

Out of Many, One Community

Claremont Homes designed by **NOTABLE ARCHITECTS**

Claremont Heritage 2021
Virtual Home Tour



39th Annual Home Tour

We thank the following for their generosity

PLATINUM SPONSORS:

**Tim Harrison,
Cornerstone Home Lending**

**Mondie Pic'l,
Fairway Independent Mortgage**

SPONSORS:

John Faranda
HartmanBaldwin
John & Karen Neuber

Baseline Termite
Geoff Hamill,
Wheeler Steffen Sotheby's International Realty
Bernadette Kendall,
Wheeler Steffen Sotheby's International Realty
Mt. San Antonio Gardens
Karen & Michael Rosenthal
Sherwood Florist & Gallery
South Village Partners
Wheeler Steffen Sotheby's International Realty

Randall & Janell Lewis
Ridgeline Roofing
Stark Wealth Management
VMA Communications, Inc.

California Botanic Garden
Ginger Elliott
Gould Asset Management LLC
Peggy Kelly
Eric Martinez, State Farm Insurance
Trish McDowell,
Wheeler Steffen Real Estate, Inc - Escrow Division
O'Mahony Air Conditioning & Heating
Joe Porreca,
Wheeler Steffen Sotheby's International Realty
Cindy Rainey Real Estate
Margaret Russell & James Manifold
David Sawhill
Gail Sparks
Jennifer Stark & David Berke

HOMEOWNERS:

The Benjamin Family
Elizabeth Nikels & Paul Dodds
Barbara & Gerald Friedman
James Mulligan
Isaac Rahmim
Sunrise of Claremont Senior Living
Laurel Tucker & Mark Schoeman



Thanks to our 2021 Home Tour Committee

John Faranda
Kristen Fass
Peggy Kelly
Bernadette Kendall
John Neuber
Margaret Russell
David Sawhill
David Shearer
Jennifer Stark

*Videography by
Dave Goldman and Eddie Gonzalez*

*Photography by
Sonja Stump and Mindi Meader*



ClaremontHeritage.org





Proudly Presents 39th Annual

Virtual Home Tour

Showcasing

Claremont Homes designed by
NOTABLE ARCHITECTS

October 2021

Claremont Heritage gratefully acknowledges the participation and support of our tour homeowners without whom this tour would not have been possible. Their stewardship of these architecturally and historically significant sites and generosity in opening them for our tour are sincerely appreciated.

CLAREMONT HERITAGE

welcomes you year-round

Our office is located in the historic
Garner House at Memorial Park
840 N. Indian Hill Blvd.
Claremont CA 91711

909.621.0848

ClaremontHeritage.org

Out of Many, One Community

The 39th Annual Claremont Heritage Home Tour: Notable Architects

Works of architecture in Claremont inspire us — Padua Theatre, the Garner House, The Wright-Darling House, the Sumner House, Little Bridges, the Claremont Depot, the Horizon House, the vista of Bridges Auditorium or the Carnegie Library across the Marston Quadrangle at Pomona College, and on a daily basis, the architecture of our favorites homes we pass by each day.

The architects who practiced in Claremont left us with a legacy that has defined a city, a people, a culture, and a community. Stephanie Meeks, the President of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, in her book, *The Past and Future City*, identifies the draw of places like Claremont: “Time and again, when asked why they moved to the city, people talk about the desire to live somewhere distinctive, to be some place rather than no place.”

We are fortunate to have many gifted architects that have practiced here. First drawn by opportunities to design buildings at the Claremont Colleges and later attracted by the art movement spearheaded by Millard Sheets at mid-century, many of our public and institutional buildings, along with numerous houses have been designed by notable architects.

Frank Burnham designed the Classic Revival style Carnegie Library. Myron Hunt designed Little Bridges and Bridges auditorium. Gordon Kaufman is known for his design of the Scripps College campus and for a house at 11th and Oxford.

Sumner Spaulding designed Frary Dining Hall at Pomona College and the Village Theatre. Robert Hall Orr has a home on the tour and also designed Crookshank Hall at Pomona, the old Claremont High School and the iconic Village building, the Claremont National Bank.

Greene and Greene designed the Darling/Wright House at 8th and College. Arthur Munson was the architect of the Garner House and the Vortex Building.

Marston and Mayberry also practiced in Claremont and designed the Padua Hills Theatre and now demolished original Claremont Library. Millard Sheets, whose home is on the tour, designed the Garrison Theater at Scripps College and the Pomona First Federal Bank on Foothill.

Renowned mid-century architect Richard Neutra designed the United Methodist Church on Foothill and two homes in Padua Hills. Theodore Criley Jr. and Fred W. McDowell between them designed numerous homes as well as the Claremont United Church of Christ and the Horizon Home in Claraboya, respectively. A McDowell designed home is on the tour.

