

Notes from Another Los Angeles
Gregory Ain and the Construction of a Social Landscape

Edited by Anthony Fontenot

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Dunsmuir Flats (1937) by Gregory Ain.



Photos: Julius Shulman; © J. Paul Getty Trust. Getty Research Institute, Los Angeles (2004.R.10)

Authors on Architecture: Fontenot on Ain

SAH/SCC Zoom Program

Sunday, July 9, 2023, 1-2:30 PM Pacific

Join SAH/SCC for a thoughtful program with author Anthony Fontenot as he discusses his book *Notes From Another Los Angeles: Gregory Ain and the Construction of a Social Landscape* (MIT Press, 2022). It is the first book devoted to exploring the communal developments that Ain believed in deeply, with a focused look at each of the projects he constructed. Had his ideas taken further hold, Los Angeles might be a very different place today.

The book is arranged through a quartet of “notes”—both textual and visual—akin to a police or surveillance file (which is no accident, given that among these notes is Ain’s actual FBI file). The first presents a series of striking black-and-white photographs of four of Ain’s built housing projects by celebrated architectural photographer Julius Shulman. These are followed by illustrated essays on Ain by contemporary architectural historians—including SAH/SCC past-President Anthony Denzer—an archival section of articles, including notes for a lecture on Ain by the distinguished architectural writer, critic, and SAH/SCC Founding Member Esther McCoy, and lastly project descriptions, drawings, and contemporary color photographs by Kyungsub Shin.

In Fontenot’s words: “This work is presented with the hope that designers may be inspired not only to seek innovative solutions for creating low-cost, high-quality environments but also to engage in some of the more difficult questions related to inequality and segregation that continue to shape our cities.” For more on the book, read the review in SAH/SCC News, [Spring 2023](#).

Fontenot is Professor of Architecture at Woodbury University School of Architecture in Los Angeles and the author of *Non-Design: Architecture, Liberalism, and the Market* (The University of Chicago Press, 2021). He is a contributing author to *Hannes Meyer: New Bauhaus Teaching Methodology: From Dessau to Mexico* (Spector Books, 2021), *New Orleans Under Reconstruction* (Verso, 2014), and *Berlin – Stadt ohne Form. Strategien einer anderen Architektur* (Prestel, 2000).

Fontenot on Ain—Sunday, July 9, 2023; 1-2:30 PM PST; \$5; go to www.sahscc.org, and pay via PayPal or mail in order form on Page 6 with check.

SAH/SCC President's Letter

In January of this year, SAH/SCC's program "A Call to Action: The California State Capitol and Park Under Threat" welcomed a panel of concerned preservationists to talk about proposed changes to the California State Capitol (M. Frederic Butler, Reuben Clark, Gordon Parker Cummings, 1874; former SAH/SCC Life Member Raymond Girvagian, FAIA, 1975). While planning the event, I realized that I knew very little about the State Capitol building in Sacramento. Like everyone else on event day, I grabbed a comfy chair and waited to be educated.

Instead, I was horrified.

Retired contractor/engineer Dick Cowan, former State Historic Preservation Officer M. Wayne Donaldson, FAIA, and urban ecologist Paula Peper discussed the plans for the destruction of the existing Capitol Annex (Alfred W. Eichler, 1952) and the design for a new annex building, parking garage, and landscape. What they revealed was Sacramento's dirty little secret: the new project fundamentally changes the Capitol's relationship to its park-like setting, destroys historic trees, and attaches a modern "goiter" competitive in massing to the historic building. While the Secretary of the Interior's Standards require that additions to historically/architecturally significant buildings be "sufficiently differentiated" from the historic structure so as not to create a false sense of history, the design of the new Capitol Annex takes it to insensitive extremes.



California State Capitol (M. Frederic Butler, Reuben Clark, Gordon Parker Cummings, 1874) seen in a historic postcard.

The design of the new structure—overseen by construction manager MOCA—was revealed after the period of public feedback was closed. All of this was happening during the COVID 19 pandemic. Lawsuits were filed. Ultimately, the story was lost on the media, especially in Southern California, particularly since public health coverage dominated the news.

