



LA JOLLA
MODERNISM
HOME TOUR
2023

LA JOLLA MODERNISM HOME TOUR

We are thrilled to have you experience La Jolla's modernist architectural legacy through this carefully curated tour of spectacular homes. We are also grateful for your support of the La Jolla Historical Society. Proceeds from the tour support our public exhibitions and education programs, provide for the care of our archival collections, and ensure LJHS thrives as a resource and gathering place where residents and visitors explore history, art, ideas and culture.

We are deeply appreciative of the members of the La Jolla Modernism Committee who have worked so hard to make this event a success: Chair Joan Gand, Heather Crane, David Goldberg, and Keith York.

This year's tour is possible because of the commitment and support of generous underwriters and sponsors, to whom we express our sincere gratitude.

Last, but certainly not least, I want to recognize and offer our heartfelt thanks to the homeowners who have so graciously opened their homes for you today, and who embody the spirit of preservation through their stewardship of these properties.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, staff, volunteers, and members of the La Jolla Historical Society, thank you for attending!



Lauren Lockhart
Executive Director
La Jolla Historical Society

FEATURED ARCHITECT

This year, our featured architect is Frederick Liebhardt (1924-1999). Three of the seven projects on this tour are designed by Liebhardt as well as two others designed by architects who either partnered with or worked for Liebhardt at some point in their careers. Two fantastic homes by William Krisel and Robert Liebner round out the day.

SPECIAL THANKS

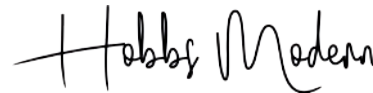
JUDGE JONATHAN T. COLBY (RET.)

DIANE AND JOHN KANE JOAN AND GARY GAND KEITH YORK

DAVID ZIPPEL AND MICHAEL JOHNSTON



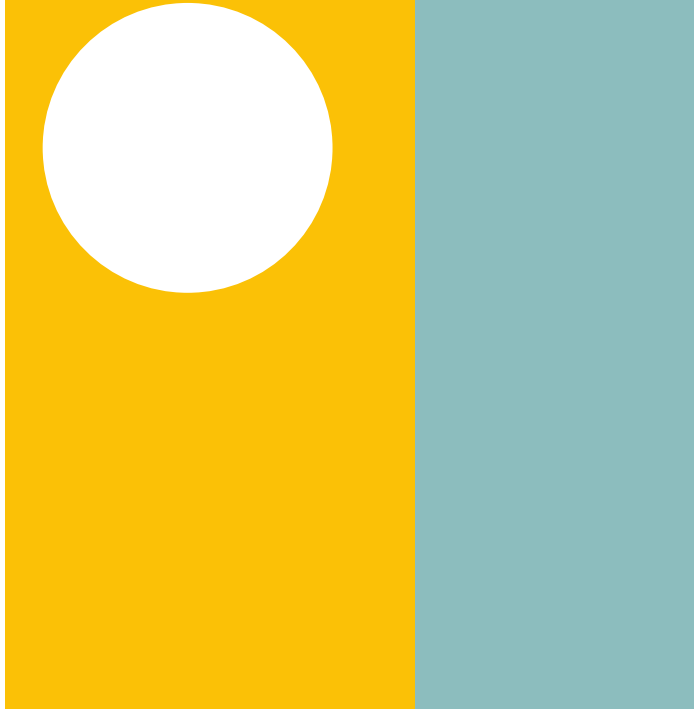
SIA PROJECTS



CURATED MID-CENTURY MODERN DESIGN



For information about sponsoring next year's tour,
contact Lauren Lockhart at 858.459.5335, ext. 2 or llockhart@lajollahistory.org