A. Quincy Jones and Frederick Emmons designed the mid-century modern Huntley Bookstore at the colleges. Cliff May, the father of the ranch house, was active in Claremont.

Foster Rhodes Jackson was active in Claremont and one of his homes is on the tour. Carl Birger Troedson designed the Zornes house and Edward Durell Stone, who designed the Kennedy Center gave us the master plans for Harvey Mudd College, the Claremont School of Theology and the masterwork, Kresge Chapel.

Everett Tozier was very active in Claremont. David Underwood and Rufus Turner designed many homes and were the architects of record for Millard Sheets.

Buff and Hensman designed the Vandermuelen Residence on 10th and Cambridge. Leland Evison designed the International Style Pryne residence at 10th and Oxford. Jo Paul Rognstad designed the Grant Residence on 9th Street that is on the tour and is one of the finest examples of post and beam construction.

And the list goes on and on. Too many to list here. It is no wonder that per capita Claremont has more buildings on the National Register of Historic Places than any other City its size and many that are larger.



The Friedman Home

4003 Via Padova

Built: 1943

Style: Modern

Architect: Millard Sheets

Current Owner: Gerry and Barbara Friedman

Historic Name: The Sheets House

Millard Sheets and his wife, Mary, built a dramatic rammed-earth Modernist home in the Padua Hills art colony above Claremont in 1943. Sheets, a mid-century design luminary and Chair of the Art Department at Scripps College, was a Pomona Native and moved to Claremont in 1929 after graduating from Chouinard School of Art in Los Angeles. Already well-known in the design world at the time of the home's construction, today he is probably best known for the architecture and mosaic designs of more than 40 Home Savings and Loan buildings built throughout southern California beginning in 1954.

The site Sheets chose for his home had views overlooking the canyons and mountains to the north, with citrus groves to the south as far as the eye could see. The home was designed with high ceilings and a flat roof, giving the building a Modernist look. Ever the innovator, Sheets decided on the rammed-earth type of construction because of the large amount of clay in the soil on his property. This building method required the use of inner and outer vertical forms for each wall of the house into which damp adobe clay was placed then "rammed" with

pneumatic hammers and compacted into a solid wall. Once the outer forms were removed, the remaining structure would be self-insulating and structurally sound.

Anthony Merrill's 1947 book, *The Rammed-Earth House*, encouraged the use of rammed-earth for low-cost, post-World War II housing. Merrill cites the high-end Sheets home as a testament to the diversity of the building type, calling it the "fanciest earth house in America." Merrill also described the tribulations experienced by Sheets in the construction of the home. He cited how the lack of knowledge of rammed earth by Los Angeles County building inspection officials added unnecessary expense to the Sheets project. The uneducated bureaucrats forced Sheets to spray concrete Gunitite onto the walls, hiding their intrinsic beauty. Merrill pointed out that "[w]hen [Sheets] finished, the cost of the combined operation was so high that for the same price he might just as well have made his walls of reinforced concrete."

In 2003, the Grand Prix fire swept through the foothills above Claremont, destroying all but three homes in Palmer Canyon, just north of Padua Hills Theatre. The fire continued south and roared down Via Padova, destroying the Sheets home. At the time, the current owners, Dr. Gerald and Barbara Friedman, were out of town. Not only were all their personal belongings lost, but the home was totally destroyed. Working through restrictions placed on Palmer Canyon and related properties including changes in building codes, it took the Friedman's 6 years to rebuild the home. The rammed-earth construction process was no longer allowed as earthquake damage data was not available. Keeping the original look of the home while updating and upgrading the construction, the Friedman's made every effort to retain the Modernist theme throughout.

Continued on page 37



HLC Team
PROVEN. TRUSTED.



Tim Harrison
909.920.5260
Tim@HLCTeam.com

CLAREMONT

WHERE EVERY HOME IS FULL OF HISTORY



National Strength.

Hometown Service.



We create financial strategies for families before, during and after the purchase of a home. **It's about more than just a loan.**

Contact us to get started!



Mondie Pic'l
Branch Manager • NMLS #299679

Mobile: 626-233-1303
Direct: 909-635-6416
mondie@fairwaymc.com
www.mondiepicl.com



Eric Kellner
Senior Loan Officer • NMLS #471994

Mobile: 909-615-4993
Office: 909-635-6422
ekellner@fairwaymc.com
www.erickellner.com

341 Harvard Ave., Claremont, CA 91711

Copyright©2021 Fairway Independent Mortgage Corporation. NMLS#2289. 4750 S. Biltmore Lane, Madison, WI 53718, 1-866-912-4800. All rights reserved. This is not an offer to enter into an agreement. Not all customers will qualify. Information, rates and programs are subject to change without notice. All products are subject to credit and property approval. Other restrictions and limitations may apply. Licensed by the Department of Financial Protection and Innovation under the California Residential Mortgage Lending Act, License No 41DB0-78367. Licensed by the Department of Financial Protection and Innovation under the California Financing Law, NMLS #2289. Loans made or arranged pursuant to a California Residential Mortgage Lending Act License. Equal Housing Opportunity.