In December, a judge ruled that the public comment period should be extended. That extension expired in June. What, if any, effect the public commentary will have on the design remains to be seen. For a state

with an active and respected State Office of Historic Preservation, the tale remains a cautionary one. Politics can outmaneuver policy. And if it can happen here, it can happen anywhere.

I urge all of you to view the SAH/SCC zoom program by clicking [here](#).

And keep an eye on this important piece of California history.

—Sian Winship

Authors on Architecture: Kathrens on Newport Cottages

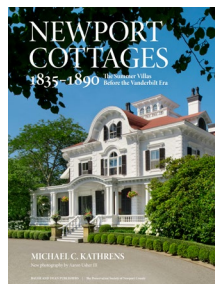
SAH/SCC Zoom Program

Sunday, October 1, 2023, 1-2:30 PM Pacific

Michael C. Kathrens gives house enthusiasts a superbly visual and informative book on Newport, RI's early resort architecture in his latest contribution to America's architectural record, *Newport Cottages 1835-1890: The Summer Villas Before the Vanderbilt Era* (Bauer and Dean Publishers, 2023). Between 1835, when the first private house was built exclusively for seasonal use, and 1890, scores of magnificent homes were commissioned by a burgeoning summer colony whose members were among America's wealthiest and most prominent families, including the Schermerhorns, Lorillards, Goelets, and Joneses. The luxury and splendor of their homes, many designed on a grand scale, often rivaled the sumptuousness of Newport's later "Gilded Age" mansions.

Kathrens is an independent scholar specializing in American residential architecture of the mid-19th through the early-20th centuries. His previous publications include *Kansas City Houses 1885-1938* (Bauer and Dean Publishers, 2018), *Great Houses of New York: 1880-1930* (Acanthus Press, 2015), *American Splendor: The Residential Architecture of Horace Trumbauer* (Acanthus Press, 2012), and *Newport Villas: The Revival Styles, 1885-1935* (W.W. Norton & Company, 2009).

Kathrens on Newport Cottages—Sunday, October 1, 2023; 1-2:30 PM PST; \$5; go to www.sahscc.org, and pay via PayPal or mail in order form on Page 6 with check.



Tour and Event Information:

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SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAPTER

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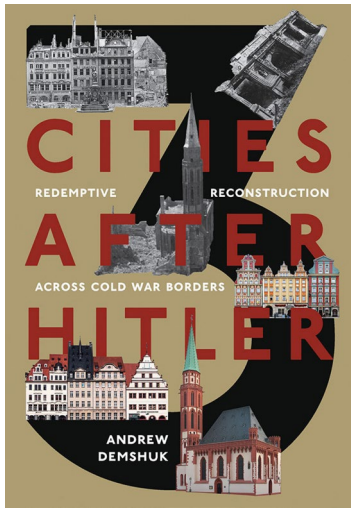
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Questions: Call 800.95SAHSCC.

Authors on Architecture: Demshuk on Rebuilding Cities

SAH/SCC Zoom Program

Sunday, August 20, 2023, 1-2:30 PM Pacific



Join us for a fascinating look at three stories of Post-World War II reconstruction of war-ravaged cities in a presentation by Andrew Demshuk, author of *Three Cities After Hitler: Redemptive Reconstruction* (University of Pittsburgh Press, 2021). The book recently won an SAH International award.

Three Cities After Hitler compares how three prewar German cities shared decades of postwar development under three competing post-Nazi regimes: Frankfurt in capitalist West Germany, Leipzig in communist East Germany, and Wrocław (formerly Breslau) in communist Poland. Each city was rebuilt according to two intertwined modern trends. First, certain local edifices were chosen to be resurrected as “sacred sites” to redeem the national story after Nazism. Second, these tokens of a reimagined past were staged against the hegemony of modernist architecture and planning, which wiped out much of whatever was left of the original urban landscape that had survived the war.

All three cities thus emerged with simplified architectural narratives; their historically layered complexities survived only in fragments where this twofold “redemptive reconstruction” after Nazism had proven less vigorous, sometimes because local citizens took action to save and appropriate them. Transcending both the Iron Curtain and freshly homogenized nation-states, three cities under three rival regimes shared a surprisingly common history before, during, and after Hitler—in terms of both top-down planning policies and residents’ spontaneous efforts to make a home out of their cities as they shape-shifted around them.