ARCHITECT

FREDERICK LIEBHARDT

YEAR BUILT:
1951

HOMEOWNERS:
PAUL BASILE & JULES WILSON

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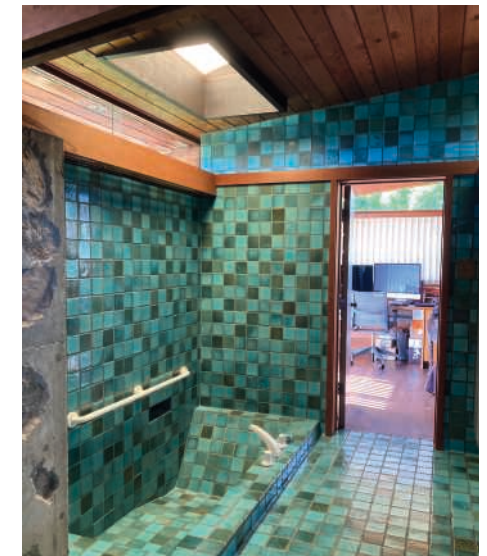


There is no finer example of residential design by master architect Frederick Liebhardt (1924-1999) and interior designer wife Marianne (1923-2014) than their personal residence at 7224 Carrizo Drive. As students of Frank Lloyd Wright, the residence embodies the organic principles advocated by their mentor. Of note is the use of site-specific design, asymmetrical facades, exposed structure, and extensive use of unfinished wood, glass, and stone.

Constructed in 1951, with a master bedroom addition in 1969, the residence and carport blend beautifully with the site's sloping hillside. The Liebhardts terraced the carport and front entry courtyard into the hillside using battered concrete and stone retaining walls. This materiality along with unfinished wood and glass carry to the interior of the home further integrating the house and site.

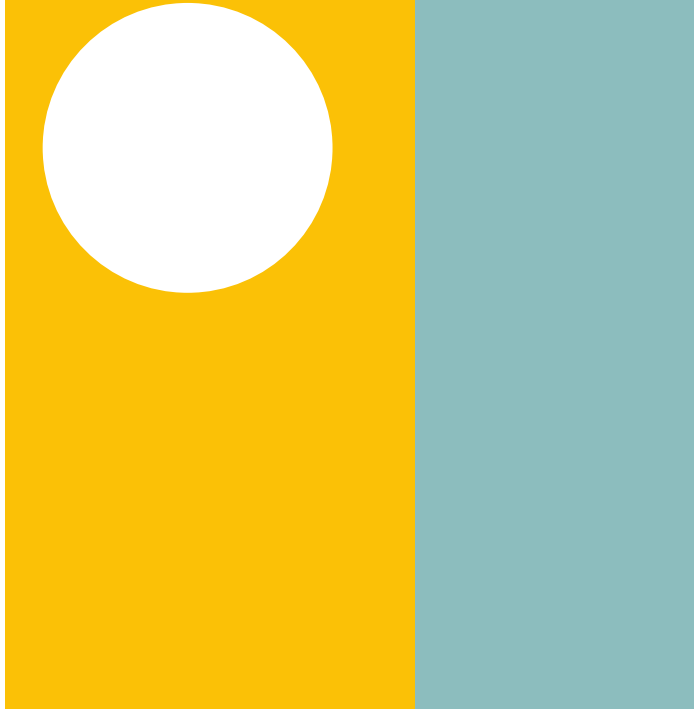
One of the most distinctive features of the house is the 25-foot-long stone and mortar fireplace in the living room that integrates four concrete and stone buttresses to create three large side-by-side fire boxes. The fire boxes are linked with a concrete mantel and mullion free windows. A round copper flue pipe at each fire box allows smoke to vent and minimally impacts the view to the trees and ocean beyond.

The home is now owned and lovingly cared for by Paul Basile and Jules Wilson. Paul owns Basile Studio, a full-service design, build,



and fabrication studio and Jules operates Jules Wilson Design Studio, a high-end interior design firm. Both design studios are based in San Diego.