The Pitzer-Peairs Home

2053 North Towne Avenue

Built: 1912

Style: Stone Bungalow

Architect: Robert H. Orr, FAIA (1941)

Current Owner:

Sunrise Assisted Living of Claremont

The Pitzer-Peairs House, a distinctive 3200 sq. ft. fieldstone bungalow, has been a focal point at the intersection of Towne and Baseline since the Pitzer family moved in on Friday, September 13, 1912. Dr. Robert Winter, noted architectural historian, calls it "the finest stone structure in Southern California." Designed by architect Robert H. Orr for Lee and Blanche Pitzer, the building was made of fieldstones from the clearing of adjacent groves.

Orr was born in Canada in 1873 and immigrated to the US in 1881. He apprenticed as a draftsman in Salinas. By the 1890s, he had settled in Pomona and established his own firm. He also designed Pomona's Pilgrim Congregational Church, the original Claremont High School (now "The Old School House," the Pomona YMCA, and Cruikshank Hall at Pomona College. If there is one building that stands out architecturally in the Claremont Village, it is the Claremont National Bank at the corner of Yale Avenue and Second Street, today known as the Verbal Building that houses Pizza n' Such. Orr opened a Los Angeles office in 1929 and passed away in Los Angeles in 1964 at the age of 91.

Lee Pitzer was a major force in the development of the citrus industry in this area. He was on the Board of Directors of the College Heights Orange and Lemon Association from 1911 until 1939. In 1903, Pitzer purchased the land at Towne Avenue (then San Antonio Avenue) and Baseline Road, converting the sagebrush-covered plot of land into a small lemon grove. As Pitzer describes, "The land was cheap, \$25 to \$50 per acre, but it cost \$100 to \$300 per acre to get the stones off. Water cost about \$100 more per acre. There were only two acres of citrus above Foothill at that time. I finally got a nice producing grove and built a home on it." The lemons were excellent and sold so well that Lee was able to purchase an additional 200 acres of property. (Lee Pitzer's older brother, Russell Pitzer, another successful local citrus rancher, today is remembered as the namesake of Pitzer College.)

Blanche Pitzer was active in establishing the Girl Scouts in this area; she was responsible for donating La Casita, a cabin in the hills north of Claremont to the local chapter of Girl Scouts. When she became ill, Mr. Pitzer looked for an appropriate retirement home for her and helped to establish Claremont Manor in 1949 for that purpose.

The house contains many features of bungalow-style architecture—elephantine porch columns supporting lookout beams with two-and-a-half-foot overhangs, two massive archways framing the entry doors, and the use of natural wood finishes throughout, including quarter-sawn oak and walnut. It is of frame construction with a veneer of fieldstone. The dining room woodwork and details utilized Circasian walnut, while the living room has a vaulted oak-beamed ceiling typical of many Craftsman bungalows. Additionally, the living room included a massive fireplace of unpolished marble framed by two stained-glass windows depicting Dutch school children. These windows are thought to have been supplied by Judson Studios in Los Angeles.

Continued on page 10

The Pitzer-Peairs Home *Continued from page 9*

A central 500 sq. ft. tiled “court” originally was open to the sky, with a peaked wooden framework across which canvas could be pulled in the heat of summer. At the center of the court was a plumbed stone fountain, primarily for planting ferns and succulents. The floor was brick on sand, with hammocks tied to several sets of hammock rings set into the walls. In 1915, an uninvited guest—a rattlesnake—dropped in on the Pitzers. Mrs. Pitzer decreed that the courtyard should be glassed in, but 110-year-old ficus vines still wind up its walls.

During the 1984 rehabilitation, two original wooden support beams in the cellar were replaced with steel columns and subfloor supports. The rock-faced chimneys were damaged in the Upland Quake on February 28, 1990 and subsequently were rebuilt with steel reinforcement. A long, curved driveway flanked by large river rock pillars used to lead to the house and were reconfigured when Baseline and Towne were widened the 210 freeway access.

The house has had only four owners. In 1950, the Pitzers sold it to Maurice “Marty” and Adele Peairs, who owned a large nursery on Foothill Boulevard called Claremont Nurseries. Peairs was a community leader involved in most aspects of the city, including the Chamber of Commerce, Kiwanis, the Community Chest, the California Association of Nurserymen, the Claremont Police Reserve, the City Planning Commission, and the Parkways and Trees Commission. While they remodeled to modernize the kitchen, laundry, and bathrooms to accommodate their family of four children, the Peairs’ carefully stored most items that were removed (doors, windows, lighting fixtures, curtain rods, etc.), facilitating restoration.

