Heritage has chosen a new executive director from a strong field of candidates. After reviewing resumes and conducting in-depth interviews, an eleven-person search committee unanimously recommended to the board of directors the selection of Jack A. Gold, head of a 51-year-old sister organization in Rhode Island.

Mr. Gold comes to Heritage with a rich and varied background. He holds a bachelor's degree in sociology from the University of New Hampshire and received an MA in preservation planning from Cornell, in 1978. He studied public and private management at the Yale School of Organization and Management and is a Saybrook College Fellow at Yale.

Jack took on the leadership of Providence Preservation Society in 2004. Prior to that he held a variety of positions in the nonprofit, for-profit and government realms, including director of development for Habitat for Humanity of Greater New Haven, development officer at Yale University's Environment School, public relations director for Cesar Pelli & Associates, Inc. (now Pelli Clake Pelli Architects), and preservation planner with the City of New Haven.

When he arrived at PPS, Jack found an organization in need of new energy and some fiscal housekeeping. In addition to eliminating a sizeable six-year running deficit through increased annual giving and careful budgeting, he paid off a large line of credit by generating major gifts and increasing revenue from special events, new trustee pledges and foundation grants. He launched a $2 million capital campaign that to date has reached half its goal.

Jack nearly doubled PPS's membership and broadened the organization's support in the community by forging new and sustained relationships with local institutions—including Brown University—and with city government. This gave PPS greater clout in the advocacy arena, where Jack has successfully taken on issues of preservation on the Providence waterfront and with the school district.

To increase public awareness of significant historic and architectural resources under threat, he launched a Most Endangered Properties list for Providence in 2007. Through walking tours, historic house festivals and publication of the PPS/AIA Rhode Island Guide to Providence Architecture, he helped promote that city as a destination for heritage tourism.

Jack Gold leaves PPS a stronger organization charted on a course to the future, having successfully led it through a planning process that resulted in the adoption of a three-year strategic plan in 2007.

When speaking of his involvement with preservation, Jack says, “My passion for historic preservation and community betterment is connected with a decades-long commitment to improving the quality of life in places I call home.” He tells us that his advocacy in the field dates to the early 1970s, when he took part in land-use conservation debates at town meetings in Chesterfield, New Hampshire, his hometown.

Jack sees the present time as a defining moment in preservation. “Now, with the mainstreaming of ‘green’ buildings and sustainable development practices,” he notes, “historic preservation stands at a tipping point where preservationists must be viewed as partners in these broader environmental movements.”

With what he describes as “hands-on personal experience and a real passion for 18th and 19th century house restoration,” Jack is eager to take on the stewardship role at the Haas-Lilienthal House, along with his other responsibilities. He is accustomed to working with a large corps of volunteers, and he injected new vitality into PPS's children and adult education programs.

Jack Gold assumed fulltime duties as executive director on January 8, and the board and staff of Heritage are delighted to welcome him.

The search committee were board members Larry Holmberg (chair), Scott Haskins, Ben Ladomirak, Charles Olson, Dennis Richards and David Wessel; Lilienthal Society members Bruce Bonacker and Gee Gee Platt; Heritage staff Barbara Roldan; Landmarks Board President Bridget Maley, and Anthea Hartig, head of the Western Regional Office of the National Trust.
Honored to serve as your new Executive Director and to live and work in one of the world’s greatest cities, I hope to build on the successes of Charles Chase, to inspire the governing ability of our talented board as we head into a strategic planning retreat on February 8th and 9th, to maximize the superb leadership and generosity of the Lilienthal Society, and to galvanize community partnerships throughout the city.

San Francisco Architectural Heritage’s powerful history and legacy of advocacy and education have been accomplished through the hard work of an indefatigable staff. I am grateful to have inherited such a strong, committed team in Barbara, Don, Bill, Shelley & Heather. You will hear more from us in this New Year via Email, for example.

As we open bids for construction of a new roof for the Haas-Lilienthal House, I am reminded of the powerful legacy of the Haas and Lilienthal families, who entrusted Heritage with this property thirty-five years ago. Support from loyal members and others will help sustain our stewardship, ensuring preservation for the next one hundred years. We are working hard to maximize its educational offerings—expanding tours and getting the word out about the house wherever possible.

Increased engagement in neighborhoods and collaborative work will be key as San Francisco Architectural Heritage forges new relationships, new partnerships, and a broader, citywide perspective on Heritage’s mission that will help cultivate a broader, more diverse membership. As a convener, we will work to establish a community of interests around historic preservation, with knowledge that our work improves the city’s quality of life. We will also strive to support the work of the city’s Planning Department, its preservation specialists and its Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board in particular. Our respected Issues Committee will continue to weigh in on both preservation and new construction and master planning projects to ensure the best outcomes in planning and design.

