

# Newsletter

Spring 2008

Below: Culinary Institute of America at Greystone.  
Bottom left: Stags Leap District, Napa Valley.

students, historic property owners, developers, contractors, Main Street coordinators, members of Certified Local Governments, heritage travelers, and Native American groups. Anyone with a desire to protect California's cultural heritage is welcome!

The Conference features 50+ activities, including educational sessions, workshops, and exclusive tours that span across five educational track topics: "Preservation Fundamentals and Demystifying the OHP," "Conserving 'Vintage' Materials," "Preservation Practice and the Process of Change," "Imprints on the Land," and "The Napa Valley—Improving with Age?"

The local steering committee invites you to come and experience the Napa Valley that they know. Visit private wineries, residences and sites opened only to conference attendees. Tours consist of visits to historic wineries, unique architecture, gardens and caves, once renowned resorts, a pioneer cemetery, and historic downtown Napa.

Special events will be held at an array of historic or architecturally significant venues, including COPIA, the Napa Valley Opera House, Spottswoode Estate Vineyard and Winery, the Culinary Institute of America at Greystone, Napa Native Sons Hall, the Historic Napa Mill, and Beringer Vineyards.

The Plenary Session will feature two keynote speakers, **Reno Franklin**, Tribal Preservation Officer for the Kashia Band of Pomo Indians, and **James Conaway**. Mr. Franklin teaches classes on tribal consultation and providing a tribal voice for many projects and proposals. Mr. Conaway is an acclaimed author of ten books, including two books on the Napa Valley and his latest book, *Vanishing America*. He is also the editor at large for *Preservation* magazine, as well as a writer for numerous other magazines.

At Conference Headquarters, attendees can explore the "Preservation Practice & Products Exhibit Hall," which will feature businesses and organizations that provide valuable information and resources or shop at the Conference Bookstore. They may also bid on an array of unique and attractive items at the Silent Auction, which closes with a reception on Friday evening. Live Auction items may be bid on during the Closing Party which will be held at St. Supéry Vineyards & Winery, after the Silent Auction Closing Reception.

Conference Headquarters are at the Embassy Suites Hotel Napa Valley. Please note that every guest room is a suite, with a separate bedroom and living room—perfect for sharing! Also, your room reservation includes complimentary daily breakfast and happy hour. Please call (707) 253-9540 or (800)-Embassy to make your reservations. Additional rooms are available at the Chateau Hotel, approximately 3 miles from the Conference Headquarters at the Embassy Suites. Call (707) 253-9300 to book.

This Conference would not be possible without the support of sponsors. CPF would like to thank the following sponsoring companies and organizations for their generosity: Cornerstone: Andrews & Thornley Construction, Inc. and California State Parks—Office of Historic Preservation. Capital:

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## Balance & Complexity—the Vineyard and Beyond 2008 California Preservation Conference



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**Muir Woods National Monument**

The California Preservation Foundation, in partnership with California State Parks—Office of Historic Preservation, City of Napa, City of St. Helena, Land Trust of Napa County, Napa County Department of Conservation-Development & Planning, Napa County Historical Society, Napa County Landmarks, Inc., Napa County Regional Park and Open Space District, Napa Downtown Association, Napa Valley Conference and Visitor's Bureau, Napa Valley Museum, Napa Valley Vintners, Sharpsteen Museum, Suscol Inter-Tribal Council, The Garden Conservancy, and Town of Yountville, is proud to host the 33rd Annual California Preservation Conference! The state's most significant preservation conference, themed "Balance and Complexity: The Vineyard and Beyond" will be held from April 23rd to April 26th, 2008 in the Napa Valley.

Over 500 preservationists are expected to attend, including architects, city and county planners, community leaders, landmark and historic resource commissioners, historians, archeologists, educators, attorneys, realtors,

## Note from the President

By Paige J. Swartley, Esq.

So far, 2008 has been CPF's "Modernism Year," featuring several gems designed by Richard Neutra. We started in Bakersfield, where we held a membership reception in conjunction with our January Board meeting. CPF Trustee Ann Gray, FAIA, made the arrangements and CPF member David Coffey generously hosted both events. David invited us to his Neutra-designed Davis House (1938) for the reception and to his store, Modern Office Environments, for the Board meeting. David enthralled our reception guests with the circuitous tale of how he acquired the Davis House, and CPF member Pat Leddy told stories about Neutra and how she got him to design her Bakersfield house in 1959. We also heard a talk by Barbara Lamprecht, author of *Richard Neutra: The Complete Works*. During a Board meeting break, we took a quick trip to see Neutra's other Bakersfield works, the Norwalk Service Station (1939) and the Leddy residence.