In 1984, the house was purchased by John and Patricia Hodges. They restored the entire house and furnished the living room with "Craftsman" furniture modeled on the designs of Gustav Stickley, the force behind the Craftsman movement in America. The dining room and patio continue to reflect their original look while bedrooms have been converted into offices.

Sunrise Assisted Living acquired the property in 1999, recognizing the opportunity to secure and preserve this important historic building through functional integration and adaptive reuse with the operation of an assisted living facility on the periphery.

Claremont has many stunning examples of stone architecture that reflect the importance that the citrus industry played in the history of the community. The Pitzers also owned a ranch headquarters farther east on Baseline Road at the corner of Padua Avenue, where there still are a stone pump house and barn that have been adaptively reused. Also along Baseline Road are the beautiful buildings of the Johnson Ranch headquarters. The Johnsons had the same architect who built the Pitzer home - Robert Orr - design their barns and foreman's home at 618 Baseline and also their family home at 1333 N. Mountain Avenue.

The Pitzer-Peairs house earned a well-deserved listing on the National Register of Historic Places on September 4, 1986.



HARTMAN BALDWIN

ARCHITECTURE . CONSTRUCTION . INTERIORS



Invite Us In _____

_____ We Can Change The Way You Live

HartmanBaldwin proudly supports local organizations such as Claremont Heritage. As partners, we salute our community's architectural heritage while ensuring the classic homes that populate our area endure for generations to come.

From the most traditional to the most modern of architectural styles, our design/build process honors and protects the home's integrity as we update it to better fit your lifestyle.

For over 35 years, HartmanBaldwin has embraced and exemplified this philosophy by creating, restoring and improving authentic homes not by chance – by design.

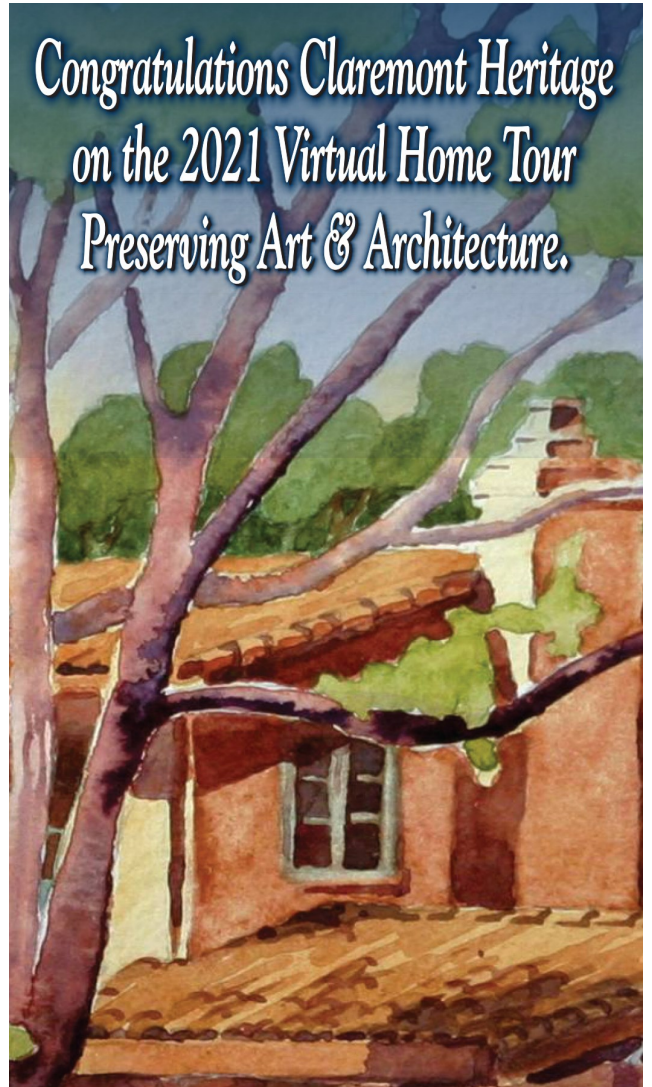
909.670.1344

100 W. Foothill Blvd, Claremont, CA
(Corner of College & Foothill Blvd)

WWW.HARTMANBALDWIN.COM

LIC. 653340

*Congratulations Claremont Heritage
on the 2021 Virtual Home Tour
Preserving Art & Architecture.*



Bernadette Kendall

Realtor® DRE 01223109

O: 909.670.1717

C: 909.322.2100

Make It Real ESTATE

www.BernadetteKendall.com
Bernadette.Kendall@SothebysRealty.com

**Wheeler
Steffen**

Sotheby's
INTERNATIONAL REALTY

500 W. Foothill Blvd. Claremont, CA 91711



The Dodds Nikels Home

623 West 11th Street

Built: 1946

Style: Modern – New Formalism

Architect: Paul Revere Williams

Current Owner:

Paul Dodds and Elizabeth Nikels

Historic Name: Unknown

This modern home features clean lines, a flat roof and plentiful glass walls and windows to allow for an abundance of natural light. Designed by renowned architect Paul Revere Williams in 1946, this house was part of the building boom that followed the end of World War II as veterans returned and sought housing.