We will engage more with our partners in the region—the California Preservation Foundation and National Trust for Historic Preservation.

All of this work takes dollars, and Heritage will continue its Soirée and other events to generate revenue to support operations. To those sponsors who have already stepped up and purchased tables for Heritage’s upcoming Soirée on April 12, thank you! If you work at a company that you think might consider supporting the preservation of San Francisco’s architectural heritage please call Barbara or me, and we will set a date to meet to discuss our work, provide a tour of our property or a sponsorship package.

I look forward to touring the fifty-seven properties in San Francisco on which Heritage holds preservation easements. This is a fantastic preservation tool and also works to sustain the organization over the long term. I hope to build on Heritage’s success in obtaining easements and also focus more attention on planned giving opportunities.

Having left one of the snowiest East Coast winters on record, I now find myself dodging rain puddles and marveling at the greenness of the city’s parks and gardens. I am thankful to be here and incredibly grateful for the warm welcome I’ve received from so many kind people. Thank you.

Jack A. Gold
Executive Director
The Case for Preservation at Parkmerced

Parkmerced is a 191-acre 2,500 unit apartment development situated in the southwestern part of San Francisco, adjacent to the campus of San Francisco State University, in a neighborhood close enough to the Pacific Ocean to be continually under assault from wind and foggy weather. Unfortunately, current plans by the new owner, Parkmerced Investors, LLP, and the University, are creating an assault that threatens to sweep Parkmerced off the map. Parkmerced, with its landscape designed by Thomas Church, is one of the most significant modern sites in San Francisco. Losing Parkmerced would be a big loss for San Francisco’s modern heritage.

Thomas Church is the father of modern landscape architecture in the United States, exerting an especially strong influence over the look of residential landscape architecture in the post-War years. He was a figure with both a national and an international reputation, spreading his notions of livable, low-maintenance garden design through popular magazines like House Beautiful and Sunset, and in his book Gardens Are For People (1955).

Church worked closely with the leading Bay Region architects of his day, like William Wurster, Gardner Dailey, John Funk, and others whose regional modern style was characterized by a seamless integration between building and landscape. During the course of his prolific career, he designed over 1,000 individual landscape projects. Most of these are private gardens and are off-limits to the public. The most recognizable of these is the often-photographed Donnell Pool and Garden in Sonoma, California.

Parkmerced, designed by Leonard Schultze Associates, a New York City architect, was developed by Metropolitan Life Insurance Company in 1941 as part of a nationwide venture into real estate development. There are three other similar-scaled developments built by MetLife at about the same time: Park Labrea in Los Angeles, Parkchester in Bronx, New York, and Parkfairfax in Alexandria, Virginia. All four master-planned communities are predominantly low-rise apartments situated on significant amounts of landscaped open space. Parkfairfax is listed on the National Register in recognition of its role in the Post-War housing effort as an early master-planned community.

At Parkmerced, Schultze laid out a “Garden City” radiating site plan with interconnected courtyards, parking courts and service courts, and engaged Church to create designs for the 75 unique internal courtyards and landscape throughout the complex. This was Church’s first large-scaled commission and allowed him to put into practice his fundamental concepts for residential landscape. Each courtyard is different, responding to its particular topography and solar conditions, and each provides semi-private terraces adjoining the apartment’s living rooms, a shared lawn area, sidewalks, and a limited, wind-tolerant, plant palette.

Curving walks and biomorphic shapes define the central lawns, while raised planters, wide steps, and low-maintenance planting groups give each courtyard its modern feeling. For students of Thomas Church, walking through the interconnected courtyards of Parkmerced provides a primer on the Church residential landscape, offering a rare opportunity to experience firsthand the work of one of the country’s founding modernist landscape architects.

In the last few years, San Francisco State University has purchased several blocks of Parkmerced and has released a plan to replace at least five of these blocks with new student housing. In addition, the current owner of the remainder of Parkmerced has hired the San Francisco office of SOM to develop a new Master Plan. Initial concept drawings shown at a recent public meeting indicate that Parkmerced would be demolished in its entirety and replaced with a completely different grid pattern, higher density housing, and that commercial uses would be added along its major green spaces.

Local preservation organizations, including the Northern California Chapter of DOCOMOMO-US and the Western Regional Office of the National Trust for Historic Preservation are concerned about both initiatives. The Trust hosted a site tour on November 2, 2007, that included representatives of California Preservation Foundation, Heritage and the Planning Department, to promote greater understanding of the importance of Parkmerced and the preservation issues at stake.