In February, CPF participated in a chock-full weekend in the Modernism mecca of Palm Springs. CPF Vice President Beth Edwards Harris, Ph.D., hosted a luncheon and reception to celebrate the ten-year anniversary of her restoration of Neutra's 1946 masterpiece, the Kaufmann House. Co-sponsored by Christie's Auction House and Taschen Books, the proceeds benefit CPF. The event was so successful, we had to turn people away! Please see the accompanying article for more details. The same weekend, CPF operated a booth at the annual Palm Springs Modernism Show, where we bumped into current members and introduced ourselves to attendees seeking more information about CPF. We'll return to the Modernism Show in 2009, as a precursor to the Annual California Preservation Conference in Palm Springs, set for April 30–May 3, 2009.

In March, CPF held a workshop in Pomona on "Identifying, Evaluating, & Preserving Modern Resources." Workshop co-chairs Lauren Weiss Bricker, Ph.D., and Diane Kane, Ph.D., put together a great panel of speakers to address this important and timely topic.

Unfortunately, Modern resources are being lost daily. The day I wrote this Note, a devastating fire took a disastrous toll on IBM Building 25 (1957) in San Jose, a John Bolles-designed Modern building that preservationists have been struggling to save for years. IBM invented the flying head disk drive in Building 25, which was eligible for listing in the National Register and California Register, and as a local historic resource. In 2004, the Preservation Action Council of San Jose sued Lowe's and the City of San Jose, successfully arguing that the City violated CEQA by approving the demolition of Building 25 and the construction



Fire severely damaged the historic IBM Building 25 on March 8, 2008.

of a new big-box store on the site. CPF and the National Trust wrote an amicus brief in the case, and a settlement was pending before the fire. The future of this iconic building is unclear at this point, but we will keep you posted as events unfold.

Beyond our recent focus on Modernism, CPF is making significant progress on my three goals for the organization: Communication, Partnerships, and Fundraising. Communication highlights include our brand new website, an eye-popping, comprehensive review of everything that CPF does, and much more. This effort has been in the works for years, and has involved the hard work of many contributors, led by Executive Director Cindy Heitzman and CPF Trustee David Roccosalva. Please take a look at [www.californiapreservation.org](http://www.californiapreservation.org) and give us your feedback. As I promised, the California Preservation newsletter is going out like clockwork. I want to thank everyone for their contributions, and encourage potential new writers to contact CPF Development Associate Michele Gates and Trustee Steade Craig, FAIA, who are in charge of the newsletter content.

Partnerships and Fundraising are going hand-in-hand, as we continue to attract more and more sponsors to our conferences, workshops, and events. The 2008 Preservation Design Awards, the 2007 Year End Appeal, the Kaufmann House fundraiser, our workshops, and the upcoming 33rd Annual California Preservation Conference in Napa (April 23–26, 2008) have all helped CPF's bottom line and brought new partners into the fold. We are still welcoming new sponsors; please contact CPF Programs Director Carolyn Eisen for more information.

Over the past few years, we have sought to increase our membership base, and the hard work is paying off. From February 2007 to February 2008, we increased our membership by 12.5%. In January and February 2008 alone,



IBM Building 25 (1957), San Jose, by architect John Bolles. Internationally known ceramicist, Lucienne Block, designed the ceramic tiles that had adorned the fascias, alluding to the look of an IBM punch card.

82 new members joined CPF! While this is great news, our members represent just a fraction of the people who might be interested in CPF's educational and awards programs, events, and advocacy efforts. To spread the word, please consider giving a gift membership to your favorite preservationist (or someone you would like to become a preservationist). Also, if you enjoy the newsletter or recent events you have attended, please consider upgrading your membership. Details are available online.

As always, please contact me if you have any questions or comments. My new contact information is: Paige J. Swartley, Esq., Principal, PAST Consultants, LLC, P.O. Box 283, Petaluma CA 94953, <http://www.pastconsultants.com>, [paige@pastconsultants.com](mailto:paige@pastconsultants.com), (415) 515-6227.

We'll see you in Napa!

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## Muir Woods National Monument Listed in National Register of Historic Places

By Paul Scolari, Historian, National Park Service

January 9, 2008 was a banner day for Muir Woods National Monument and its National Park Service (NPS) caretakers of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area. With the grove of ancient coast redwoods nestled in a canyon at the southwest flank of Mt. Tamalpais shrouded in winter mist, park officials, joined by municipal, state and federal politicians as well as throngs of visitors, gathered on the banks of the Monument's Redwood Creek. They were there to celebrate the 100-year anniversary of the establishment of the park by President Theodore Roosevelt under the American Antiquities Act. Fittingly, Superintendent Brian O'Neill began the ceremonies by announcing that the Keeper of the National Register had just bestowed a new honor upon this venerable California landmark, enrolling it in the nation's inventory of historic places.

The significance of Muir Woods in the history of American conservation emerged out of the dramatic circumstances that led to Roosevelt's declaration. Redwood Canyon, as it was first called, had been purchased in 1905 by William Kent, heir to a Chicago meat-packing fortune whose family made its West Coast home in what is now Marin County's Kentfield. A quintessential Progressive who would become a U.S. Congressman, introducing the legislation establishing the NPS, Kent believed that Mt. Tamalpais and its spectacular surroundings would best serve the burgeoning metropolitan Bay Area as public parkland. Accordingly, he started purchasing land with the goal of establishing a Mt. Tamalpais national park.