***“I like to think that things have a use. They should be useful and handsome in their usefulness. To put up (buildings) just to be handsome is not a good idea.”
– Frederick Liebhardt, San Diego Union, 1996***



DESIGNER

ROBERT LIEBNER

YEAR BUILT:
1961

HOMEOWNERS:
JOAN & GARY GAND

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"There's Space Age in Home Building, Too." - San Diego Union, 1961

This one-of-a-kind residence was designed and constructed by Robert Liebner (1926-1980) in 1961. Liebner, a former General Motors mechanical engineer, moved to San Diego in 1951 to work in the aerospace industry at Convair. The home is believed to showcase the first use of cantilevered, tapered steel beams in residential construction in San Diego. It is the only known residence designed and built by Liebner.

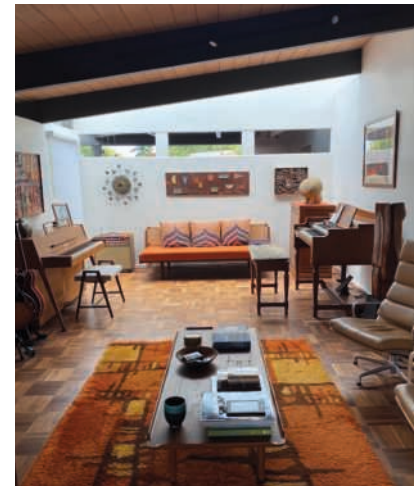
The unassuming home sits at the end of a quiet cul-de-sac with only the garage built on solid ground. The home was designed to be rear facing and utilizes a unique floor framing system of three tapered steel beams that cantilever 58-feet off the rim of the canyon. The roof structure is expressed throughout the interior and exterior of the home and creates deep overhangs at the large wooden deck that wraps around the residence. The remainder of the home is conventionally framed with post-and-beam construction.

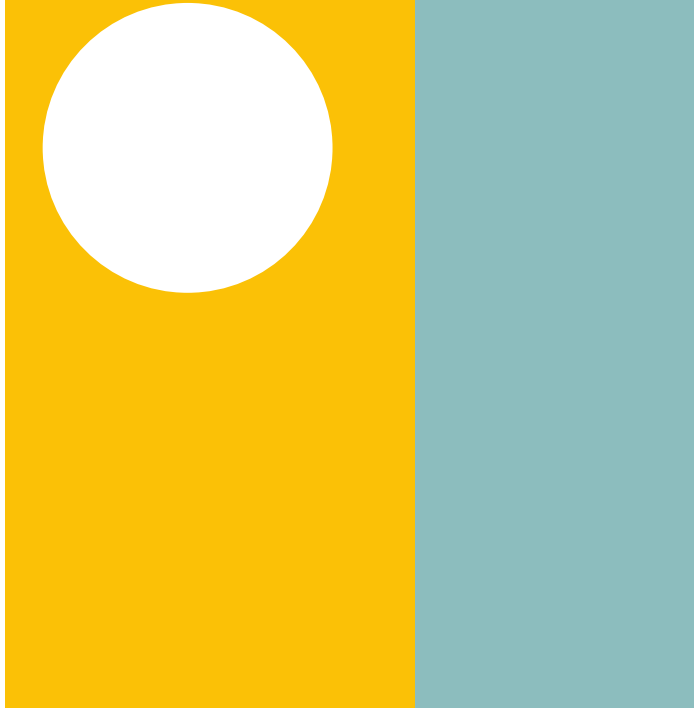
Another unique feature of this home is the living room fireplace, also designed by Liebner and his wife Becky. Constructed of black steel, an angular hood extends 10-feet across with a fire box platform suspended below the hood. The fireplace gives the illusion it's floating when it's actually bearing on three concrete plinths.



Large expanses of glass windows, sliding glass doors, and a two-level wrap-around deck capture the panoramic views of the canyon, the community of Bird Rock, and the Pacific Ocean.

The home was purchased in 2019 by musicians and vintage collectors Joan and Gary Gand, who enlisted the services of master craftsman John Vugrin to do a complete restoration. The three worked together to bring back the original 1960s vintage look featuring mahogany woodwork, all hand-made cabinetry, and the original "international orange" as a theme color.





