textiles by 33 contemporary artists/designers.

The J. Paul Getty Museum

17985 Pacific Coast Highway, Malibu. Res. req. 310.458.2003.

The Magic of Material Things: Albert Renger-Patzsch, through March 31. Photography exhibition of the German artist involved in the New Objectivity movement, 45 pieces from the museum collection show both industrial and natural subjects.

Doris Ulmann: Photography and Folklore, April 9–July 7. Portraiture, photographs of architecture, landscape and still life from the 1910s to the early 1930s.

The Doctor's House Museum

1601 W. Mountain, Brand Park, Glendale. 818.242.7447.

1906—In and Around the Doctor's House, through March 31. Tours of house show life, business, medicine and government in Glendale, sponsored by The Glendale Historical Society.

Greystone Mansion

905 Loma Vista Dr., Beverly Hills. 310.285.2537.

Built on a 12-acre site, by Gordon B. Kaufman in 1928, Greystone Mansion features extensive grounds and gardens for public viewing daily.

Istituto Italiano di Cultura/Italian Cultural Institute

1023 Hilgard, LA. 310.443.3250.

Botta and Cucchi: Capella del Monte Tamaro, March 29–April 30. Sketches, drawings, models and photographs of Capella del Monte Tamaro, a chapel designed by Mario Botta with altar pieces by Enzo Cucchi. Show travels to San Francisco this summer. Exhibition is made possible by Istituto Italiano di Cultura/Italian Cultural Institute, Consulate General of Switzerland, Italian Heritage Culture Foundation, Swiss Air, AIA/LA, PDC, ICF, UCLA, USC.

Helen Lindhurst Architecture Gallery

USC School of Architecture, Watt Hall, LA. 213.740.2097.

USC Architecture Final Presentations, April 29–May 9.

MAK Center for Art and Architecture, LA Schindler House, 835 N. Kings Rd., LA. 213.651.1510.

House and CD-ROM Viewing, through March 17. See house in its "pure spatial form" with

no furnishings or decor, and view CD-ROM "Architecture in Exile: Austrian Contributions to Modern American Architecture." Docent training Thursday evenings, March 7–28.

The Havana Project: Architecture Again, April 12–July. Inaugural exhibition features architectural proposals designed for the Cuban capital by Wolf Prix/Coop Himmelblau, Eric Own Moss, Thom Mayne/Morphosis, Lebbeus Woods, Carme Pinós and C.P.P.N.

The Garage Project, April 13–July. Installations inspired by the garage spaces at Schindler's Mackey House are presented by artists Peter Kogler and Heimo Zobernig from Vienna, and Liz Larner and Paul McCarthy from LA.

Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles

250 S. Grand Ave., LA. 213.626.6222.

Out of Order: Franklin D. Israel, through May 26. Exhibition with site-specific installation by Israel, featuring dynamic, angular spaces within the MOCA gallery, which appear to emerge organically from the existing architecture, but which dramatically alter the character of the space. Large-scale images and models of Israel's projects also on view.

Social Documents: MOCA's New Photography Collection, through May 26. Selections from the newly acquired collection of 2,100 prints of post-war American documentary photography by Diane Arbus, Brassai, Larry Clark, Robert Frank, Lee Friedlander, Nan Goldin, Helen Levitt, Danny Lyon and Garry Winogrand.

Museum of Contemporary Art, San Diego

700 Prospect St., La Jolla. 619.454.3541.

John Baldessari: National City, March 10–June 30. San Diego native Baldessari presents early phototext paintings featuring National City, as well as newly created works commemorating his return to San Diego.

Inside/Out: Court, Garden, Wall, March–December. Series of new installations celebrating museum reopening in La Jolla featuring installations by Mel Chin, Gabriel Orozco, Regina Silveira and Edward Ruscha.

Pacific Design Center

8687 Melrose Ave., LA. 310.657.0800.

The Art of House Beautiful: 100 Years of Cover Design, March 13–April 30, Center Blue, Floor 1. Celebrating 100th anniversary of *House Beautiful*.

Art to Swatch, March 13–April 15, Murray Feldman Gallery. Watch designs by artists and designers.

Best of Art Center, March 13–15, Center Green, Floor 4, G492. Student-designed work.

Design Watch, March 13–15, Center Green, Floor 4, G492. Chairs designed in Modernesque fashion by SCI-Arc students, sponsored by Kimball Office Furniture.

Mad About Malibu: The Malibu Beach Arrives at IdeaHouse, permanent exhibit, Center Green, Floor 2. Fully designed and furnished "house" giving ideas for domestic living, sponsored by Home & Garden Television.