In December 1907 Kent found a key portion of his plan in jeopardy. Redwood Canyon, cherished by nature lovers who could readily access this last stand of redwoods near San Francisco by ferry and railroad, was under threat. Taking advantage of the demand for timber and water created by the 1906 Earthquake and Fire, the North Coast Water Company aimed to condemn Kent's land, log the old-growth timber, dam Redwood Canyon, and garner a tidy profit. The well-connected Kent leaped into action. He engaged Gifford Pinchot, Roosevelt's U.S. Forest Service head and a pioneer in American conservation, in a marathon correspondence from which the plan to use the newly enacted Antiquities Act to save Redwood Canyon was devised. Kent deeded his 295 acres to the federal government on December 31, 1907, requesting that the monument be named after the famous wilderness preservationist and Bay Area resident, John Muir. On January 9, 1908 the President signed the Proclamation preserving Muir Woods in perpetuity.

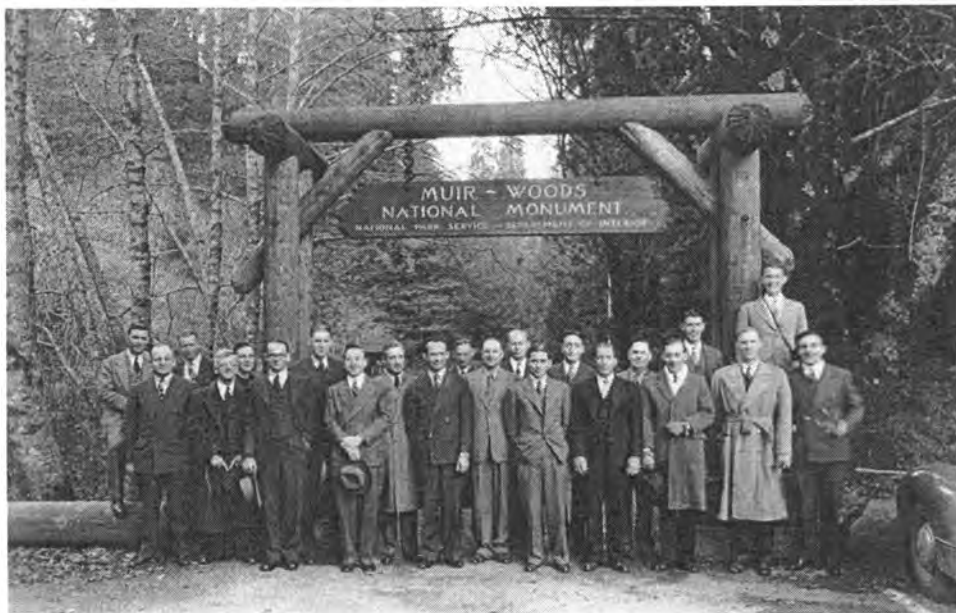
This path breaking story of a private individual working with the federal government to use the Antiquities Act as a preservation tool is what distinguishes Muir Woods in the field of American conservation. Along with the rich history of Muir Woods as a national park site, this conservation milestone has been chronicled in a beautifully prepared Historic Resource Study (HRS) completed in 2006 by the NPS's Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation. In the HRS and the National Register nomination it spawned, one learns how Muir Woods inspired other philanthropic land donations, its role in the movement to preserve redwoods in California, its standing as a prototype for the land trust model of conservation, and its evolution as a prominent symbol of conservation philosophy in the United States, best exemplified by the gathering of the United Nations (UN) in Muir Woods' Cathedral Grove in the waning days of World War II in honor of the recently-deceased Franklin D. Roosevelt and in hopes for a coming peace.

The period of significance for Muir Woods begins with the park's founding and ends with the UN gathering. During this four-decade period a "landscape of conservation" common to many national parks in the West materialized. Contributing features at Muir Woods include the redwood forest and its prominent Bohemian and Cathedral Groves, a main trail through the woods on the canyon floor, secondary trails into the backcountry, landscape and architectural features exemplifying Romantic and streamlined interpretations of the NPS rustic style, and monuments dedicated to Kent, Pinchot and FDR, which steep the landscape in conservation lore.

Such evocations are enjoying a rebirth this year with the Centennial celebration. Those wishing to partake in special events and activities as they unfold at Muir Woods should consult the following web sites: [www.nps.gov/muwo](http://www.nps.gov/muwo) or [www.parksconservancy.org](http://www.parksconservancy.org).

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NPS Staff at Muir Woods Main Entrance, 1941



## Up To \$10,000 Available in Save Our History Grants!

The American Association for State and Local History (AASLH) has announced its 2008-2009 Save Our History Grants! The Save Our History Grant Program provides funding to history organizations that partner with schools on a local community preservation project.