ARCHITECTS

PALMER & KRISSEL

YEAR BUILT:
1962

HOMEOWNERS:
DANIEL LOPEZ-PEREZ &
CELINE VARGAS-LOPEZ

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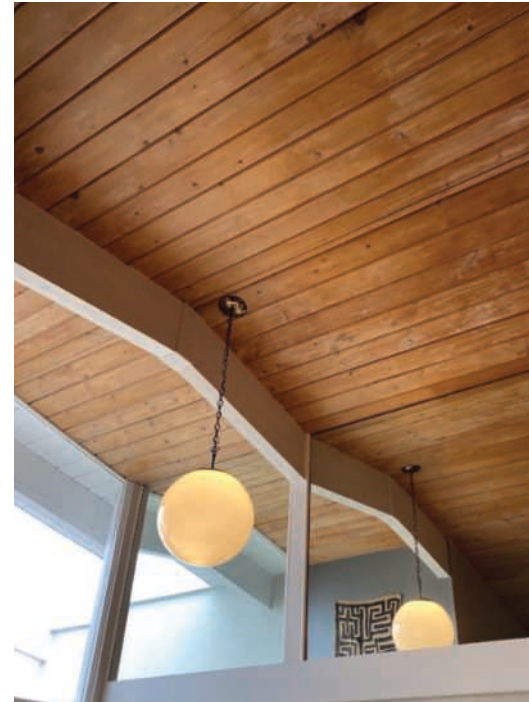
As you drive down Soledad Mountain Road, you will encounter more than a few mid-century modern homes. The Jolla Crest development by Drogin Construction Company was designed by the firm Palmer and Krisel – known for their work in Los Angeles and Palm Springs areas.

The La Jolla Crest development offered home buyers four basic floor plans with a choice of fifteen exterior elevations in ranch, modern, and Hawaiian styles.

This example of Palmer and Krisel's BX Plan features a private entry courtyard, a low-slope gable roof with expressed structure, and large aluminum-framed windows. Sliding glass doors, at the rear of the home, bring in an abundance of daylight and connect the dining area, family room, and primary bedroom to an expansive backyard. Unique to this model are the numerous built-in cabinets and the spacious, central entry hall with original book-matched veneer paneling.

In 2021, the exterior was revived with a fresh coat of paint and the interior was tastefully updated with a new kitchen and Marmoleum flooring throughout.

“You’ll never know How Much More Luxury Your Dollars Will Buy Until You See ... La Jolla Crest” - San Diego Union, 1962



This home is not only significant for its mid-century architecture and original owners, but also for helping break barriers that discriminated against those of Jewish heritage from owning real estate in La Jolla.

The original owners, George and Elsa Feher, were two prominent San Diego individuals. George was one of the founding faculty members of UCSD who helped establish the physics department and founded the biophysics program there in 1964. He was a pioneer in the field of biophysics and made significant contributions to the field. Elsa, also a physicist, was an influential scientist and educator. She dedicated her life to bettering early science education and making science accessible and interesting for all, first as a professor at SDSU, then as the director of the Reuben H. Fleet Science Center and, after retirement, in her native Argentina. The Feher's accomplishments, accolades, and contributions to the field of physics and science education are numerous.

This 1967 home was designed by Frederick Liebhart of Liebhardt, Weston and Associates. The landscape was designed by Joseph Yamada of Wimmer, Yamada &

ARCHITECTS

LIEBHARDT, WESTON & ASSOC.

YEAR BUILT:
1967

HOMEOWNERS:
THE FEHER FAMILY

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Associates. It is a one-of-a-kind time capsule. Largely unchanged and held within the same family for the last 56 years, this is the first time this property has been viewed broadly by the public.

The home is located above La Jolla Shores and cantilevers over an undeveloped canyon. The exterior features vertical siding, expansive use of glass, and large exposed roof rafters visible throughout the home. The use of vertical siding continues to the interior. Kitchen cabinets and built-in closets are all original, a rarity in a home of this vintage. The owners plan to seek local historic designation in their effort to preserve this remarkable family home for future generations.