—By Chandler McCoy, board member of the Northern California Chapter of DOCOMOMO-US.
Reprinted with permission from the DOCOMOMO-US newsletter.
Survey Activity Intensifies

Survey activity has intensified in San Francisco over the last couple of years. This happy state of affairs partly reflects the Emporium settlement of 2005, under which the City made a firm commitment to fund survey work. Changes in the culture of the Planning Department, post-Mayor Brown, have also been a factor.

New leadership restored overall staff morale and increased the number of preservation specialists in the department. Last year, the survey team increased to six members, whose time is devoted almost entirely to the survey program. The incoming director of planning is expected to continue on this course, ultimately to survey the entire city.

It is a daunting task. According to figures provided the Planning Department by the Department of Building Inspection, there are some 148,500 buildings in San Francisco, about 133,500 of which are more than 45 years old. Data resulting from surveys that began in the 1960s exist for only about 18,000 of those.

The survey program is designed as a collaborative effort involving neighborhood groups and other interested parties. The process typically begins with a visit by Planning staff to the proposed survey area to photograph and make an initial assessment of each building. At that point, internal peer review leads to a refinement of the scope of work for further documentation.

This information in combination with inquiry into the area’s history results in a preliminary context statement that defines the area’s broad historical themes and identifies the types of resources present. The next step is a reconnaissance survey that documents the physical characteristics of the properties in the area, followed by an intensive survey that assesses their national, state and local significance. The process concludes with revision of the context statement to reflect the full body of research.

The survey documents individually significant buildings and groups of structures that may constitute historic districts on California Department of Parks and Recreation forms. Planning staff reviews these to verify the accuracy of property descriptions and to ensure that evaluations of significance are sound.

A status report of the City’s survey program indicates that context statements appeared during 2007 for South of Market, the Mission, Mission Dolores neighborhood, and Market & Octavia area. In addition, final updated survey forms for the Central Waterfront are currently under review, and staff have received and begun to review forms for portions of South of Market, the Mission, and Market & Octavia. These surveys should be concluded during 2008.

State survey forms are now in preparation for Showplace Square, and reconnaissance survey has begun in Japantown, concurrent with community meetings. The department anticipates seeking bids during 2008 for surveys of Balboa Park, the Castro and Noe Valley, as well as thematic surveys for automotive support structures and neighborhood movie theaters. Ninety percent of the fieldwork and documentation will be conducted by outside contractors, while in-house staff will review and edit the enormous quantity of documents the surveys will generate. The final stop in the process will be review by the Landmarks Board and the Planning Commission.

Outside the realm of the Planning Department, the Redevelopment Agency is conducting surveys in the Bay View and Visitacion Valley, and surveys of the Sunset and the Mission Dolores area through neighborhood initiative are underway (see related article on page 6).

Governor’s Award

Congratulations to our friends at the Western Neighborhoods Project (WNP). The organization was one of sixteen statewide recipients honored at a ceremony in the Leland Stanford Mansion State Historic Park, Sacramento, with a Governor’s Historic Preservation Award. State Historic Preservation Officer Milford Wayne Donaldson presented the award on November 16, for the restoration of four 1906 Refugee Shacks.

In accepting for WNP, Woody LaBounty, board member of the organization, said, “This award recognizes the many community volunteers and businesses who donated hundreds of hours of labor and specialized services to restore the shacks over a four-year period.”

Volunteers restored one shack fully and stabilized the others according to The Secretary of the Interior’s Standards. The restored shack was part of an interpretive display during the Earthquake Centennial observance, in April 2006, and received more than 15,000 visitors. It is now under the care of the San Francisco Museum and Historical Society for future display as part of a city history museum at the Old Mint.

The Governor’s Historic Preservation Awards, under the sponsorship of the State Office of Historic Preservation and the California State Parks, are presented annually to organizations or public agencies whose contributions demonstrate notable achievements in preserving the heritage of California.
Restoration Underway at Old Mint

The Old U.S. Mint, a National Historic Landmark, is one of the few significant buildings to survive the 1906 earthquake and fire. Completed in 1874, it continued in service as an operating mint until 1937. Over time, since then, it housed various government offices and a mint museum, but has been vacant since 1993. In 2003, the City of San Francisco reached agreement with the federal government to acquire the historic property for one dollar and selected the San Francisco Museum and Historical Society to restore and rehabilitate the building.

Working with lead architect Patri Merker, preservation architect Page & Turnbull is charged with the task of developing a rehabilitation program for the interior. The past year has been full of discoveries and visible progress inside the 100,000-square-foot structure.

Years of industrial use for smelting and minting, combined with alterations of the 1950s and ‘60s by the federal government, left significant amounts of hazardous material in the building. In September 2006, the project team began soft demolition and hazardous waste removal, cleaning what qualifies as a “brownfield” property. The project is a leader in environmentally friendly rehabilitation striving for LEED® Gold certification, and hazardous waste removal is a substantial element of this. More than seventy-five percent of all of non-hazardous construction waste has been diverted from landfill.