Demshuk is Associate Professor of History at American University in Washington, DC. His previous books include *Bowling for Communism: Urban Ingenuity at the End of East Germany* (Cornell University Press, 2020), *Demolition on Karl Marx Square: Cultural Barbarism and the People’s State in 1968* (Oxford University Press, 2017), and *The Lost German East: Forced Migration and the Politics of Memory, 1945-1970* (Cambridge University Press, 2012).



Author Andrew Demshuk

Demshuk on Rebuilding Cities—Sunday, August 20, 2023; 1-2:30 PM PST; \$5; go to www.sahscc.org, and pay via PayPal or mail in order form on Page 6 with check.



Frankfurt Old Town from Cathedral Tower, 1935.



Frankfurt Old Town from Cathedral Tower, 1944.

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The roof tiles of the Japanese Heritage Shōya House.

All photos: John Diefenbach; courtesy The Huntington Library, Art Museum, and Botanical Gardens

Shōya House Tour

SAH/SCC On-Site Tour: San Marino

Saturday, November 11, 2023, 9-11 AM

This fall, join SAH/SCC for a behind-the-scenes tour of the reconstructed 320-year-old magistrate's (*shōya*) house from Marugame, Japan, at the Huntington Library, Art Museum, and Botanical Gardens. The Japanese Heritage Shōya House—a 3,000-square-foot residence built around 1700—served as the center of village life.

Los Angeles residents Yohko and Akira Yokoi offered their historic family home to The Huntington in 2016. Huntington representatives made numerous visits to the structure in Marugame and participated in study sessions with architects in Japan before developing a strategy for moving the house and outbuildings to Southern California. Since 2019, artisans from Japan have been working alongside local experts to assemble the structures and re-create the traditional wood- and stonework features, prioritizing the traditions of Japanese carpentry, craft, and sensitivity to materials.

At The Huntington, visitors will be able to view the house from the interior and walk around a re-created period compound that includes a residential garden with a pond. The two-acre site includes a new gatehouse entryway based on the original, as well as landscape elements that closely resemble the house's original garden.

Our group will be joined by Robert Hori, the Gardens Cultural Curator and Program Director at The Huntington Library, who will share the history and inside story of the reconstruction of the house.

Tickets include full access to The Huntington to enjoy the grounds, visit various exhibitions at the library and galleries, and dine at the restaurants (Rose Garden Tea Room reservations are strongly recommended).

Shōya House at The Huntington—Saturday, November 11, 2023; 9-11 AM PST; \$35 for SAH/SCC Members; \$45 for Non-Members; go to www.sahscc.org, and pay via PayPal or mail in order form on Page 6 with check.



The exterior of the Japanese Heritage Shōya House.



The original roof beams were used whenever feasible in the reconstructed framework of the house.

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(We are no longer accepting mail at
 Sherman Oaks address.)

SAH/SCC PUBLICATIONS & VIDEOS

Catch up on previous SAH/SCC tours and Zoom programs. Go [here](#) to order.

Architecture: Inside and Outside: 5"x5" folded color brochure featuring Santa Barbara's Lotusland, Casa del Herrero, and Val Verde. \$3

Conjunctive Points: four-color, 11"x17" brochure featuring a 20-building walking tour of the Hayden Tract, designed by architect Eric Owen Moss and developed by Samitaur Constructs. \$8

Designed for Learning: 11"x17" walking tour map and brochure of the University of California, Santa Barbara, campus. \$4

David Gebhard Review: essays on the Works Project Administration by Robert W. Winter, Orville O. Clarke, Jr., and Mitzi March Mogul. \$5

Irving Gill: Los Angeles: 10-page booklet featuring photos and articles on Gill and three residential projects in LA. \$6

Greta Magnusson Grossman: 3.5" x 8" 2-page color brochure featuring two residences by Greta Grossman. \$4