Since launching the Save Our History Grant Program in 2004, The History Channel, in partnership with AASLH, has awarded over \$1 million in grants.

During the 2008-2009 school year, The History Channel will again award grants of up to \$10,000 to historical organizations to fund hands-on, experiential educational projects that teach students about their local history and actively engage them in its preservation. Apply Today!

For guidelines and criteria, important dates, and to apply, please visit <http://www.saveourhistory.com/> and click on grants. Applications are due Friday, June 6, 2008.

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"Theodore Roosevelt" and "wife Edith" entertain visitors and rangers at the Muir Woods Centennial Celebration, January 9, 2008.

Photos: NPS Muir-Woods staff

## Preservation Design Awards Applications Due May 19, 2008

By Cathy Garrett, ASLA, LEED AP

***“Without a doubt, CPF award winners are projects of distinction and are held in high regard by all who work in the field of preservation design.”***

*Milford Wayne Donaldson, FAIA,  
State Historic Preservation Officer*

Spread the word, CPF seeks preservation projects that deserve wider recognition.

We welcome nominations for this year's Annual Preservation Design Awards. Presented each fall at the Preservation Design Awards Reception, the awards have celebrated the finest preservation work in the state for the last 24 years. Winners are selected by a jury of distinguished experts in preservation architecture, archeology, landscape architecture, materials conservation, community development and writers on the built environment.

Preservation Design Award winners range from adaptive reuse projects, to sensitive restorations of landscapes and buildings, applying new techniques for analysis of sites, historic structure reports with interactive management tools, and the preservation of a single feature. We particularly invite design projects that integrate sustainability and historic preservation. This includes historic preservation projects with sustainable efforts or a sustainable project in a preservation context.

To be eligible, projects must be located in California and be completed between June 2002 and May 2008.

The deadline for submitting nominations is Monday, May 19, 2008. We also have an early-bird submittal date of April 18. You can download our application form from our newly updated website. Please visit us at: [www.californiapreservation.org](http://www.californiapreservation.org) or request an application form from the office by calling (415) 495-0349.

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### Mission Statement:

*The California Preservation Foundation provides statewide leadership, advocacy and education to ensure the protection of California's diverse cultural heritage and historic places.*

## Los Angeles Launches Citywide Historic Resources Survey

By Ken Bernstein and Janet Hansen

The City of Los Angeles has launched SurveyLA—an ambitious citywide survey to identify and document historic resources in a municipality encompassing 466 square miles and more than 880,000 legal parcels.

SurveyLA is coordinated by the Department of City Planning's Office of Historic Resources (OHR), which is working to build a comprehensive, state-of-the-art historic preservation program in Los Angeles. The survey project is partially funded by a \$2.5 million grant from the J. Paul Getty Trust. Additionally, the Getty Conservation Institute, which has played a crucial leadership role in preparing detailed studies outlining the purpose and benefits of a citywide survey, is providing significant technical and advisory support to the project.

The sheer size of Los Angeles poses some unique challenges in completing a citywide survey. Before any field work begins, survey tools and methods are being developed to create time efficiencies in the field and to help ensure that large survey teams apply consistent, objective criteria and evaluation standards. Toward that goal, the OHR has written a comprehensive plan to guide project implementation over an approximate five-year period.

During the two-year Initiation Phase, now in progress, a consultant team, led by the firm of Jones and Stokes, is preparing a citywide historic context statement to identify the wide-ranging themes, patterns and trends that are reflected in the city's built environment. The context statement follows the Multiple Property Survey (MPS) approach developed by the National Park Service and will streamline the identification and evaluation of historic resources related by theme. The OHR is working with Marie Nelson, Survey Coordinator with the State Office of Historic Preservation, to develop new methods to collect data and record resources using the MPS format.



*The Far East Cafe in Little Tokyo—a long time hangout for generations of Japanese Americans—is an example of the type of social and cultural resources to be identified through SurveyLA.*

Photo courtesy of the Little Tokyo Service Center Community Development Corporation



A home in the Gregory Ain Mar Vista Tract, the City of Los Angeles' first post-World War II historic district. SurveyLA will focus heavily on Los Angeles' postwar heritage, as much of Los Angeles was built after 1945.



A streetscape in the Angelino Heights Historic Preservation Overlay Zone, one of Los Angeles' original suburbs from the 1880s and 1890s.

The consultant team is also developing a Field Guide to Survey Evaluation. The Field Guide is both a written training manual, which outlines field methodologies and best practices, and a computerized GIS survey database that will "translate" the context statement into data fields. This mobile application will allow survey teams to identify and evaluate resources in the field using tablet PCs.

Los Angeles' cultural, ethnic, economic and linguistic diversity virtually mandates a multi-faceted and strategic public outreach program so that all segments of the community can understand and participate meaningfully in the survey project. Outreach efforts are focused on including traditionally underrepresented groups and identifying resources of social and cultural significance.