“I said, and consistently said it always, from 1950 on, you can’t have a university without Jewish professors. The Real Estate Broker’s Association and their supporters in La Jolla had to make up their minds whether they wanted a university or an anti-Semitic covenant. You couldn’t have both.” Roger Revelle - 25th anniversary of UCSD.



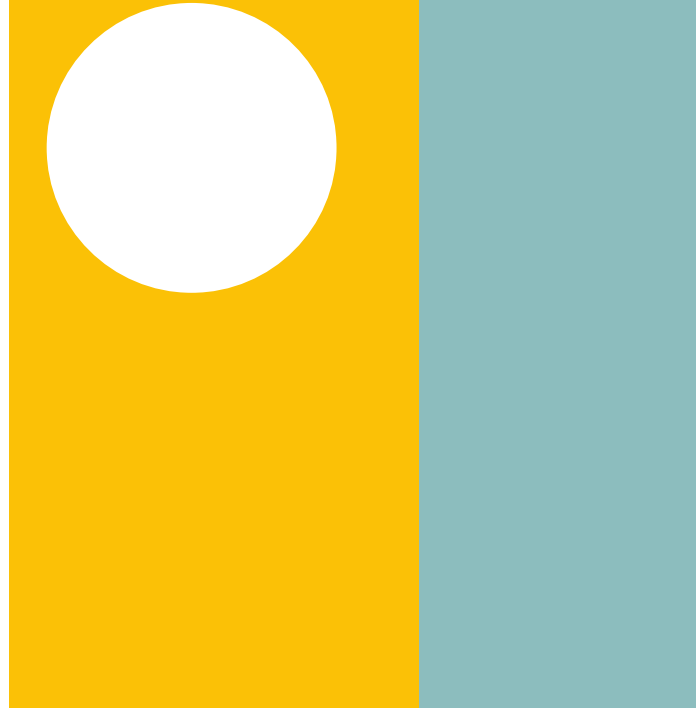
Perched on the edge of Hillside Drive, this home was constructed in 1972 for Richard Livett, Robert Scallan, and John McKean. Although Livett was an architect and engineer, the trio consulted with La Jolla architect Henry Hester (1925-2006). Before construction was complete, McKean bought-out his partners and lived in the home with his wife for about two years before selling the property to a family who lived there for the next 40 years.

A unique feature of this home is no portion of the structure is physically attached to the street. A gap was intentionally designed along the street frontage to allow the two volumes to move independently. A wood deck along Hillside Drive covers this gap. The entirety of the home is supported by six oversized concrete sonotubes embedded into the hillside. The sonotubes support three large beams that run the length of the residence.

In 2018, the home was refreshed inside and out. The remodel removed the exterior redwood siding and reinstalled it with the painted side facing inward. This retained the original siding, while bringing back the unpainted aesthetic. In addition, original wood louvers at the entryway that had been walled over were uncovered and restored. The remodel further opened the kitchen to the living space and interior finishes were thoughtfully and selectively restored or replaced throughout. Original features such as the living room fireplace and stairs were refurbished and enhanced with a new tile surround at the fireplace and a geometric railing at the stairs.

The home's horizontal massing and expansive use of floor-to-ceiling glass commands exceptional views of La Jolla Shores and beyond.

“Space and light and order. Those are the things that men need just as much as they need bread or a place to sleep.” - Le Corbusier



ARCHITECT

RICHARD LIVETT

YEAR BUILT:
1972

HOMEOWNERS:
JULIA CORMIER & RICHARD FORD

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Constructed in 1983 for neuro-endocrinologist Dr. Sam Yen and his family, its curvilinear forms, and integration with its site, fulfill a complete expression of the architect's and client's goals.