Paul Revere Williams was born in Los Angeles on February 18, 1894, to Lila Wright Williams and Chester Stanley Williams who had recently moved to California from Memphis. Williams was two when his father died and two years later his mother died. Paul and his brother Chester, Jr. were placed in separate foster homes. Fortunately for Paul his foster mother was dedicated to his education and developing his artistic talent.

Despite being advised by a teacher in high school that he should not pursue a career in architecture, because he would have difficulty attracting clients in the majority white community and the smaller black community could not provide enough work, he pressed on with determination.

Williams studied at the Los Angeles School of Art and Design and went on to attend USC where he designed several residential buildings while still a student. He became a

certified architect in 1921 and the first certified African American architect west of the Mississippi. In 1923 he became the first African American member of the American Institute of Architects.

As one approaches the house from the street, you first notice the drought-tolerant ground cover instead of an expanse of lawn. Two mature fruit trees frame the house, a fig tree on the east and a persimmon tree on the west.

The south facade of this home has an elegant, tall portico supported by a colonnade of slender, full-height wood columns. The three columns are reminiscent of formal columns, but there are three rather than a standard four, and straight rather than round and ornate, thereby using the modern architectural design of New Formalism in this house. The columns are mirrored in the carport but on a smaller scale creating a balance across the façade.

This symmetrical plan continues with a flat roof that seems to float over the entire roofline of the front of the house and join the central elevated roofline at the back of the house. The double-hung windows add to the horizontal line of this elevation and window groupings are a repeated feature. With a flagstone porch, the entry has a large front door, outlined with a glass block surround.

This three bedroom and two bath home features wood finishes, including oak hardwood floors and a mahogany fireplace surround and feature wall that wraps around and partially divides the dining room from the living room but still maintains an open feeling.

The formal entry is open to the main living space with picturesque windows to the back yard. The open floor plan has the dining area just off the kitchen that features a breakfast nook. The home features built-in storage, as well as a detached guest house with bathroom, kitchenette and its own laundry. The home also boasts a throw-back kidney shaped swimming pool.

Continued on page 37



The Tucker Schoeman Home

676 West 9th Street

Built: 1952

Style: Mid-Century Modern

Architect/Builder: Jo Paul Rognstad

Current Owner:

Laurel Tucker and Mark Schoeman

Historic Name: The Grant House

As you walk through the front door of 676 West 9th, we think you'll immediately see why several generations of owners have fallen deeply in love with this home. The street face, with its varied window treatment, stonework and carport, indicates that the house is modern in design, but otherwise it doesn't really tip its hand about what awaits the visitor inside. Once you stand in the entry, however, the interior space opens dramatically to the deep backyard in a way reminiscent of the famous Case Study Houses, a program sponsored by Arts & Architecture magazine between 1945 and 1966.

This house was clearly influenced by the Case Study houses that had been built in Los Angeles prior to 1952, especially in its emphasis on blending the indoor with the outdoor, and it is tempting to speculate that the house may have influenced subsequent Case Study designs, with which it shares many common features. The partial post-and-beam construction of the main living area allows for the extensive use of glass, and the windows allow us to see to the original studio at the rear of the yard. The current owners, Laurel Tucker and Mark Schoeman, are both architects, and the house and studio offer them an inspired and inspiring space in which to live and create.

The house was built for Mr. and Mrs. James Grant. Mr. Grant was a professor of art at Pomona College and probably contributed substantially to the design, although one of his students, Jo Paul Rognstad, is credited with the design. The Grants also landscaped the backyard, building the terraced stone walls and planting the pine and olive trees that still thrive. From the beginning, the home was meant to be passively cooled: Photos taken during construction show long, thin vents at the top of the west living-room wall, an unusual feature that is still operable. Behind the impressive stone work on both sides of the chimney, large, hinged panels could be opened to help, in conjunction with the sliding glass doors, to ventilate the room. These panels were sealed by previous owners Wynne Furth and Don Brenneis, who found that the flow of air was more than offset by the flow of mosquitoes.