The OHR received its first-ever Certified Local Government Grant from the State Office of Historic Preservation to assist in developing this comprehensive outreach program, which includes a volunteer speakers bureau. These speakers, trained by Historic Resources Group of Hollywood, are going into the community equipped with multi-lingual survey brochures and copies of the SurveyLA video, produced by the City's cable channel. The SurveyLA website [www.SurveyLA.org](http://www.SurveyLA.org) includes an interactive "Historic Resources Identification Form" to enable community members to identify and describe potentially significant properties and areas within their own neighborhoods that deserve further consideration.

Pilot surveys are beginning in April 2008 and will test the effectiveness of the historic context statement, field guide, data management strategies and public participation



Los Angeles' historic City Hall (home of Los Angeles' City government and the Office of Historic Research)

(All photos courtesy of the City of Los Angeles Office of Historic Resources)

program. Completion of the pilot program in late 2008 will signal the end of the Initiation Phase. During the three-year Implementation Phase that will follow, the citywide field surveys will be conducted. To ensure overall credibility and consistency, the actual survey field work and significance assessments will be conducted by historic preservation professionals, not by volunteers. Nevertheless, the OHR will be partnering closely with volunteers, students, and community members who can contribute information to the project that will help shape these future survey assessments.

As survey data becomes available, it will provide valuable information to City officials, homeowners, neighborhood associations, and preservation groups, and much greater up-front certainty for developers and property owners. The survey will also prove critical in guiding community planning, zoning decisions, environmental review, cultural tourism, location filming activity, and disaster response. SurveyLA will capture all survey data in a single, centralized location - the City's GIS and internet-based Zone Information and Map Access System (ZIMAS). In addition, the SurveyLA web site will allow web users to query for detailed information on specific historic contexts as well as surveyed areas, districts and properties.

SurveyLA is one of the most far-reaching historic preservation initiatives in California, and represents a coming-of-age for preservation in Los Angeles. We hope to share the lessons we learn along the way and look forward to collaborating with the preservation community throughout the state in building creative partnerships that will take full advantage of this exciting opportunity.

Ken Bernstein is Manager and Janet Hansen is Deputy Manager of the City of Los Angeles Office of Historic Resources.

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2008 Preservation Conference, continued from page 1

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For more information, or to register online, please visit [www.californiapreservation.org](http://www.californiapreservation.org). Or, call (415) 495-0349 or email [ceisen@californiapreservation.org](mailto:ceisen@californiapreservation.org) to request a registration brochure.

Want to get involved? Here is what you can do:

#### **Volunteer**

Do a good deed and attend the educational sessions or plenary sessions for free, based on the number of hours volunteered.

#### **Donate an Auction Item**

Artwork, antiques, memorabilia, gift baskets, or gift certificates for restaurants, hotels, tours, museums, theater make great auction items!

#### **Submit a Three-Minute Success Story**

Be part of a California Preservation Conference tradition that dates from 1978! This sell-out event is a Conference highlight as some of the year's most intriguing, quirky, and wild preservation success stories are presented as skits! Make one of them YOURS. Who knew that earthquakes, industrial cranes and overcoming great odds to save a landmark could be so funny?

#### **Sponsor**

Showcase your company's commitment to the protection of California's diverse cultural heritage and historic places by providing financial support. Benefits include statewide recognition, advertising, networking opportunities and complimentary registrations. Contact Michele Gates at CPF for more information: (415) 495-0349 or [mgates@californiapreservation.org](mailto:mgates@californiapreservation.org).

#### **Exhibit**

The Preservation Practice & Products Exhibit Hall is another great way to demonstrate your company's product or services. Contact Carolyn Eisen at CPF for more information: (415) 495-0349 or [ceisen@californiapreservation.org](mailto:ceisen@californiapreservation.org).

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## Lobby Day Becomes an Annual Tradition! CPF Goes to Capitol Hill

By Cindy Heitzman

CPF joined forces with hundreds of preservationists from around the country on March 4th for the 23rd annual Preservation Lobby Day in Washington, D.C.

This is the fourth consecutive year that representatives from California's preservation communities have participated in Lobby Day. Representatives from the Office of Historic Preservation, Tribal Historic Preservation Offices, CPF and local preservation organizations joined forces to seek funding and support for critical federal historic preservation programs. We asked support for increased funding for the State Historic Preservation Offices and Tribal Historic Preservation Offices; improvements to the rehabilitation tax credit that would apply to condo conversions and would give larger credits for smaller projects; "Preserve America" and "Save America's Treasures" authorization; increased funding for inventory development; and increased funding for the Historic American Landscapes Survey. We also encouraged our representatives to join the Historic Preservation Caucus.