Numerous trials and on-site mock-ups for the asbestos abatement were tested, all per The Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for Rehabilitation mandate to use the “gentlest means possible.” A labor-intensive process of hand scraping and chemical removal resulted.

Soirée 2008 to Honor Old Mint

The historic Old Mint, at 5th and Mission, and Mint Plaza provide the setting for Soirée 2008. Heritage’s black-tie fundraising event will take place on Saturday, April 12. Guests will begin the evening at 6:30 in the Old Mint for cocktails and the start of the silent auction. At 8:00, the party will move to a tent on Mint Plaza for a seated dinner by McCall Associates. Following dinner the party returns to the Mint building with the silent auction continuing, along with casino gaming for premium prizes and dancing to the Richard Olsen Orchestra. The gala ends at midnight. To receive an invitation, contact Barbara Roldan, 415-441-3000, ext. 14, or broldan@sfheritage.org.

With historic features protected, each room slowly revealed its original character and information on the condition of historic materials. Windows, many on the first floor sealed with plywood to protect computer rooms of the 1960s and ‘70s, now bathe spaces with light. Coved plaster and corrugated metal ceilings are revealed, rebalancing the proportion of rooms cramped by non-historic alterations. One substantial and unexpected find was beautiful historic stone flooring under layers of asbestos-based compounds.

Additional milestones to date include design development, completed in July 2007, and exhibition space schematic design drawings substantially completed by Christopher Chadbourne and Associates in October 2007.

Application for Historic Preservation Certification is under review by the State Historic Preservation Office and the National Park Service. This document, a major step in the approvals process,

—continued on page 8
City’s Oceanside Revealed

The Oceanside, sitting at the far edge of the outer Sunset District, west of 40th Avenue between Lincoln Way and Sloat Boulevard, probably took its name from the first building in the area, the Ocean Side House. At the time of its construction in 1866, on the Great Highway between what is now Ulloa and Vicente, this roadhouse stood a mile from its nearest neighbor.

By 1895, residential development appeared in the portion of the district bounded by Lincoln Way, Irving Street, La Playa and 40th Avenue, in a distinctive form. A few hardy souls purchased surplus horse cars and cable cars from the city’s transit companies and adapted them as homes and for a variety of other uses, including recreation. The community became known as Carville and attracted a rather Bohemian element.

This collection of no-longer-rolling stock grew in the post-quake period as transit companies, restoring their service and converting to electric streetcars, disposed of their old cars. “By 1908,” according to the Overland Monthly, “Carville had a population of 2,000, with its own stores, restaurants, churches, hotels, its artistic settlement, its colony of prominent musicians from the city, and best of all, its quaint homes, real yet of almost nominal cost.”

More conventional development appeared in the outer Sunset around the turn of the century and with it from makeshift and self-built cottages to fully realized Craftsman houses.”

Earliest residents of Oceanside relied on wells for their water, and a few individual well houses survive in the district, including one at 2274 45th Avenue. When the Spring Valley Water Company laid water mains in 1904, it provided an incentive to development, reflected in 175 water connections over the next two years. A succession of neighborhood improvement associations, beginning in 1903, lobbied for other improvements, including sewer lines, electric street lights, graded and paved streets, fire and police protection, and schools.

While there were some flats and multi-story apartment buildings in Oceanside, the majority of housing stock was single-family houses. Wood-shingled exteriors are the common denominator. Kostura classifies the shingled houses in three categories:
The larger preservation community has tended to overlook the Sunset District. Developed generally later than other San Francisco neighborhoods, it seemed unworthy of consideration for many years. That has changed in the past decade, largely due to the efforts of residents of the district and through organizations like the Sunset Parkside Education and Action Committee (SPEAK) and the Western Neighborhoods Project (WNP).

The spur to action was, in part, development pressure that has led to the demolition of smaller—and typically some of the district’s more historic—houses for higher density construction. In the summer of 2004, SPEAK formed the Sunset Architectural and Historical Resources Inventory Committee (SAHRIC) to undertake a comprehensive architectural survey of the Sunset.

It seemed important to begin quickly to educate City officials, developers and property owners of the need for such an inventory. By the end of that year, SAHRIC was ready to publish *Sixteen Notable Buildings*, a kind of sampler of resources deemed worth preserving.

