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April 9, 2018

Dear Historic Site Preservation Board,

I am writing in response to the proposal for historic paint palette restoration for the Town & Country Center which will be reviewed at the Historic Site Preservation Board meeting on Tuesday, April 10, 2018.

Overall, I'm excited to see this important masterpiece of Late Moderne architecture get some attention. I do have one concern in the proposal from Marmol Radziner. On the primary west courtyard façade of the building at 167 North Indian Canyon (Building #169 or Building E in the report), I believe the paint colors proposed are from a later repaint and are not the original paint scheme as designed by Paul R. Williams and A. Quincy Jones when the Town & Country Restaurant opened in 1948. The photographs that accompany the report show the second paint scheme and palette, with painted checkerboard detail, which is a modification from the original paint palette and scheme. It seems the current proposed paint palette and scheme is drawing from those later photos rather than earlier photos or paint analysis, and I'm wondering if this is a deliberate design choice?

I'm attaching photographs taken by Julius Shulman in 1949, shortly after the Town & Country Restaurant opened. In those, though they are black and white, you can see that the original scheme had the stucco on the overall body of the building in a lighter color, while the fronts of the balconies and the cantilevered overhangs are painted a deeper color. That feature was clearly meant to be articulated in the original design.

Hand-colored postcards from that era show the main stucco body in a pinkish tone, with the balconies and overhang fascia painted a deeper blue or green. Those postcards can't be counted on for accuracy, but both adhere to a similar plan.

I also believe the cantilevered parapet planting box adjacent to the stairs, and the box grid that juts out from the balcony were natural stained redwood and were not painted. In the current paint proposal, the parapet planting box is scheduled for a dark terra-cotta (PT-5).

Thank you,

Steven Keylon

Julius Shulman photos from 1949. The fronts of balconies and overhead fascia are darker than the main stucco body of the building:



Postcards ca. 1950 show the same paint scheme, and though hand-colored, have a similar palette of coral stucco and deeper blue or green balcony and fascia. Note also the redwood box grid and cantilevered parapet planter



These later postcards show the second paint scheme and palette, which does not articulate the balconies, but cantilevered planting box still appears to be stained redwood, not painted.