Located at the end of a cul-de-sac with only the driveway and walled entry visible from the street, the home signals both mystery and privacy to its visitors. From across the canyon to the north, the roof structure resembles a flower blooming out of the hillside. The undulating roof planes stem from a central, three-level oculus, and are structured with custom formed glued laminated Douglas fir. Other eye-catching features of the home include a sculptural cast-in-place concrete fireplace and tile with fluid designs used in the kitchen and bathrooms.

Interior spaces are beautifully illuminated with natural light that spills in through large expanses of north, east and westward facing glazing. Unobstructed views into Pottery Canyon and out to the Pacific make for sunsets like no other.

***"If it is not a love affair with Mother Earth, it is not Architecture."* - Kendrick Bangs Kellogg**

ARCHITECT

KENDRICK BANGS KELLOGG

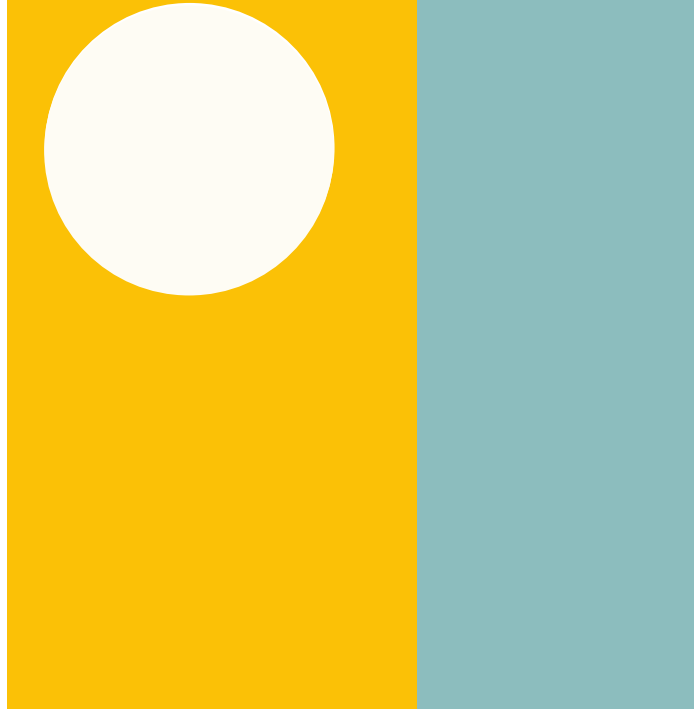
YEAR BUILT:
1983

HOMEOWNER:
ERIK GILMER

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ARCHITECT

FREDERICK LIEBHARDT

YEAR BUILT:
1959

BUILDING NAME:
MONSEES PROFESSIONAL BUILDING

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Monsees Professional Building, located at the east corner of Via Del Norte and La Jolla Hermosa Avenue, was designed in 1959 by Frederick Liebhardt for his own professional practice. Some of his partners over his 40-year career included Eugene Weston III, Donald Goldman, and Bob Botton. Liebhardt, Weston & Associates designed an addition to the building in 1965.

Tour attendees will notice how intact the building remains. Its direct expression of the structural systems, horizontal massing, flat roof with thin profile and deep overhangs, and floor-to-ceiling glass speak to the era of its design.

The building is currently occupied by design and construction businesses including Basile Studio (owner of 7224 Carrizo Drive).



FREDERICK LIEBHARDT

BY KEITH YORK

Frederick “Fred” Liebhardt was born in Fresno in 1924 and grew up in San Marino and Pasadena.

Fred married Marianne at the beginning of World War II. Following his service in the US Navy, Fred and Marianne joined Frank Lloyd Wright’s Taliesin Fellowship where Fred acquired the architectural orientation that he pursued throughout the rest of his career. At Taliesin, wife Marianne acquired skills in interior design that would propel her through her own career.

Despite Fred’s opinion that San Diego was lacking in strong architecture, they decided to move to La Jolla. Fred began an informal practice of his own and partnered with fellow Taliesin apprentice Loch Crane.

Fred opened his first office on Herschel Avenue around 1951 and by 1960 he launched a decades-long partnership with Eugene Weston III.