The Historic and Modern Spirit of Ventura: 20-page guide from Ventura tour. \$10

Ray Kappe—Apotheosis: eight-page brochure features five Kappe Houses from 1959 to 1966 in the Royal Woods development of the San Fernando Valley. \$8

Kesling Homes: bi-fold, two-color brochure from the "Kesling Modern Structures" tour. \$2

Killingsworth: A Master Plan for Learning: 11"x17", four-color walking tour brochure of the Cal State Long Beach campus features history of master plan development by architect Edward A. Killingsworth, FAIA. \$4

Masters of Modernism: eight-page, two-color brochure featuring works of Richard Neutra and Frank Lloyd Wright in Bakersfield. \$5

Meet Me At the Carousel: Large tri-fold brochure and docent scripts for self-guided tour of South Coast Plaza. \$5.

Modernism for the Masses: tri-fold brochure with inserts of detailed floor plans of Eichler homes visited on the Orange County tour. \$10

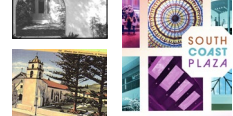
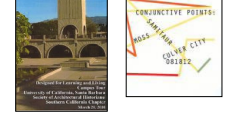
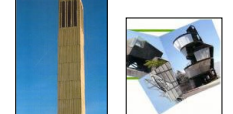
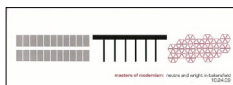
John Parkinson, Downtown: 11"x17", four-color brochure featuring a self-guided walking tour of Parkinson buildings in Downtown LA's historic core and beyond. \$5

Space and Learning: eight-page, four-color brochure on the historical and contemporary legacy of LA school architecture, featuring projects by Richard Neutra, Thom Mayne, Rios Clementi Hale Studios, and others. \$8

Union Station and MTA Transit Center: bi-fold map for a self-guided walking tour including historical facts and photos. \$2

Rodney Walker: The Ojai Years: tri-fold, black-and-white brochure featuring Walker's important residences in Ojai, with pictures and article by historian David Mason. \$5

Rodney Walker 3 30 90: 12-page brochure featuring nine homes on five sites, as well as the architect's use of the three-foot module. \$8



Architecture Unbound: Author Joseph Giovannini discusses his profusely illustrated and incredibly detailed book, *Architecture Unbound: A Century of the Disruptive Avant-Garde*. \$5

Arts & Crafts Movement: Arnold Schwartzman shares about his book *Arts & Crafts: From William Morris to Frank Lloyd Wright*. \$5

Reyner Banham: Authors Todd N. Gannon and Richard J. Williams discuss their books about Banham, writer of *Los Angeles: The Architecture of Four Ecologies*. \$5

Behind the Iron Curtain in 1969: John Ellis, FAIA, retraces his steps as a student at Cambridge to visit the work of the Russian Constructivists and Alvar Aalto, Hon. FAIA. \$5

Brains Meet Buildings: Author Michael A. Arbib speaks about the connection between neuroscience and architecture. \$5.

Brutalists: In *Brutalists: Brutalism's Best Architects*, Owen Hopkins explores the architects who adopted this type of architecture and debunks its consideration as a "style". \$5.

Bunker Hill: Author Nathan Marsak traces the architectural and cultural history of Los Angeles' early residential neighborhood, best known for its appearance in film noirs. \$5

Robert Byrd: Author Chris Lukather explores the fairytale ranch houses designed by Robert Byrd. \$5.

California Capitol: The history and recent preservation challenges of California's Capitol building in Sacramento are discussed by Dick Cowan, Wayne Donaldson, FAIA, and Paula Peper. FREE.

Church of the Epiphany: SAH/SCC President Sian Winship and preservation architects Escher GuneWardena introduce viewers to the oldest Episcopal church in LA. \$5

William F. Cody: Authors of a new book on the Palm Springs architect explore his modern works in the west and southwest. \$5

Driving Force: Authors Stephen Gee and Darryl Holter look at LA's impact on the early automobile industry explored in *Driving Force: Automobiles and the New American City, 1900-1930*. \$5

Harley Earl: SAH/SCC Member Richard Stanley reveals how Harley Earl invented the modern automotive design studio. \$5

Buckminster Fuller: Author Alec Nevala-Lee discusses the visionary life of "the inventor of the future." \$5.