Focusing on preservation of small houses and cottages as potentially affordable housing, SAHRIC obtained a grant from the Alexander Wallace Gerbode Foundation and engaged architectural historian William Kostura to survey Oceanside, the sliver of a neighborhood at the Sunset’s western edge. The product of Kostura’s work appeared last summer in the form of a historic context statement and detailed recordation, on California Department of Parks and Recreation 523 forms, of nineteen of the most significant buildings having the highest integrity. Hoping to obtain further grants and assistance from the City, SAHRIC aims to complete a comprehensive survey of Oceanside in the near future.

Members of SAHRIC: Catherine Bauman; F. Joseph Butler, AIA; Mark Duffett, president of SPEAK; Inge Horton, chair; Woody LaBounty; Mary Anne Miller; Susan Snyder; Lorri Ungaretti and Megan Allison Wade.

Contact: SAHRIC@yahoo.com

Oceanside context statement is available at www.outsidelands.org/oceanside-context-index.php

—Article adapted from **Historic Context Statement of the Oceanside: A Neighborhood of the Sunset District** San Francisco, based on a report by William Kostura with contributions from Chris Duderstadt, Greg Gaar, Inge Horton, Mary Anne Miller and the members of SAHRIC, and published by the Sunset Parkside Education and Action Committee, 2007. All photographs on these pages by Inge Horton.

“Shingle style,” “Craftsman style” or “Shingled Colonial Revival style.” Classical Revival and pure Colonial Revival exist in Oceanside, but are less common than in other San Francisco neighborhoods.

Few architects worked in Oceanside; most of the designers were builders, carpenters and contractors who produced one or two houses at a time, rather than in rows or tracts. Of the builders active in the first decade of the 20th century, the only major player was Alphonso Harrington, who started out as a carpenter in San Francisco in 1886 and moved to the Sunset in 1892, when there was as yet little development. Some counts indicate that only about 10 percent of the 549 residential buildings that appear on the 1915 Sanborn map remain with a high degree of integrity.

Until about 1920, most of the development of Oceanside lay north of Moraga Street. From the 1920s through the 1950s, rows of stucco-clad houses filled in the district. In the same period, tract development gradually filled in the vast middle Sunset, causing Oceanside effectively to meld with the larger, newer district. About the same time, the name Oceanside disappeared from use.

Sunset Neighbors Initiate Survey

1267-1255 42nd Avenue, builder Alphonso Harrington, 1911

1740 Great Highway, likely architect George Colmesnil, 1908

[Image]: 1267-1255 42nd Avenue, builder Alphonso Harrington, 1911

[Image]: 1740 Great Highway, likely architect George Colmesnil, 1908
Mint Plaza

“$4,000,000 Railway Traffic Center Proposed for S.F.” So read the headline over an eight-column spread that appeared in the June 7, 1924, edition of The Examiner. The paper offered a “visualization” by architect N.W. Mohr (detail shown above, terminal with tower at left). It was to be a “Grand Central Station” at Mission and 11th Street. “On the ground floor will be located commodious ticket lobbies, waiting rooms, publicity exhibits and various concessions. The express trains to distant overland points will be at the first level below the street and will be accessible by large ramps and escalators. The latter features will also continue on down to the second level, where the suburban and interurban trains will terminate, and by means of a large loop again depart for all southern points.” Boosters quickly jumped on the bandwagon favoring the proposal “to relieve our present antiquated transportation situation, to the end that this city may take its place among the great cities of the world.”

In the News: San Francisco Contemplates Transit Hub (in 1924)

The historic Old Mint already enjoys an attractive new urban setting. Dedication of the privately funded Mint Plaza occurred on November 16, 2007. This handsomely turned out open space, newly surfaced with composite stone pavers and adorned with planters, trees and a steel arbor for climbing vines, borders the Mint on the north side.

Martin Building Company, a local developer that has rehabilitated several historic properties on the plaza, donated the project to the City, and a nonprofit agency—Friends of Mint Plaza—manages and maintains it at no cost to the public. It is designed for a variety of uses, including art exhibitions, theater, film, live music and dance, and small festivals. Open to the public at all hours, it will also offer an oasis for downtown office workers and shoppers. Four cafes and restaurants are expected to be in operation on the plaza by mid-year.

The night of April 12, the plaza will greet Heritage’s Soirée 2008. Guests will dine in a tent set up in the plaza. The pairing of this new urban amenity with the historic spaces of the Old Mint holds the promise of an unforgettable Soirée. You’ll want to be there. For an invitation contact Barbara Roldan, 415-441-3000, ext. 14, or broldan@sfheritage.org.

Old Mint

continued from page 5

presents the rehabilitation goals of the project as part of the Federal Historic Preservation Tax Incentives Program.

The work to date has yielded hands-on understanding of construction materials and methods from the 1870s and has revealed unexpected delights. When completed in 2011, the $90 million project will be home to a long-awaited museum of Bay Area life and history that promises the most up-to-date exhibit techniques, as well as the San Francisco Visitors Information Center (now in Hallidie Plaza), the American Money Museum and several dining and retail venues.

