

INSIDE TRACTS

ened her neighborhood then greened the city

ms, a mid-century modern
in the San Fernando Valley
almer & Krisel, grew up in
s around its school, Calvert
ut 50 years later, one neighbor
yard had become a "big old
" it was fenced off and

Corbin Palms homeowner
decided to turn the waste-
t into a community park, with
nd gardens. She enlisted
ped raise \$500,000, and
he Los Angeles Unified
c. Soon, 180 tons of asphalt
d 60 trees had been planted.
ne school to be the community's
center where everyone can
" Bartley says.

Officials were impressed. They
to be one of two sustainable
mbudsmen for the immense
g, helping do for the rest of
she did in Corbin Palms.

mid-century design the veral upcoming exhibits

id-century modernism have
unities to take in work by
ornia's greatest masters.
can Museum of Ceramic
pens in a new space with
und: Ceramics in Southern
'5-1975,' November 12
n 31.

t, part of the Getty Founda-
ative series 'Pacific Standard
A. 1945-1980,' includes work
clntosh, Gertrud and Otto
her art potters. AMOCA will
page catalog. 340 South
, Pomona. ceramicmuseum.org
of 'Pacific Standard Time'
t the Los Angeles County
rt, 'California Design, 1930-
in a Modern Way,' October
5. The exhibit surveys the
d-century design, from
architecture through jewelry,
on—even the occasional
pieces include art from
e state. 5905 Wilshire Boule-
eles. lacma.org

street from LACMA, the Craft
useum focuses on modern
'The Golden State of Craft:
Os-1980s,' September 25
814 Wilshire Boulevard, Los
n.org
e, fans of the idiosyncratic
Lautner (1911-1994)
ns, talks, and more, through
nsored by the John Lautner
onjunction with several
John Lautner Turns 100' series
ugh the fall. Events include a
ymposium co-sponsored by
es Conservancy, and a tour of

the Lautner archive at the Getty Research
Institute. johnlautner.org

Eichler historian honored for promoting mid-century modern

Paul Adamson, a San Francisco architect
and author of the book *Eichler: Modernism
Rebuilds the American Dream*, has been
named a fellow of the American Institute of
Architects.



HONORS. Architect Paul Adamson: AIA fellowship.

Adamson, FAIA, was given the honor
because of his work educating people
about mid-century modern tract homes
and helping preserve modern architecture.
Adamson writes about architecture and
urban planning in journals and books.

He's a founder and board member of
the Northern California chapter of DOCO-
MOMO, which seeks to preserve modern
architecture.

Palm Springs preservationists keep up the fight for modernism

Efforts to preserve Palm Springs'
modernist legacy are progressing. In the
fall Royal Hawaiian Estates, a tiki-themed
apartment complex designed by Wexler
and Harrison, became the first residential
neighborhood in town to be designated a
historic district. The Palm Springs Preserva-
tion Foundation donated funds to restore
some tiki detailing.

"We're always fighting about something
being torn down," Ron Marshall, the founda-
tion's president, says. "It's good to have
something put back."

And in March, the 1947 home designed
for Frank Sinatra by E. Stewart Williams was
named a historic site by the city.

Perhaps the biggest battle on the
modernist front, however, remains hard
fought—the Town & Country Center, a
once-lovely and now largely derelict shop-
ping center designed by Paul R. Williams and
A. Quincy Jones in 1948. Plans to demolish
the center remain alive despite a city survey
identifying it as "a rare and excellent example
of the late Moderne style."

The preservation foundation has hired a
firm to provide a 'sustainability study' that could
provide alternatives for re-use rather than
demolition. Also, the National Organization of
Minority Architects has weighed in, focusing on

the legacy of Paul Williams, a pioneering black
architect of national importance.

Los Altos' Neutra House returns with big names for lecture series

Some of the state's top architects will
take to the podium as part of the Neutra
House's fall lecture series. The Neutra
House is a restored Los Altos home
designed in the 1930s by Richard Neutra.
Talks take place in an adjacent auditorium,
followed by a reception at the house.

The series runs at 6 p.m. October
through March, 97 Hillview Avenue, Los
Altos. neutrahouse.org

Among the speakers will be Charles
Davis (October 13), senior partner at the
San Francisco firm EHDD. Among Davis's
projects was the Monterey Bay Aquarium.

Craig Hartman (February 9), design
partner at Skidmore, Owings and Merrill's
San Francisco office, designed Oakland's
remarkable Christ the Light Cathedral,
among other projects.

Southern Californian Ray Kappe
(March 8), a leading designer of modern
residences who was profiled in our spring
issue, pioneered 'green' building before
the term existed.

Architect Rob Steinberg (January 12)
will talk about his late father Goodwin Stein-
berg, an important modernist designer based
on the Peninsula. Architectural historian
Thomas Hines (November 10) will discuss
Neutra. And on December 8 the speaker will
be Steve Glenn, founder of LivingHomes,
which builds prefabricated homes designed
by, among others, Ray Kappe.

Kappe is making another appearance in
Los Altos—in the form of three rental units he
designed for LivingHomes. Two are three-
bedroom apartments, one a compact studio.
Check out livinghomes.net.

Eichler swim club takes on AT&T

Efforts by AT&T and the Eichler Swim
and Tennis Club in Palo Alto to erect a
75-foot-tall cell phone tower disguised as an
evergreen tree were stymied in November,
when AT&T pulled out, citing the need for
taller towers than permitted by the city's
height limit.

But many suspect a well organized
'Stop the Fake Tree' campaign, run by
homeowners in Eichler's Palo Verde neigh-
borhood, and their non-Eichler neighbors,
played a part in the decision.

The swim club hoped to use income
from the tower for improvements. But many
homeowners were concerned about radia-
tion and aesthetics.

"Joseph Eichler would turn over in his
grave," neighbor Michael Jaret wrote, "and
would never permit this non-profit club to
create an eyesore in the neighborhood."

A similar battle erupted in 2003 at San
Mateo Highlands, an Eichler neighbor-
hood, when PG&E proposed increasing
the height of power lines—also dressed
as trees. That plan died following neigh-
borhood uproar.