While the house maintains its original character and grid-like design, parts of it have been carefully and creatively renovated over time. For instance, the master bathroom was redesigned in the mid-1980s, with the addition of the west-facing clerestory windows above. A wall was constructed in the kitchen, which originally had been more open to the entryway and cabinetry was added. Long-time Claremont resident and builder Ken McLeod, who at one point worked for Richard Neutra, helped design some of the additions at that time. More recently, the kitchen was renovated: The new and existing cabinetry features Avonite counters, and the striking porthole oven and original cook-top were retained. The current residents also added a third bedroom in 2007. The design and painting detail, such as the stonework and window construction of this addition perfectly capture the aesthetic of the original structure. Note especially the ceiling finish: It replicates that of the living room, where the plaster looks as if it were laid on slightly dry and pulled so that it has developed small tears, with the resulting vacancies in the surface giving the ceiling a wonderfully textured look.

Continued on page 37

**SONJA
STUMP**



PHOTOGRAPHY

FAMILY PORTRAITS



*Before you know it,
today is but a memory.*

*Have a professional photographer
capture your priceless 2021 moments.*



Located in the Claremont Village

135 W. First Street

909.626.1147

sonjastumpphoto@gmail.com

SonjaStumpPhotography.com



Thank you to the homeowners
and volunteers for making the
2021 Home Tour
Out of Many, One Community
such a success.

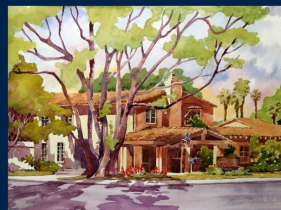
And congratulations to
the Home Tour Committee on a
virtual achievement!

John Faranda

**Wheeler
Steffen**

Sotheby's
INTERNATIONAL REALTY

Proud to be a Sponsor of the
Claremont Home Tour



Providing Real Estate
Services since 1960

500 W. Foothill Blvd,
Claremont - wssir.com
909.624.1617



The Benjamin Home

675 West 8th Street

Built: 1955

Style: Mid-Century Modern

Architect: Fred McDowell

Current Owner: Beverly Benjamin

Historic Name: The Benjamin House

Karl Benjamin, a celebrated painter whose vivid geometric abstractions brought him international acclaim, along with his wife commissioned his first home from a young Claremont architect named Fred McDowell. At the time the house was built, the Benjamins were admittedly somewhat naive about modern architecture and McDowell had been recommended to them by their realtor. Built in an old orange grove and completed in 1955, the home is an early McDowell design, yet exhibits many of the elements that would later become his trademarks.

As you walk into the house, a vestibule separates the entry from the dining area with a screen of pegboard. This space echoes the classic Frank Lloyd Wright approach of creating a small space that opens into a large expansive room that has high ceilings, creating a feeling of a grand entrance. Unlike Wright's approach however, McDowell creates visual lines using 2-by-2-inch wood to define the entry space, leaving the ceiling open and less confining. The home features an open floor plan with post and beam construction and clerestory windows that were common elements of the new, functional modern vernacular. A wall of glass faces the backyard, creating a blurred separation between the inside and out, an essential component of the style.

The design of the home is 'binuclear,' which means an entrance hallway separates the public and private space of the home. In this arrangement, the dining area, for instance, was usually an integral part of the living room on one side while also being open to the kitchen on another side and to the family room, on yet another. Such spatial multitasking could be legitimately explained on practical grounds. It was obviously convenient (easier to keep an eye on the kids, the parent was less isolated in the kitchen) and economical. McDowell utilized this principle in the Benjamin home and included an off-kitchen den, which Beverly Benjamin used as a preschool to augment the growing family's income.

Designed by now good friend McDowell, the second studio, like the house, was intended to be passively cooled with extended eaves that shaded the interior during the warm days of summer, while letting in the sun's warming rays in the colder winter months. The area between the house and studio provided for wonderful greenery and shade. Trees such as the camphor the Benjamins planted have now fully matured and create an oasis of tranquility. Ceramic art by well-known local artists Crispin Gonzalez and Tony Ivins is found in the yard.

Postwar Claremont was a hotbed of activity in both the arts and architecture. A group of artist friends frequently spent time at the Benjamin house. In addition to McDowell, these friends included Harrison McIntosh, Rupert "Rummy" Deese, James Heuter, Paul Darrow, Tony Ivins and Doug McClellan. The group not only socialized but also traded art with each other. Art by these and others can be seen featured throughout the home. In fact, the Benjamins' first piece of furniture was a Sam Maloof coffee table.

The Benjamins raised three children in the house, and although Karl and Beverly have passed, the family continues to enjoy it today. Their home is a rare example of a one-owner house that remained as it was originally designed. Even the Danish Modern furnishings have been retained over the years. Ceramics by McIntosh and a mid-century modern Bubble Lamp above the dining table remain.

Continued on page 22

The Benjamin Home *Continued from page 21*

Benjamin, who became known as the “Father of Hard-edged Abstract Expressionism,” stated that Modern architecture influenced his painting over the years, and stands out in his Tape Grid pieces. From the urban skyline of Chicago where he grew up, to the current view of his home from the studio, architectural lines and angles have offered inspiration. Benjamin’s paintings and McDowell’s architecture are a wonderful expression of the relationship between art and design.