Mint project team principals are
•Patri Merker Architects, project architect •Page & Turnbull, historic preservation architect •Architectural Resources Group, exterior conservation •Forell/Elsesser Engineers, Inc., structural engineers •Murphy Burr Curry, Inc., structural engineers •NBA Engineering, M/E/P •EcoSmith, LEED consulting.

—By Michael Tornabene, Assoc. AIA, LEED AP, a designer in Page & Turnbull’s Materials & Conservation Studio.
The San Francisco Architectural Club (SFAC), a venerable but—in recent years—moribund San Francisco institution, has been resurrected and transfigured into the local chapter of a major national organization, the New York-based Institute of Classical Architecture & Classical America (ICA&CA).

The Architect and Engineer of California (August 1905) characterized the SFAC, founded in 1901, as “an organization composed principally of draughtsmen and the younger members of the profession.” Its purpose, continued the journal, was “to bring about a loftier appreciation and a clearer understanding of the art of architecture, a general elevation of the standards, both among the architects of San Francisco and, by reaction, of public taste.” For its members, the club offered lectures and classes on design and construction, “as well as a social evening now and then.” It was, locally, the first private organization accredited to teach architectural design.

The club’s formation, on September 28, 1901, took place in a small room in a boarding house at 14 McAllister Street, and that’s where the nineteen or so charter members held their first meetings. However, landlord trouble—because of “frequent outbursts at our numerous jinks”—forced the club’s relocation to a building at 425 Montgomery Street.

Destruction of that site in 1906 left the young organization struggling for its very survival. Consolidation with the Press Club, “as a last resort,” helped carry it through the crisis. Soon, though, strained relations between the two groups—so different in their purposes—expressed themselves in frequent debates and heated meetings. In 1909, the SFAC and the Press Club voted to go their separate ways, with the former setting up offices at 126 Post Street. By 1915, the SFAC affiliated with the Society of Beaux-Arts Architects, and membership grew to three hundred. The club’s calendar for the season, 1914-1915, in addition to business meetings the first week of each month, listed lectures, outings, field trips and social events that included dances, a formal ball, hikes and Christmas Jinks.

In the club’s second year, the members had decided to hold an exhibition of work, open free of charge to the public, to raise the general awareness of quality design. The response was so great that the membership resolved to stage an annual show. The group didn’t quite hold to the yearly schedule. The Chronicle (May 23, 1915) noted that the 7th exhibition of the San Francisco Architectural Club, scheduled for June 7-19, 1915, includes “features of remarkable interest” and promises “an architectural treat.”

The committee in charge of that exhibition included Cass Gilbert of New York and such local luminaries as Charles Peter Weeks, Arthur Brown, Jr., George Applegarth, Kenneth Macdonald, Clarence R. Ward and Benjamin G. McDougall. The newspapers noted the committee has selected “none but the most meritorious” from among the work of leading architects of the West, to be displayed with “choice work” by noted architects from the East coast and abroad.

The club’s senior members, such as Brown and Weeks, served as patrons in ateliers that competed in the Beaux Arts Institute of Design’s national competitions. Winners received stipends allowing them to study in Paris.

The SFAC began to lose its identity and purpose with the passing of the City Beautiful movement and the loss of favor of the Beaux Arts aesthetic. For a while the club tutored young architects for their licensing exams, but training programs offered by private education companies supplanted this function.

The San Francisco chapter of the American Institute of Architects, with its large membership and variety of —continued on page 11
**Heritage Tours**

**HAAS-LILIENTHAL HOUSE TOURS**
Wedgesdays 12 noon to 3:00 pm  
Saturdays 12 noon to 3:00 pm  
Sundays 11:00 am to 4:00 pm

**WALKING TOURS**
- **Pacific Heights**, Sundays 12:30 pm.  
- **City Beautiful & Civic Center**  
  First Saturday each month, 1:30  
- **A Walk Along Broadway**  
  Second Saturday each month, 1:30  
- **Beyond Union Street: A Walk Through Cow Hollow**  
  Third Saturday each month, 1:30  
- **Walk the Fire Line: Van Ness Avenue**  
  Fourth Saturday each month, 1:30

*Heritage tours are free to members and their guests, $8 for the general public/$5 for seniors and children 12 and under.*

**TO ARRANGE GROUP TOURS**
Call Shelley Adams, 415-441-3000

**TOUR/EVENT INFORMATION**
Call 415-441-3004 or go to:  
[www.sfheritage.org/events+tours.html](http://www.sfheritage.org/events+tours.html)

*Heritage programs supported in part by City of San Francisco Grants for the Arts.*