The California delegation visited the offices of California Senator Dianne Feinstein and Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, as well as the offices of Representatives Xavier Becerra, Howard Berman, Lois Capps, Susan Davis, David Dreier, Bob Filner, Wally Herger, Duncan Hunter, Doris Matsui, Jerry McNerney, Grace Napolitano, Devin Nunes, Lucille Roybal-Allard, Loretta Sanchez, Linda Sanchez, Brad Sherman, Pete Stark and Henry Waxman.

The California delegation included State Historic Preservation Officer Milford Wayne Donaldson, FAIA; Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer Stephen Mikesell; Tribal Historic Preservation Officers Richard Begay (Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians) and Dr. Tom Gates (Yurok Tribe); Richard Myers (Tribal Council, Yurok Tribe); Michael Medina (West Adams Heritage Association); and Cindy Heitzman (California Preservation Foundation). In general, the congressional representatives are very supportive of preservation issues and several of California's Representatives have joined the House Preservation Caucus, including Henry Waxman, Barbara Lee, Susan Davis, Diane Watson and the late Tom Lantos.

Regular updates on national preservation issues and votes, as well as Preservation Caucus membership can be found on the Preservation Action website at [www.preservationaction.org](http://www.preservationaction.org). The event was co-sponsored by Preservation Action; the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers; the National Association of Tribal Historic Preservation Officers; the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the National Alliance of Preservation Commissions.

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L to R: Dr. Tom Gates, (THPO, Yurok Tribe), Steve Mikesell (Deputy SHPO), Bambi Kraus (President, National Association of Tribal Historic Preservation Officers), Richard Myers (Tribal Councilmember, Yurok Tribe), Elizabeth Belleville (Governmental Affairs, NCSHPO), M. Wayne Donaldson, FAIA (SHPO), Cindy Heitzman (CPF Executive Director) and Richard Begay (THPO, Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians). Not shown: Michael Medina (West Adams Heritage Association)

## The Getty Campus Heritage Grant Program 2002-2007

By Vonn Marie May

Last year brought an end to one of the most comprehensive grant programs targeted toward 'legacy' campus planning ever launched in this country's history. Campus Heritage Grants, provided through the generosity of The Getty Foundation, gave critical assistance to colleges and universities throughout the United States to help manage and preserve the integrity of their significant historic buildings and landscape settings.

*"American colleges and universities are frequently unique repositories of some of the country's finest historic architecture and designed landscapes. While other buildings may have had a variety of owners and uses over the years, campus buildings have for the most part remained under the same stewardship, which presents wonderful opportunities for preservation and education. We are delighted the Campus Heritage program has been able to aid so many*



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*institutions in developing plans to care for, maintain, and preserve their important historic resources and we look forward to learning about the results of these grants in the coming years."*

Since 2002, the program has funded a broad variety of significant preservation planning projects at 86 colleges and universities nationwide, in addition to surveys of hundreds of small liberal arts colleges.

Deborah Marrow  
Director of The Getty Foundation  
[www.getty.edu](http://www.getty.edu)

California was fortunate to receive a good share of the grant awards:

#### 2002

University of California, Berkeley, \$250,000  
UC Berkeley's heritage of significant landscape architecture dates back to its original 1866 design by Frederick Law Olmsted. A Getty grant of \$250,000—the largest Campus Heritage Grant to date—enabled the creation of a landscape preservation component for Berkeley's new campus master plan. The UCB Landscape Heritage Plan identified three distinct periods of significance, which expressed design movements of the Picturesque, the Beaux-Arts, and the Modern eras. California's most notable designers built on a landscape that spanned a century and a half; John Galen Howard, Bernard Maybeck, John Gregg, Julia Morgan, Thomas D. Church and many others.  
[www.cp.berkeley.edu/lhp](http://www.cp.berkeley.edu/lhp)

Scripps College, Claremont, \$130,000

A harmonious 1920s Mission Revival style is the hallmark of Scripps College, the women's college of the Claremont Colleges. The campus design was an inspired collaboration between architect Gordon Kaufmann, landscape architect Edward Huntsman-Trout, and newspaper baroness and philanthropist college founder Ellen Browning Scripps. A committee of alumnae, faculty, staff, and visiting experts used the Getty grant to decide how best to manage Scripps' historic buildings and landscapes.

#### 2004

University of California, Santa Cruz, \$100,000  
Barns, a granary, a blacksmith's shop, and a cookhouse are visible reminders of 19th-century industrial days on the campus of UC Santa Cruz. Utilizing the Getty grant, the university surveyed its historic and archaeological resources and prepared a nomination for the Cowell Ranch district for state and federal historic registers. Students had a hand in the project through field-study internships and guided research projects.

#### 2006

University of California, Davis, \$175,000  
Established in 1905 as an affiliate of the UC Berkeley campus known as the 'University Farm', UC Davis is situated on the site of a Patwin Native American settlement and subsequent Mexican Land Grant of 1845. The campus' agricultural fields and designed landscape spaces are among its most significant historic resources, shaped over the years by a number of landscape architects including Thomas Church and Lawrence Halprin. The grant enabled the university to develop a Landscape Heritage Plan, which documented the history of California agricultural education and experimentation throughout its history.

