

Los Angeles

FORUM

For Architecture and Urban Design

3454 West First Street
Los Angeles CA 90004
(213) 389 6730

FORUM EVENTS

The Suggestive Spaces series continues investigation of the cosmic underpinnings of Los Angeles in three events to be held this spring. Events are free for members, \$7.50 for non-members. Call 213-389-6730 for information and reservations.

- **L.A. Water and Power**

Tour of Owens Valley Aqueduct Filtration Plant and Castaic Hydroelectric Power Plant

Saturday, March 26, 9 a.m. Car pools will leave from SCI-ARC and a location in Hollywood t.b.a. Lunch available for a nominal sum. Reservations required.

- **Discussion of the Los Angeles Landscape**

with Pamela Burton, landscape architect with Burton and Spitz
April 23, 1 p.m., Cal Trans Maintenance Yard, Sepulveda Blvd. at the intersection of the Santa Monica and the San Diego Freeways.

- **Tour of Union Oil Refinery, Wilmington**

Date, time t.b.a.

FORUM

Number Two

N e w s l e t t e r

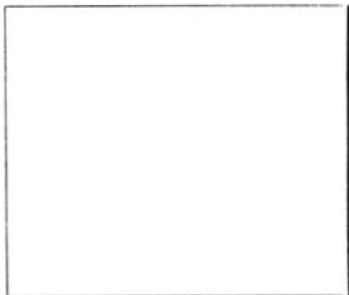
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Grant Mudford

FORUM

Number Two

P u b l i c a t i o n



BUILDING BASE (A Forum Project)

The Forum is a *place*, whether temporal or spatial, for the discussion of ideas and concepts related to architecture and urban design in Los Angeles. But the Forum is also an (ongoing) process of production. Our bi-monthly newsletter and pamphlets are extensions of our events and a central component of our activities.

In the long run, we would like to collect a much wider array of information into a "Building Base": a unified encyclopedia which collects the fragmentary ways in which the abstract social, economic and physical structures of our community are articulated — in a format which will allow makers of architecture in Los Angeles to comprehend what now appears as a vast and formless context and to create critical moments of coherence within that environment. The "Building Base" project would be both a unified architectural archive and a manual, both a collection of myths and anecdotes and an analytical and critical survey of the emerging architecture of Los Angeles. In a world of increasingly complex and more manipulable forms of information and communication, it would also allow a larger public to understand and respond in a critical fashion to the representations of their world formed by our architecture.

The "Building Base" will be a computer-based database accessible to both professionals and laymen. So far, the project is only a mirage. If you have any interest in this notion, and would be interested in helping to structure the "Building Base", please contact Aaron Betsky : 213-938-6826 or Christian Hubert: 213-389-6730.

A postscript to the Forum's Skyscraper symposium held January 19 at City Hall—the reference for speaker Mike Davis' article is: Mike Davis, "Chinatown, Part II? The 'Internationalization of Downtown Los Angeles". New Left Review No. 164. (An excerpt from the article was published in the March 4-10 issue of L.A. Weekly.)

MEMBERSHIP

Membership in the Forum is open to any interested individual. The \$35 annual fee entitles members to free admission to Forum events, to receive the bi-monthly newsletter, and to purchase other Forum publications at reduced rates. Members are encouraged to participate in planning Forum activities. Please check the appropriate category below if interested.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

I am interested in participating in the following activities:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> publications | <input type="checkbox"/> lectures and discussions |
| <input type="checkbox"/> planning and development | <input type="checkbox"/> reading groups and research |
| <input type="checkbox"/> fundraising | <input type="checkbox"/> social events |

• Newsletter Editor:

Natalie Shivers

• Officers:

Christian Hubert, President
Aaron Betsky, Vice-President
Suzanne Caffey, Secretary/Treasurer

• Board Members:

Shelly A. Berger
Aaron Betsky
Benjamin Caffey
Craig Hodgetts
Christian Hubert
Doug Suisman

RANDOM EVENTS

Lectures/Discussions/Events

- **"The Arcades of Paris"**: Lecture by Anthony Vidler
Harris 101, USC School of Architecture. Call 213-743-2723 for information.
Thursday, March 17, 5:30 p.m.
- **"The Texts and Textures of Urban Memory"**: Panel discussion with Kurt Forster, Anthony Vidler, Emily Apter, Ann Bergrin. SCI-ARC.
Friday, March 18, 7:00 p.m.
- **"Architecture and Hollywood"**: Party at former home of Cedric Gibbons and Dolores Del Rio in house designed by Gibbons
Society of Architectural Historians/Southern CA Chapter members only
(join if you want to attend). Call 818-783-0241 for information. See below for other events in "Architecture and Hollywood" series.
Sunday, March 20, 4 to 6 p.m.
- **"Recent Work"**: Lecture by Frances Halsband
Harris 101, USC School of Architecture. Call 213-743-2723 for information.
Monday, March 21, 5:30 p.m.
- **"Architecture and Hollywood"**: Lecture by Julie Dercle
Gallery Theater, Barnsdall Park. Cost: \$3.
Tuesday, March 22, 7:30 p.m.
- **"Music as Space"**: Lecture by Robert Winter
Main Space, SCI-ARC. Call 213-829-2481 for information.
Wednesday, March 23, 8:00 p.m.
- **"Art, Architecture, Theater & Design: Personal Insights"**:
Lecture by Gae Aulenti
West Hollywood Auditorium, 647 N. San Vicente Blvd., West Hollywood.
Wednesday, March 23, 10:45 a.m.
- **"Architecture and Hollywood"**: Tour of Paramount and Raleigh Studios
and Hollywood Cemetery
Sponsored by SAH/SCC, Call 818-783-0241 for information. Cost \$12.
Saturday, March 26.
- **Lecture by Stanley Tigerman**
SCI-ARC. Call 213-824-2481 for information.
Thursday, March 24, 7:00 p.m.
- **Tour of A. Quincy Jones residence (The Barn)**
Call 213-743-4471 for information. Cost \$15.
Sunday, March 27, 3 to 6 p.m.