**Bay Area Tours**

**ALLIED ARTS GUILD**  
Menlo Park, 650-322-2405

**CAMRON-STANFORD HOUSE**  
Oakland, 510-836-1976

**CITY GUIDES WALKS**  
San Francisco, 415-557-1300

**COHEN-BRAY HOUSE**  
Oakland, 510-532-0704

**CYPRESS LAWN CEMETERY**  
Colma, 650-550-8810, or 8811

**DUNSMUIR HISTORIC ESTATE**  
Oakland (Apr-Sep), 510-615-5555

**ALKIRK CULTURAL CENTER**  
San Rafael, 415-485-3328

**FILOLI HOUSE & GARDEN**  
Woodside (Feb-Oct), 650-364-8300

**HANNA HOUSE**  
Stanford, 650-725-8352

**LATHROP HOUSE**  
Redwood City, 650-365-5564

**LUTHER BURBANK HOME & GARDENS**  
Santa Rosa, 707-524-5445

**McCONAGHY HOUSE**  
Hayward, 510-276-5010

**MEYERS HOUSE & GARDEN**  
Alameda, 510-521-1247

**OAKLAND TOURS PROGRAM**  
510-238-3234

**OCTAGON HOUSE**  
San Francisco, 415-441-7512

**PALO ALTO-STANFORD HERITAGE**  
650-299-8878 or 324-3121

**PARDEE HOME**  
Oakland, 510-444-2187

**SAN FRANCISCO CITY HALL**  
415-554-5780

**STRYBING ARBORETUM**  
Golden Gate Park, San Francisco  
415-661-1316, ext. 312

**March**

**THROUGH APRIL 6**  
Exhibition: *Trading Traditions: California's New Cultures*  
Oakland Museum. 510-238-2200  
[www.museumca.org](http://www.museumca.org)

**THROUGH APRIL 13**  
Exhibition: *Treasures from Hearst Castle.* California Museum for History, Women & the Arts, Sacramento  
916-653-7524  
[www.californiamuseum.org](http://www.californiamuseum.org)

**Through May**  
Exhibition: *Good Prospects: Life in the California Gold Fields*  
Soc. of Calif. Pioneers. 415-957-1849  
[www.californiapioneers.org](http://www.californiapioneers.org)

**Through June 8**  
Exhibition: *Cut: Revealing the Section*  
SFMOMA. 415-357-4000  
[www.sfmoma.org](http://www.sfmoma.org)

**Through August 10**  
Exhibition: *Highlights from the Israel Antiquities Authority: The Dead Sea Scrolls and 5,000 Years of Treasures*  
Legion of Honor  
415-750-3600; [www.thinker.org](http://www.thinker.org)

**March 6, 6:00 – 8:00 PM**  
Chatauquan Performance: *Dr. Yee, California Pioneer.* California Historical Society. 415-357-1848  
[www.californiahistoricalsoociety.org](http://www.californiahistoricalsoociety.org)

**March 11, 7:30 PM**  
Program: *Beats, Broadway and Bobemians.* SF Museum & Historical Society. 415-557-1111

**March 18, 8:00 PM**  
Lecture: *American Money*  
American Decorative Arts Forum  
415-249-9234; [www.adafca.org](http://www.adafca.org)

**March 27, 7:00 PM**  
Lecture: *Julia Morgan, Architect*  
Alameda Museum. 510-748-0796  
[www.alamedamuseum.org/events.html](http://www.alamedamuseum.org/events.html)

**March 28, 29, 30**  
History Walkabout: *Lakeview and City College.* CHS. 415-357-1848  
[www.californiahistoricalsoociety.org](http://www.californiahistoricalsoociety.org)

**April**

**April 8, 8:00 PM**  
Lecture: *Sophistication in Central Massachusetts: The Inlaid Furniture of Nathan Lombard*  
American Decorative Arts Forum  
415-249-9234; [www.adafca.org](http://www.adafca.org)

**April 23 - 26**  
Annual California Preservation Conference. Napa. 415-495-0349  
[www.californiapreservation.org](http://www.californiapreservation.org)

**April 24, 7:00 PM**  
Lecture: *Alameda's Civic Center*  
Alameda Museum. 510-748-0796  
[www.alamedamuseum.org/events.html](http://www.alamedamuseum.org/events.html)

**May**

**May 2 •3**  
Program: *Athens in the Time of Pericles.* Humanities West  
415-391-9700. [www.humanitieswest.org](http://www.humanitieswest.org)

**May 13, 8:00 PM**  
Lecture: *Timothy Pflueger: San Francisco's Art Deco Renaissance Man.* American Decorative Arts Forum  
415-249-9234; [www.adafca.org](http://www.adafca.org)
programs, also made the SFAC seemingly superfluous. Older members carried on for a number of years, and architect Thomas Gordon Smith attempted to revive the organization in the early 1980s. Sadly, by the early ‘90s, the club was without dues-paying members.

