EXCITING RECENT EVENTS

On October 30, we hosted a Halloween party and exhibit opening for Fatal Design! Thank you everyone who came, and thank you to Andy Shanken, co-curator, for a fascinating talk on the subject of temporary and appropriated memorials. For more information about the exhibit, please see below.

Current Exhibition: Fatal Design

The exhibition was co-curated by Assistant Professor Andrew Shanken and EDA Curator Waverly Lowell, and features visually exciting materials related to memorials and cemeteries held by the Environmental Design Archives and Library.

The great public cemeteries in the United States all began as monumental landscapes, picturesque playgrounds, where the growing middle classes not only buried their dead, but also took refuge from the rapidly industrializing cities that made their wealth. There they could contemplate the “sweet hereafter” in settings with an obvious kinship to the leafy suburbs or a park. These silent cities evolved from a social form that gave us civic institutions including the temple, the theater and the university, as well as the very idea of the monument.

But where has this great social form gone in the last century?
Fatal design follows the changing fate of death, which, while final, is anything but static. It has been said that death replaced sex as the central taboo of modern society. As eros and thanatos swapped places across the twentieth century, burial conventions changed to accommodate this inversion.

The Exhibit will be open to the public through January 16, 2009. For hours and directions, please visit:

www.lib.berkeley.edu/ENVI/hours.html

FUTURE EVENTS

The next exhibit (Feb-April, 2009) will feature architectural pattern books and the tradition of accessible design for the public.

Modern Living: The Biography of Greenwood Common by Curator Waverly Lowell will be available this spring. The next book published by William Stout Publishers in the Berkeley | Design | Book series, it engagingly provides a social and design history of this uncommon modernist enclave in the Berkeley Hills. A lecture and book signing will follow its publication.

A spring gala fundraiser is still in the planning stages, so stay tuned for more information.

FROM THE CURATOR

This has been an interesting time for the Archives. A generation of architects and landscape architects is changing and we have been fortunate to participate in insuring their legacy. This necessitates an active program of moving and housing these valuable collections. Increased growth of this nature requires additional resources for preservation supplies and professional archival activities. Ironically, the Archives, a self-funding research facility within the College of Environmental Design, requires additional funding during this economic downturn.

Perhaps in response to the times, our Friends group has been growing slowly and while it continues to provide critical support for the Archives, we need to recruit more members. We are looking for volunteers to help us reach out to the community, raise funds, and assist with events.

Increasing numbers of students, researchers, and the public continue to use the archives. We hope that we do not have to limit our hours during these fiscally difficult times.

Please encourage your friends and colleagues to become a Friend of the Archives! I look forward to seeing all of you at future events.

Waverly Lowell
Curator

The Environmental Design Archives and the University of California, Berkeley, is a tax-exempt, 501(c) 3 public benefit organization. Tax ID#: 94600 212 3G
EDA STAFF

Curator Waverly Lowell has been spending her time writing grants and working with a few generous and far-sighted individuals to establish small trusts and limited endowments to ensure the long-term viability of the Archives.

Assistant Curator Miranda Hambro is managing our rapidly growing international permissions and publications department. Look for EDA-held images in recently published works such as Sissel Hamre Dagsland’s Bernard Maybeck—en Arts and Crafts-Arkitekt i California, and books that are soon to be released, such as Judith Tankard’s forthcoming Beatrix Farrand: Private Gardens, Public Landscapes.

UPDATE ON THE EDA’S STUDENT ARCHIVES TECHNICIANS!

Welcome back to Maddy Hamlin, a second-generation student archives technician!

Also, a warm welcome goes out to Catherine Johnston, Lan Hu, Lisa Daye, and Huey Ying Hsu.

Catherine is working on her MLIS at SJ SU. She is processing collections and creating collection metadata, so more information about our holdings will be available online for researchers.

Lan is studying for an M. Arch at the CED. She is re-housing some of our photograph collections to better preserve them for posterity.

Lisa is pursuing a Masters in Landscape Architecture, and has been funded by the Landscape Architecture and Environmental Planning Department to inventory and preserve collections related to landscape design.

Welcome also to Huey Ying, a PhD student in Architecture who will be processing the Donlyn Lyndon/ Lyndon Buchanan Collection and working on a special project relating to the 1939 Golden Gate International Exposition.

••• NEW ACQUISITIONS •••

The Archives has recently received a number of new collections. We hope to make these materials available for research soon.

The Archives is pleased to receive the records of the practice of (Charles) Warren Callister including photographs, project files and a large number of drawings.

Callister began his architectural work in the Bay Area in the immediate post-War years. He partnered with Jack Hillmer, in the firm Hillmer-Callister, and later was
a principal in the firms Callister & Payne, Callister, Payne & Bischoff, Callister, Payne & Rosse and Callister, Gately & Heckman. A modernist who was influenced by Japanese art, he was an internationally recognized Bay Area architect by the 1960s. His firms designed private homes, retirement communities, tract homes and spec houses, all with attention to the way the buildings were situated in the landscape. He is also well known for his use of wood in designs. We are delighted to house this collection.

Thanks to the generosity of one of our Friends, we have acquired Thomas Church’s own office copy of the first edition of his Gardens Are For People that includes his editorial corrections and suggestions for the second edition. We are extremely grateful for this gift.

Sim Van der Ryn, who taught at the CED, and practiced in Sausalito until 1995, made a generous gift to the entire College of Environmental Design. His collection of archival materials (original drawings, records, and photographs) came to the EDA; slides were given to the Visual Resources Collection and will be scanned for access, and he has promised his extensive library to the CED Library after his death. The archival records document his unique work, such as the Farallones Institute, and other early “green” projects. In addition to his practice, Van der Ryn served as State Architect of California from 1975-79, and taught in community schools.

Largely a self-supporting design collection and research facility within the College of Environmental Design at UC Berkeley, the Environmental Design Archives (EDA) is a premier archival program dedicated to raising awareness of the significant architectural and landscape heritage of Northern California. With a mission to collect, preserve, and provide access to the primary records of the built and landscaped environment, the EDA is an invaluable resource for preservation, restoration, education, and scholarship. The collection is used by design professionals, students, scholars, homeowners, and other researchers.

The Friends of the Environmental Design Archives is a group that advocates and fundraises for the program, as well as contributes ideas for collection development, educational programming, and public service.

Encourage a friend or colleague to join The Friends of the Environmental Design Archives at the level that works best for them. As a Friend they will become identified with the invaluable work of this great archival program and growing collection and be kept in touch with its activities through the lively newsletter Tracings. From time to time, the EDA will offer unique membership opportunities, such as special lectures, tours, publications, and collection-inspired merchandise.

Contact:
Environmental Design Archives
University of California

230 Wurster Hall #1820
Berkeley, CA 94720-1820

••• GET A FRIEND TO BECOME A FRIEND OF THE ARCHIVES•••