PET-chitecture, March 13–April 15, Center Blue Galleria, Floor 5. Exhibit and silent auction of dog dwellings customized by LA architects and designers, to benefit P.A.W.S. (Pets Are Wonderful Support).

Picture LA: Landmarks of a New Generation, March 13–April 27, Center Blue Galleria, Floors 2–6. Photographs documenting Los Angeles landmarks through the eyes of eight young photographers, sponsored by The Getty Conservation Institute.

Salone del Mobile di Milano/Milan Furniture Fair, March 13–April 30. Center Blue Atrium. Preview of furniture to be shown at the Italian fair in exhibit designed by Vignelli & Associates.

Wear Your Chairs, March 13–15, Center Green, Floor 4, G492. Chairs merging fashion and interior design by students at The American College.

Also: *AIACC Awards; Bertoia Trees; Designer Vignettes; Isola Bella Mural; Maya Revival in Southern California; Le Paris de Créateurs; Strathmore Presents Watermarks; WestWeek in Bloom; Zodiac Mural*; and featured collections from LACMA, Museum of Miniatures.

San Francisco Museum of Modern Art

151 3rd St., San Francisco. 415.357.4000.

Wild Design: Designs for the Wild, through April 3. Industrial design exhibit of tents, outdoor gear, mountain bikes, climbing tools and other implements designed for inhabiting nature.

Lebbeus Woods: The San Francisco Project, through April 3. Commissioned drawings from the visionary architect that explore the geographic, geological and social structures of the Bay Area.

Selections From the Permanent Collection of Architecture and Design, ongoing. Chairs by such designers as Eames, Gehry, Kane, Mack, Morphosis and Schindler.

Southern California Institute of Architecture (SCI-Arc)

5454 Beethoven St., LA. 310.574.1123.

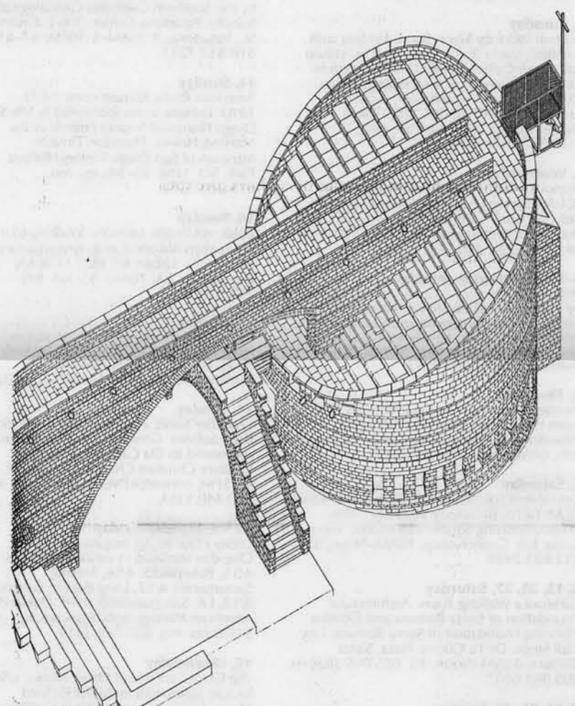
Experiential Architecture: Ongoing Investigations Into Built Space, ongoing. Continuing series of student works, featuring models, drawings, mixed-media works and text.

The Bike Stops Here, permanent installation. Site-specific bike-rack sculptures designed by SCI-Arc students at 10 locations throughout downtown: Grand Hope Park, LA Times Building, Grand Central Market, City Hall East, Pershing Square, LAPD Central, Children's Museum, ARCO Plaza, Temporary Contemporary, and Alpine Recreation Center and Chinatown Branch Library. Project sponsored by Community Redevelopment Agency and Department of Transportation.

UCLA at the Armand Hammer Museum of Art and Cultural Center

10899 Wilshire Blvd., LA. 310.443.7020.

Critiques of Pure Abstraction, through March 10. Late 20th-century work reviewing abstraction's attitudes and conventions.



Mario Botta's Capella del Monte Tamaro is the subject of an exhibition at the Istituto Italiano di Cultura/Italian Cultural Institute, and lecture on April 2.

New Work: Richard Hamilton, Site Referential Paintings, through May 5. British pop artist Hamilton explores interiors, fusing realities and interpretations.

Tina Modotti, March–June. Photographs by the exiled Italian artist who settled in Mexico.

The Gelman Collection of Mexican Modernism, April–September. 55 paintings by modernists, including muralists Diego Rivera and Jose Clemente Orozco.

Paul Klee: Themes and Variations, ongoing. Prints and drawings focusing on recurring subjects, styles and techniques.