Golden 1: Architect and former SAH/SCC Board Member Rob Rothblatt presents the story of Golden 1 Center (AECOM, 2016) in Sacramento, CA. \$5.

Googie Modern: Michael Murphy and Alan Hess tour through the drawings of Googie masters Armet Davis Newlove. \$5.

Elizabeth Gordon: Author Monica Penick introduces viewers to one of the most influential magazine editors of the mid-20th century. \$5

Griffith Observatory: SAH/SCC Member William "Stuart" Leslie talks about the architecture of a Los Angeles icon: Griffith Park Observatory and Planetarium. \$5

Growing up Modern: Authors Julia Jamrozik and Coryn Kempster discuss their new book, *Growing up Modern: Childhoods In Iconic Homes*. \$5

Hitchcock & Architecture: Author Christine Madrid French discusses *The Architecture of Suspense*. \$5.

Jack Rogers Hopkins: Explore *California Design Maverick: Master Mid-Century Designer Craftsman* about Hopkins, a contemporary of Sam Maloof, with editors Jeffrey Head and Katie Nartonis. \$5

Irvine Ranch: Authors C. Michael Stockstill and H. Pike Oliver discuss *Transforming the Irvine Ranch: Joan Irvine, William Pereira, Ray Watson, and the Big Plan*. \$5

Florence Knoll: Dr. Ana Arujo talks about her book *No Compromise: The Work of Florence Knoll*, about a leading force of modern design. \$5

L.A. Housing: Multifamily housing is the topic for journalist Frances Arderton, Hon. AIA/LA. \$5.

Metropolis in Latin America: Authors Maristella Casciato and Idurre Alonso shed light on the transformations that modified the colonial model of Iberian cities in America. \$5

MGM Studios: The wide-ranging effect of MGM is proven by Hollywood historian Steven Bingen. \$5.

Julia Morgan: Architectural historian and writer Kimberly Perette, Assoc. AIA, chronicles the life of trailblazing architect Julia Morgan, FAIA. \$5

Neutra in Latin America: Catherine Rose Ettinger discusses her 2018 book *Richard Neutra: Encounters with Latin America*. \$5

New West: SAH/SCC Life Members Wolfgang Wagener, AIA, RIBA, and Leslie Erganian explore history through hand-tinted postcards. \$5

John Parkinson: Author Stephen Gee discusses the unsung genius of architect John Parkinson, designer of many LA icons. \$5

Jock Peters: Historian Christopher Long relays the architect and designer's "varieties of modernism" and his work in Los Angeles. \$5

Alfred Preis: Co-authors present the book *Alfred Preis DISPLACED: The Tropical Modernism of the Austrian Emigrant and Architect of the USS Arizona Memorial at Pearl Harbor*. \$5.

Preserving Los Angeles: Author Ken Bernstein and photographer Stephen Schaffer reveal how LA's preservation programs saved architectural and cultural jewels of the city. \$5

Will Price: Author George E. Thomas makes the case for Will Price as an early modern architect working in Philadelphia. \$5

Public Housing: Scholar Nicole Krup Oest shares her thesis-turned-book, *Photography and Modern Public Housing in Los Angeles*. \$5

David Wyn Roberts: Architect, author, and SAH/SCC Member Cory Buckner provides a rare and very personal look at the work of Cambridge modernist David Wyn Roberts. \$5

Millard Sheets: Author Adam Aronson discusses the work of Millard Sheets and his association with Home Savings and Loan. \$5

The Stepwells of India: Author Victoria Lautman conducts a personal tour of the mysterious and magnificent stepwells in India. \$5

Wayne Thom: Author and SAH/SCC Member Emily Bills examines the architectural photography of Wayne Thom, who documented SoCal modern architecture. \$5

Unlikely Modernism: SAH/SCC Board Member David Coffey reveals Bakersfield's hidden legacy of modern architecture. \$5

Warner Bros.: Former Warner Bros. archivist Steven Bingen takes you behind the gates at the famed studio. \$5

Jean Welz: Author/filmmaker Peter Wyeth uncovers the little-known architecture career of perhaps the leading South African painter. \$5

Jean Welz, Part 2: Peter Wyeth provides insight and perspective about the little-known architect Jean Welz and the demolition of his seminal masterpiece Maison Zilveli. \$5.