Mills College, Oakland, California, \$170,000

First named the Young Ladies Seminary, Mills College was founded in 1871 by missionaries Cyrus and Susan Mills as the first women's college on the West Coast. On a pastoral 135-acre campus set in a valley of streams and small hills the campus was forested with over 50,000 trees during the 19th century, mostly exotic species from foreign lands. The first campus design reflected the picturesque sensibilities of the nineteenth-century landscape design. Grant funds were used to create a preservation master plan that documents the campus from its 19th century origins to the present day, including its cultural landscape, nationally

significant architecture, and continued commitment to innovative women's education.

#### 2007

University of California, San Diego, \$99,800  
Founded in 1967 as the second of six undergraduate colleges, John Muir College is one of the only components remaining of Robert Alexander's original master plan for the University. John Muir College is a rare example of Southern California Modernist Robert Mosher's work, and the university will seek to preserve this ensemble of historic structures.

#### Conclusion

The Society of College and University Planning (SCUP) has been monitoring the success of the Getty Campus Heritage Program and is considering posting the results of each college or university's plan that is a direct result of this visionary program. As an aside, the Mills College Cultural Landscape Heritage Plan will be presented at SCUP's Pacific Regional Conference in April of this year in Vancouver BC. [www.scup.org](http://www.scup.org)

Lessons learned from focused historical investigation of American campuses has universally inspired a renewed interest in the cultural continuum of our colleges and universities. We can only hope the program would return someday and assist other campuses to find their cultural essence as well.

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# Neutra VDL Research House II Restoration

By Barbara Lamprecht, M.Arch

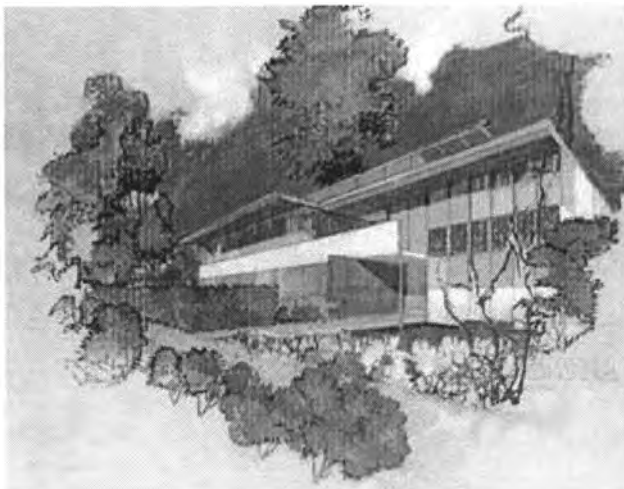
Professionally, we are all used to technical language woven in phrases we employ as means to an end, in language we know that may have to spend time in court or at least welcome the eye of public disclosure. Rarely does, or should, such language betray passion or love or awe; indeed, the forums in which we work require that we quantify such responses so that the 'resource,' not the words, prevails beyond temporal whims.

So permit us here to 'convey the historical significance' of the Neutra VDL Research House II, Silverlake, Los Angeles, in a slightly different voice. We are urgently concerned for the welfare of this house, whose historic, historical fabric requires considerable and immediate restoration. Actually, it is not a "house" so much as a compound, whose physical fabric makes possible a richer fabric of opportunities that sooner or later, delivers what it outrageously promises: a melding of body and soul and mind into a dialectic of intelligence and sensuality. It enriches the stereotypical definition of functionality, a functionality that requires attention to the "honeymoon moments in life." The house does not impose but bends its thoughtful spirit as a charged canvas for human life and work, whether solitary or gregarious and en famille. Note, for example the many ways one may literally choose one path; the compressed but complete transitions from street to house; the variety of means to engage nature near and far (both Neutra requisites). VDL II is the mothership of a great deal of intellectual and cultural life both global and local to L.A., where Richard and his wife Dione were the hub, surrounded by family, protégé, and "collaborators," (the slightly awkward term Neutra used to credit his designers); sons Frank, Dion (author of the 1966 VDL II with his father collaborating on the design that was rebuilt on the footprint of the fire that destroyed the 1932 house but left the 1939 guesthouse intact) and Raymond.