- **"Home as a Mirror of the Self: Explorations in the Experience of Dwelling"**: Lecture by Claire Cooper
Harris 101, USC School of Architecture. Call 213-743-2723 for information.
Monday, April 4, 5:30 p.m.
- **Lecture by Peter Cook and Christine Hawley**
SCI-ARC. Call 213-829-2481 for information.
Wednesday, April 6, time t.b.a.
- **"Paris as a Work of Art"**: Lecture by Norma Evenson
Harris 101, USC School of Architecture. Call 213-743-2723 for information.
Monday, April 11, 5:30 p.m.
- **"Rehearsing the City: City Pageantry in the Image of Paris"**:
Lecture by Alan Plattus
Harris 101, USC School of Architecture. Call 213-743-2723 for information.
Monday, April 18, 5:30 p.m.
- **Tour of work by Frank Gehry.**
Sponsored by SAH/SCC Call 818-783-0241 for information.
Saturday, April 30
- **Conference on Housing and the Homeless**
Sponsored by the American Planning Association, SCI-ARC, UCLA, USC.
Call 213-743-2723 for information
Saturday, April 23, 9 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Exhibits

- **"From Broadway to Skid Row to Bunker Hill: Street Life in Downtown L.A."**: Photographic exhibit by Diego Cardoza
Perloff Gallery 1220, UCLA
March 7-March 25, M - F 8-5
- **"Formal Structure in Islamic Architecture of Iran and Turkistan"**:
Studies by Klaus Herdeg
Lindhurst Gallery, USC School of Architecture.
March 7 - March 25, M - F 10-6, Sat. 12-5
- **"Anglophilia"**: Exhibition of British Industrial Design
California Museum of Science and Industry, Exposition Park
Through April 13, open daily 10-5

RANDOM NOTES

The Let's Not and Say We Did Dept.:

A master plan sponsored by the CRA calls for the Union Passenger Terminal (1934-39, John and Donald Parkinson, et al), one of the truly wonderful train stations in the world, to become a mega-retail mall as the centerpiece of a multi-modal transit center that will include facilities for trains, buses, and subways — but not in the original station. 7 million square feet of office space will be built behind the station. A 6000 space parking garage is also slated for the development.

The Kirsten Kiser Gallery has invited a number of architects and students at USC, UCLA, Otis-Parsons, and SCI-ARC to design life guard towers. Among the participants are, not surprisingly, Frank Gehry, Stanley Tigerman, Robert Stern, Michael Graves, and Cesar Pelli. What is surprising is that the U.S. Department of Beaches and Harbors is actually considering building them. The schemes will be exhibited at the Gallery from June 25 through July. The winning student design will be on the cover of Main magazine.

"[Undeveloped] land does not have scenic quality. It is devoid of beauty. It is ugly, vacant land." So says developer C.R. Wojciechowski, whose proposal for a 106-room hotel, 18-hole golf course, 17,000 s.f. commercial center and 224 single-family homes on 257 acres of Topanga Canyon was partially denied by the County Planning Commission. He is currently suing his opponents for unjustly depriving him of profits from the project.

JAVA JUMPIN'

(or 10 best places to have coffee in and around L.A. according to Alan Hess)

Coffee's coffee wherever you drink it, so you might as well choose a great building to have it in. Here's a list of places all over town where the coffee is worth drinking:

- **Kerry's**, 14846 Ventura Blvd., Sherman Oaks: a 1953 coffee shop, a bit of Mom and Pop, a bit of Sputnik. Pretty near original condition.
- **Ship's Culver City**, Overland at Washington, Culver City: the best piece of Gogie remaining since Ship's Westwood went to the great commercial strip in the sky.
- **Pann's**, La Tijera/Centinel/La Cienega, Inglewood: recently remodelled, but at least not by Marie Callender.
- **Bob's Big Boy**, Riverside Dr. at Alameda Ave., Toluca Lake: the curving glass wall offers a strip panorama for contemplation as you sip.
- **Denny's**, Lankershim at Burbank, North Hollywood: The only reason to drink here is so you can say you had coffee at one of the first Denny's (1958).
- **DuPar's**, Farmer's Market: like having coffee at the kitchen table of your great uncle's farm.
- **Penguin's**, Olympic at Lincoln, Santa Monica: Plastic panels of penguin playgrounds make Penguin's worth a stopover.
- **The Parasol**, Pacific Coast Highway at Hawthorne: a giant parasol in the grand tradition of Los Angeles' Giant Object Architecture. The theme is carried out in the parasol chandeliers inside.
- **Gogie's**, Olive at Fifth, downtown: not the original Lautner Gogie's, but good if you mentally substitute the original turquoise ceramic tile for the red brick veneer that exists today. Look in the back corners for fragments of the real thing.
- **Rae's**, 2901 Pico, Santa Monica: One of the dozens of Biff's imitators, but it's survived. A classic coffee shop shape and plan.