Karl & Beverly Benjamin with “Mischa” in the artist’s studio, circa 2000.

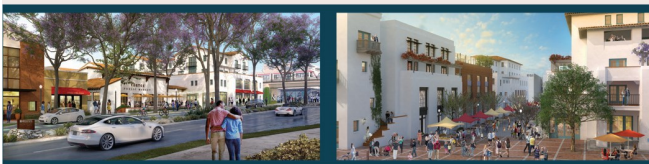


**Children’s
Foundation
of America™**

Providing an opportunity for every person to help children heal, learn and thrive.

3,000+	400	5,000+
Children Supported Annually	Individual Volunteers Last Year	Care Items & Gifts Distributed Each Year

John Neuber, Chief Executive Officer
www.ChildrensFoundationOfAmerica.org



CLAREMONT’S NEXT GREAT NEIGHBORHOOD

A sustainable, walkable, mixed-use neighborhood anchored by the Public Market in the historic Vortex building.

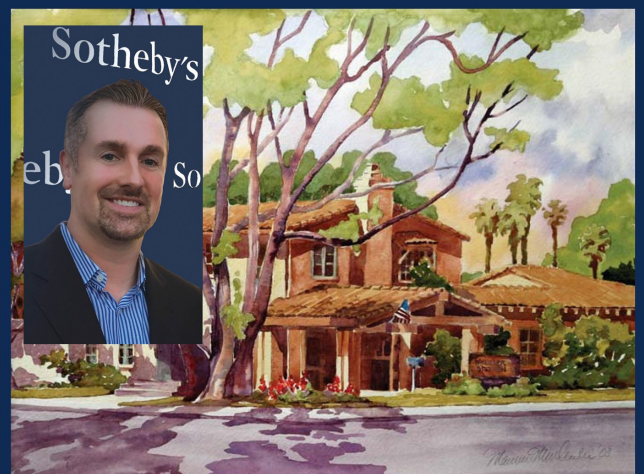
Visit www.ClaremontSouthVillage.com to:

- Check out initial design concepts
- Review our approach to sustainability
- Learn about the history of Vortex and our plan for preservation and reuse
- Subscribe to our newsletters
- Join our interest lists
- Sign up for a virtual presentation for your community group



Follow us @ClaremontSouthVillage

GEOFF HAMILL   
 BROKER ASSOCIATE, CRS, GREEN, GRI, SRS, SRES
#1 in Claremont Sales & Listings. Top 1% Realtors in the USA
 909.621.0500 Geoff@GeoffHamill.com



Wheeler Steffen

Sotheby’s
INTERNATIONAL REALTY

Extraordinary Representation Since 1988



The Rahmim Home

1120 North Indian Hill Boulevard

Built: 1929/30

Style: New Orleans/Monterey Colonial

Architect: Helen Rolph Wren

Builder: Clarence Stover

Current Owner: Isaac Rahmim

Historic Name: The Bixby House

Located on Elm-lined Indian Hill Blvd., this intriguing home was designed by Helen Rolph Wren for her sister and brother-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Stafford W. Bixby of Pasadena. The Bixbys never in fact occupied the home. For reasons lost to history, they choose to stay in their South Pasadena home designed by Architect Roland Coate.

Helen Rolf was born in Pomona, CA, attended Occidental Preparatory School, Occidental College, and UC Berkeley receiving a Teaching Credential in the Arts. She married briefly to William Clinton Wren, who she had met in college at Berkeley. After their divorce, she studied for a year in Boston at the prestigious Massachusetts Institute of Technology Architectural School and 6 months as an Atelier connected with Beaux Arts in France.

Returning to the U.S. she went to work as a designer for Architect Roland Coates Sr. in South Pasadena, where she worked for 6 years. It was stated by a former client in a Claremont Courier article, that, "Helen Wren was a wonderful person to work with and that she had imagination and fine training". In a 1930's census, Helen Wren identified as an "architect of homes", though she was never licensed as such, as she was not a partner at

Roland Coate's firm. She worked as an exterior and interior designer creating details as fine as to style of the wall sconce, lighting fixtures and soap dishes.

After designing four significant homes in Claremont, Helen and William Wren reconciled and she moved to San Francisco where he was a newspaper editor for the SF Herald Examiner. They adopted a son and in a later interview with Claremont Historian Judy Wright, she never regretted her decision. We are all certainly grateful to Helen Wren for leaving her mark on Claremont.