Paul R. Williams, FAIA: Author Stephen Gee, realtor Bret Parsons, and architect Marc Appleton, AIA, discuss the early residential work of the noted "architect to the stars." \$5

Russel and Mary Wright: Author Jennifer Golub's special look at Dragon Rock at Manitoga, the home of the famed industrial designers. \$5

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SAH/SCC is a 501c 3 nonprofit organization dedicated to providing its members with opportunities to learn about and experience the rich architectural heritage of Southern California and beyond. Our volunteer board members create tours, lectures, travel tours, and other events that explore the ideas behind the architecture as well as the buildings that result from them. From modern to craftsman, from Spanish Colonial to contemporary, our programs are the best-kept secrets in Southern California!

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS:

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- Quarterly E-news with printable newsletter
- FREE tickets to our annual Members' Celebration event
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\$65 Dual – All the membership benefits for two names at the same address.

\$125 Patron – All the membership benefits above, plus priority reservation at our popular and exclusive "Patrons Only" programs, such as "Modern Patrons" and "Contemporary Patrons." Includes two names at the same address.

\$500 Corporate Sponsorship – Annual donation receives Sponsorship listing in the SAH/SCC Website and on SAH/SCC event publications and hyperlink from our Website to yours.

\$30 Student (requires scan of valid Student ID) – All the benefits of Individual membership at a 30% discount.

SAH/SCC MEMBERSHIP

_____ Individual membership at \$45 each = \$ _____

_____ Dual membership at \$65 each
(two names at same address) = \$ _____

_____ Patron membership at \$125 each
(two names at same address) = \$ _____

_____ Corporate membership at \$500 each = \$ _____

_____ Student membership at \$30 each = \$ _____

Total Membership = \$ _____

Card Number: _____

Expiration Date: _____

Security Code: _____

Signature: _____

Name on Card: _____

Billing Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____

Zip: _____

Daytime phone: _____

Evening phone: _____

E-mail Address* (PLEASE PRINT): _____

Send to: SAH/SCC, P.O. Box 491952, Los Angeles, CA 90049

All event ticket sales are final. We are sorry, refunds cannot be accommodated.

*SAH/SCC PRIVACY POLICY: The SAH/SCC never sells, rents, or shares your mailing or email address. Electronic communications enable us to operate economically and efficiently.

SAH/SCC EVENT TICKETS

Gregory Ain—Sunday, July 9, 2023

_____ reservation(s) at \$5 each = \$ _____

Rebuilding Cities—Sunday, August 20, 2023

_____ reservation(s) at \$5 each = \$ _____

Newport Cottages—Sunday, October 1, 2023

_____ reservation(s) at \$5 each = \$ _____

Huntington—Saturday, November 11, 2023

_____ SAH/SCC Member ticket(s) at \$35 each = \$ _____
LIMIT: 2 TICKETS AT MEMBER PRICE

_____ non-member ticket(s) at \$45 each = \$ _____

check enclosed (Make checks payable to SAH/SCC)

charge my credit card: VISA MC



Members congregate at the Lummis House in South Pasadena.

Celebrating Members!

On Saturday, June 10th, SAH/SCC held its Members' Celebration at the former residence of Charles Fletcher Lummis (1859-1928), author, Los Angeles booster, and founder of the Landmarks Club of Southern California. Guests were able to tour the proto-Mission style residence and enjoy refreshments in the courtyard. Christian Rodriguez, the Curator of the Charles F. Lummis House and Garden (a/k/a El Alisal, Charles F. Lummis, 1897), spoke briefly on the importance of Lummis and the history of the house. SAH/SCC also paid tribute to retired Board Member and SAH/SCC past-President Merry Ovnick, presenting her with a signed copy of one of Lummis' books. To close the program, the granddaughter of the man himself, Suzanne Lummis, read one of her poems about the Los Angeles River.



Merry Ovnick, author, professor, friend.



Suzanne Lummis and Christian Rodriguez.