The house was willed to the Cal Poly Pomona Foundation, its legal owner, under the leadership of the College of Environmental Design, which has fostered a program that continued the letter and spirit of Dione's will, that the house be a fulcrum for public and academic education in diverse disciplines under the College's stewardship. With a very modest endowment that ended last year amidst an economic climate of stringent state budget cuts slashing many vital academic programs and a winter climate that invariably brings intense rains, the VDL has to find new sources for restoration and the means for a newly revitalized identity for its work, exemplifying



Rear of the VDL House



Front of the VDL House  
Images created by the office of Richard and Dion Neutra, Architects

graceful urban living with no forfeit of nature's benefits, an endless curiosity about materials and technology on behalf of the human being, and a redefinition of luxury that has nothing to do with big money. The winter rains have compromised the roof over and over and over, so much so that the famous water roof, meant to visually integrate the waters of das Silber See, the silver lake, with the water at the edge of the penthouse, again, for the physiological and psychological respite of the ancient human ancestor within us. The innovative but idiosyncratic low-voltage electrical system must be rewired; water damage has occurred in the central areas of all three floors. Existing lath and plaster will need to be removed and replaced, and the original finishes restored along with sections of linoleum floor tiles in the entrance area and second story corridor. The endowment must be restored and enhanced so that the VDL House II can be maintained with an on-site director, manifest experimental architecture, and take its place as a cultural leader in Los Angeles. Friends and faculty are now working to raise an immediate \$30,000, the first step in the \$250,000 for restoring those elements whose needs are most pressing, with an eventual goal of \$2 million to support a comprehensive program. For more information, contact [neutra-vdl.org](http://neutra-vdl.org).

• • •

## Call for Articles!

Do you have a topic or story you would like to share with the preservation community? Are you involved in a project that would be of interest to our readers? If so, we'd love to hear about it!

The California Preservation Foundation is currently accepting article submissions for its newsletter. Features and in-depth articles are welcome, especially those dealing with:

- Local preservation efforts
- Trends in historic preservation in California
- Architects and builders of California
- Techniques and technology in Preservation
- Dedicated preservation volunteers
- Site histories
- Preservation-related legislation or legal decisions
- Reviews of books or other resources of interest to the preservation community.

You can also make Viewpoints & Spotlights submissions, such as:

- Why you joined CPF and why preservation is important to you
- Why your historic neighborhood is special
- What your favorite landmark is and why

If you are interested in writing for California Preservation, please send an email to [cpf@californiapreservation.org](mailto:cpf@californiapreservation.org) describing your idea for an article. Be aware that articles should run no longer than 300–500 words and that all submissions are subject to review by the editorial team. Photographs and graphics are welcome.

• • •



## The Jewel of the Desert:

### CPF Celebrates the Ten-Year Anniversary of the Kaufmann House Restoration

By Cindy Heitzman

CPF members and supporters joined CPF Vice President Beth Harris at a celebration of the Kaufmann House in Palm Springs. With generous support from Christie's Auction House and Taschen Books, the Kaufmann House was the site of a celebration of the restoration of the Neutra masterpiece.

The event drew attendees from across the country—New York, Georgia, Minnesota, Washington, DC, Texas—all interested in seeing the Kaufmann House on an intimate level for perhaps the last time. Christie's Realty International, Inc. will auction the house on May 13th as part of its 2008 Post-War and Contemporary Art Evening Sale.

Our guests had the opportunity to see the house and meet the principals responsible for its documentation and restoration. The event began with a private luncheon and tour of the home by Beth Harris. The evening's activities included a presentation by Barbara Lamprecht, author of the definitive book on Richard Neutra, a special presentation to Beth Harris by Dion Neutra on behalf of the Neutra Institute and a rousing slide show by Charles Phoenix, the "King of Retro." Legendary photographer Julius Shulman and project architect Leo Marmol (Marmol Radziner Architects) also attended the reception.

Beth Harris gave a moving presentation chronicling the restoration of the home, from its purchase through the documentation of the structure and its ultimate restoration. We received a first-hand account of the personal sacrifice and satisfaction of restoring a 20th century masterpiece—one that was sold as a "tear down."

The Kaufmann House (1945) was commissioned by Edgar J. Kaufmann, Sr., a Pittsburgh department store tycoon who also commissioned Frank Lloyd Wright to build Fallingwater in Pennsylvania.

After Kaufmann died in 1955, the house stood vacant for several years. It then had a series of owners, including singer Barry Manilow, and had several renovations that effectively concealed Neutra's original design. The home was discovered and purchased by the Harris in 1993 after it had been on the market three and a half years.



*Kaufmann House, poolside.*

The house was returned to its original condition after a five-year restoration. CPF awarded the Harris a Preservation Design Award in 2000 and was honored to celebrate the ten-year anniversary of its restoration. We are grateful to Beth Harris, Christie's Auction House, Taschen Books and everyone who had a hand in creating this memorable event, including CPF staff Michele Gates, volunteers Peter O'Leary, David Heitzman, Terri Stone and Sophie Harris. Above all, we are grateful to the vision, care and tenacity of Beth Harris for restoring the Kaufmann House and proving the adage that "actions speak louder than words." Through her actions, she has advanced the understanding and appreciation of Mid-Century Architecture. Thank you, Beth.

• • •



*Beth Harris and Cindy Heitzman welcoming the attendees of the Kaufmann House event.*

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Members who joined or renewed between 12/1/07 and 3/13/08 are listed. If you have contributed since this time, your name will appear in the next issue.

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