What spurred the SFAC’s recent rejuvenation was both practical and ideological. First, the club’s valuable book collection held at the California College of Arts and Crafts had to be moved. Being the last elected treasurer responsible for the club’s assets, architect Morgan Conolly had to find a new home for the collection. How could this be done and paid for?

The solution to that problem suggested an avenue for reviving the organization, as well. Conolly and Aaron Cook are members of the thriving Institute of Classical Architecture & Classical America (ICA&CA). This organization’s focus is reviving classical design, and Cook thought the Institute might help with disposition of the book collection.

More than that, through its many activities, ICA&CA could be a source of lectures, seminars and social events, all of which revolve around the rebirth of classical architecture and urbanism—the lost philosophical heart of the San Francisco Architectural Club. Conolly and Cook drew the obvious conclusion: effect a merger. That union has taken place, and what was the SFAC is now the Northern California Chapter of the Institute of Classical Architecture & Classical America. Current chapter president is Suzanne Tucker; Lisa Singleton Boudette is secretary.

At this time, the library sits in storage, and immediate plans are to have the collection catalogued and appraised, with an eye to selling most of the contents and retaining only the most valuable materials.

You can learn more about the ICA&CA and its local programs by going to www.classicist.org.

—Our thanks to Morgan Conolly for his generous assistance with the preparation of this article.

**In Memoriam**

**Eric Elsesser**, former Heritage board member and founding partner of Forrell/Elsesser Engineers, Inc., died at his home in Sausalito, December 6. A San Francisco native, Mr. Elsesser started his own engineering practice four years after graduating from Stanford in 1956. His partnership with Nicholas Forrell began in 1969. He was recognized for innovative seismic solutions, and among the seismic retrofits of historic buildings in San Francisco that his firm completed are the PG&E headquarters, the Asian Art Museum and City Hall. Mr. Elsesser served on the Heritage board of directors from 1993 until 1997.

**Robert H. Feldman**, who served twenty-two years as executive secretary of the Board of Appeals, died unexpectedly on December 9. Heritage staff members who dealt with Bob whenever we had to resort to the appeals process recognized his extraordinary competence and knowledge of the City’s codes, as well as his generous spirit. He was the model civil servant who always strove to demystify and tame the processes of government for the public. Bob was, furthermore, a friend of preservation and, with his wife Linda, a member of Heritage.

**Jean Kortum**, much-admired historian, preservation advocate and community activist, died October 8, 2007, at age 79.

Jean was part of a remarkable generation of civic-minded post-war San Franciscans who, after the example of Friedel Klussmann—leader in the struggle to save the city’s cable cars—fought to take quality-of-life planning decisions into the public forum. In Jean’s case, the defining issue was the freeway revolt.

Iowa-born Jean Edmonds grew up in Oregon. After getting her bachelor’s degree in journalism at Pomona College, she went to work as a reporter for Hearst’s Oakland Post-Enquirer. That paper folded in short order (1950), and Jean, failing to find employment elsewhere in the newspaper trade, changed course and went to work for the San Francisco Maritime Museum. There she met Karl Kortum, the museum’s founder, and they were married in 1951. Karl died in 1996.

State highway plans would have turned San Francisco into a virtual interchange for north-south, east-west traffic and forever scarred the Panhandle, Golden Gate Park, and neighborhoods like the Marina and North Beach. Jean joined the community opposition to those plans that emerged in the 1950s and grew to a full-scale citizens’ revolt. Triumph came in 1966, when the Board of Supervisors put a stop to further freeway construction.

By 1970, Jean was among the citizen activists who rode the momentum of those struggles to form San Francisco Tomorrow, an organization dedicated to promoting environmental quality, neighborhood livability and good government in the city. In 1976, Mayor George Moscone appointed her to the Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board, where she served for a time as president.

On the Landmarks Board she championed preservation of the north waterfront, and coauthored the Northeast Waterfront Historic District, adopted in 1982. She also prepared *How to Research Your San Francisco Building*, still a useful guide for novice researchers.

**Save the Date**

**Heritage Soirée 2008**

**Saturday, April 12, At the Old Mint**
Notice of Annual Meeting
San Francisco Architectural Heritage will hold its annual members’ meeting Saturday, June 7, 2008.

The meeting features a lecture and the annual business meeting, including election of officers and board members. Any member of Heritage may, by petition of at least two percent of the total Heritage membership, nominate candidates for the board of directors. Petitions must be received by March 7, 2008. Candidates nominated by petition shall be voted on by the members present at the annual meeting.