Sexual Politics: Judy Chicago's 'Dinner Party' in Feminist Art History, April 24–August 18. Re-examination of the Dinner Party, Chicago's installation tribute to 1,038 women, featuring triangular table with ceramic plate settings, needlework and tiling, along with feminist art from the early 1960s.

UCLA School of the Arts and Architecture

Perloff Hall, Gallery 1220, LA. 310.825.7857.

James Wines, through March 22. Works by James Wines, architect, SITE.

THROUGH THE PINHOLE



When he directs his hand-made pinhole cameras at the architecture of Los Angeles, graduate student Tres Parson comes to a greater understanding of this city and its urban elements. "If I am going to build a building in this city one day, I need to take stock, study and understand what is there how this city is made," says Parson, who recently presented his graduate thesis at the Southern California Institute of Architecture (SCI-Arc), which leaned heavily on his investigations through the pinhole. "Can a building be photographed in advance of its making?" he asked, and then proved it could through a remarkable series of site photographs, manipulations and models.

Riding around LA in his aqua, 1961 Ford F-100 truck, Parson stops at historical, vernacular, and artistic sites to photograph. ("I never go anywhere without my Thomas Guide and my Gebhard guide," he says.) Several photos

include the striated pattern of the truck bed, trumping the notion of LA as a city experienced through the automobile. The natural blur and chance happenings inherent in the pinhole camera method artfully enhance this notion. Dependent on long exposures, imprecise framing, and antiquated methods, Parson relishes the element of chance in photography. "Each picture is another experiment," says the photographer, who constructs his own cameras to allow for simultaneous viewpoints, panorama, double exposure and shifting horizon lines.

On a July day in 1994, Parson turned his attention to R.M. Schindler's 1944 Bethlehem Baptist Church, and to Simon Rodia's Watts Towers. The church is situated as an icon—almost too far from the viewer to perceive. Yet it is made completely inviting by the long, white path—the crosswalk—which seems to zoom out of the church door like a welcoming red carpet. An emblematic palm tree juxtaposed by ever-present power lines frame the delicate structure and counter its horizontally with strict vertical emphasis.

In contrast to straight geometry, the Watts Towers stand with their labyrinthine, spider-web-like filigree as an elegant umbrella view to the sky. Parson alludes to the hand-made aspect of the structure by the inclusion of the artificer of this image—Parson himself.



USC SUMMER COURSES WILL BENEFIT SAH/SCC

By registering for USC Summer programs in Historic Preservation, SAH/SCC members will enable 10% of the tuition to be donated to SAH/SCC to support the chapter. The Short Courses in Historic Preservation take place at seven different historic sites around Southern California, and are popular with local, as well as national and international, participants. Thirteen courses are designed for professionals and public officials in architecture, construction, landscape architecture, planning, preservation and public policy. AIA/CES credit or university course credit may apply, and classes may be taken separately or grouped together. Be sure to register through SAH/SCC (form on page 8) so the organization will receive the 10% credit.

Courses offered under the theme of Preserving the Recent Past:

- Fundamentals of Preservation, Friday-Saturday, July 26-27, \$225
- Structure and Performance, Sunday, July 28, \$125
- Materials Properties and Conservation, Monday-Tuesday, July 29-30, \$225.
- Historic Interiors and Finishes, Wednesday, July 31, \$125
- Historic Site Documentation, Thursday, August 1, \$125
- Contract Documents and Supervision, Friday, August 2, \$125.
- Historic Site Curatorship, Saturday, August 3, \$125.
- Historic Designed Landscapes, Monday, August 5, \$125.
- Interpretation and Cultural Diversity, Tuesday, August 6, \$125.
- Preservation Economics, Wednesday, August 7, \$125.
- Preservation Law and Planning, Thursday, August 8, \$125.
- Computers in Preservation, Friday, August 9, \$125.
- International Preservation, Saturday, August 10, \$125.
- Complete Program: Historic Preservation: An Overview of Critical Issues, July 26–August 10, \$1,400.

For more information on course specifics, call Jeffrey M. Chusid, AIA, director, Preservation Short Course Program, School of Architecture, University of Southern California, 213.740.2723. For registration, see page 8.

CALL FOR PAPERS: DEADLINE JUNE 1, 1996

At the SAH/SCC Annual Meeting in August, in conjunction with an upcoming tour, members will have the opportunity to share completed or in-progress papers that discuss the PWA/WPA in Los Angeles. Please submit an abstract by June 1, 1996, for consideration by the jury. Chosen papers will have the opportunity for publication, presentation, and submission by the chapter to national SAH to be considered for the 1998 conference in Los Angeles. Submit abstracts by June 1 to SAH/SCC—WPA, P.O. Box 92224, Pasadena, CA 91109. For more information, please call Jennifer Minasian at 310.657.5462.