His work embodied the organic principles advocated by Frank Lloyd Wright and encompassed a wide variety of project types from single family residences and hotels to projects for research and education and the master planning of zoos, aquaria, wild animal parks, theme parks and other outdoor recreation facilities.

According to the *San Diego Union Tribune*, “Unlike some Wright disciples, Liebhardt is no die-hard clone of the master.” Said architect J. Spencer Lake, “One of the strengths of his work is you can’t ‘type’ it. There’s no classic Liebhardt look, and that’s a tribute to his ability to suit a design to its purpose.”

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS AND RECOGNITION

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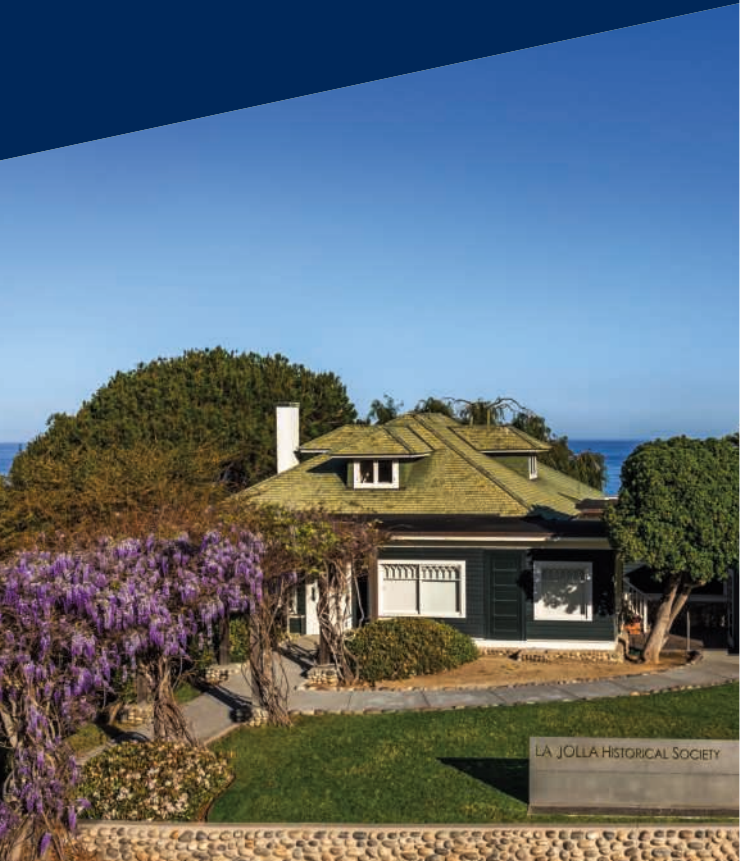
Molly McClain, Ph.D.

2023 LA JOLLA MODERNISM PROGRAM BOOKLET

Program Notes | Heather Crane, AIA with contributions by the homeowners

Program Designer | Kelly Johnston

LA JOLLA HISTORICAL SOCIETY



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For 60 years, the La Jolla Historical Society has inspired and empowered the community to make La Jolla's diverse past a relevant part of contemporary life.

Your support helps LJHS present timely, diverse exhibitions, programs, and publications, as well as serve as a community resource and gathering place where residents and visitors explore history, art, ideas, and culture.

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THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO COMMISSION FOR ARTS AND CULTURE for their generous support of the La Jolla Historical Society.

THE HOME OWNERS for their generosity in sharing homes.

THE NATIONAL CHARITY LEAGUE MOTHER & DAUGHTER VOLUNTEERS for their commitment in staffing the homes.

THE SPONSORS for their generous financial support.

THE LA JOLLA MODERNISM TOUR COMMITTEE MEMBERS for their generous contributions of time, expertise, and skill in creating this exceptional experience for the community.

THE MEMBERS OF THE LA JOLLA HISTORICAL SOCIETY for their continued and generous support that is so essential to achieving our mission.

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TOM BLACHFORD

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