Wren designed a handful of homes in Southern California. Four known examples are in Claremont and all display elements of the Monterey Revival style. A prominent feature of Monterey Revival is a full building-length second-story balcony, which the home on the tour displays. But rather than the typical wooden columns and square- or scroll-cut railing pickets, this home is defined with a balcony made of highly decorative wrought iron detailing iconic to the New Orleans Style. It takes a deft architectural hand to blend two seemingly divergent styles, and in many ways the home defies characterization.

One enters the property on a brick pathway that leads to the front door which does not face the street, but faces south, creating a small outdoor sitting area with a water feature that welcomes guests.

Upon entering the home, one encounters the staircase to the second floor which was inspired by the grand staircase in Thomas Jefferson's Monticello. The home was chosen by the current owner because the layout offered many opportunities to showcase his extensive and eclectic art collection from around the world. The foyer is no exception. Visitors are greeted by several art pieces from the current owner's collection.

Continued on page 26

The home contains quintessential qualities of the late 1920s and early 1930s Southern California living. Fireplaces, window seats and staircases are prominent features. Wren had a great eye for proportion and was able to scale down grand features such as entries and staircases for moderately sized homes. The thick outer walls of this home serves a dual purpose: It allowed for window seats to be built in almost all the rooms as well as created a passive cooling system, keeping the foyer, kitchen and the bedrooms upstairs cool. A signature Wren detail, arches that transition to rooms or hallways or above windows, are another feature evident around the home, increasing the feeling of spaciousness.

The formal living room exemplifies Wren's design with high ceilings, tall entry doors, dual window seats and a wood-burning fireplace. The room is filled with artwork collected by the owner: a hanging sculpture by Sawyer Rose, Lithograph by Moshe Castel, who many consider to be the most important Israeli painter. On the game table is a hand-made chess and backgammon set purchased at a Tehran market. The 5 masks above the opening to the Sunroom: were bought in various travels to Malaysia, New Zealand, and China. Note the 1920s chandelier that originally hung in Cecil B. DeMille's house in Los Feliz. The owner's most prized possession is the Hardman Grand Rococo square piano built in 1849. It was originally in Ashton Villa, a mansion/museum on Galveston Island in Texas and was damaged by Hurricane Ike in 2008. The owner had it restored, and it is now the crown jewel of the home.

In 1955, a "mother-in-law" addition was completed, adding a 320-square-foot bedroom and bath to the home's total living space. The room is now used as a family room for watching TV and reading. Next to the family room is the solarium or sunroom, which is now the primary domain of the family cats who often lounge in the ample sunshine. The walled garden contains mature trees and provides moments of relaxation, heightened by the sounds of the water fountain just outside the sunroom. Future plans include a period appropriate swimming pool.

Adjacent to the living room and between the family room and Dining room is an intimate and lovely lanai. Originally open to the outside with a scored red concrete floor, it was enclosed in the 1970s to connect the family room to the rest of the house. Note the vintage chaise lounge, leaded glass window and sculpture, a 1930's Mayan reproduction depicting a diminutive conquistador sitting on the lap of Mayan woman who looks at him with disdain. Other artifacts include ancient manuscripts found in Jerusalem.

The kitchen's location at the front of the house is said to be ahead of its time. This is a true "Chef's" kitchen, with appointed stone counters that are matched with a gorgeous French Lacanche stove, considered the "grand piano of stoves." A breakfast nook adds to quaint qualities of the home.

We will now visit the private sector of the home ascending a staircase inspired in design by the grand staircase at Jefferson's Monticello. At the landing at the top of the stairs, Note the "Christian Motif" sculpture and the decorative miniature Oud, an ancient Persian musical instrument acquired in Tehran.

As we enter the primary bedroom, notice the beautiful wallpaper, the unique asymmetrical fireplace and period appropriate furnishings. Architectural details from the first floor are continued here with arches above the windows which include beautiful views of red clay tile rooftops that would be very common in Europe but not necessarily on a main street in Claremont.

The primary bedroom features a dressing room and an ensuite bathroom that has gone through a major update, although the dressing room and its cabinetry are original.

Next we enter the bedroom that originally was Helen Wren's sister's son's room. A Jack and Jill bathroom that still has the original built-in cupboards and connects the son's room to the guest room, is now used as an office. Look up at the far corner of the office and notice a white patch on the wall. Scribbled with a carpenter's pencil are the words, "Charles Kramer December 7, 1929, PH Paper Hanger."



Original Speirs Garage Circa 1923
Historic River Rock Architecture



SHERWOOD FLORIST

THE NUMBER ONE FLORIST
SERVING THE COMMUNITY SINCE 1985

404 N. FOOTHILL BLVD. CLAREMONT
909-625-3309



We are proud to support Claremont Heritage

1-909-624-5061
msagardens.org

Above: Architectural detail of The Cedars,
53 dynamic craftsman-style apartment
homes that are coming to our stunning
31-acre Gardens' campus in 2023.



A not-for-profit Life Care Senior Community in Claremont/Pomona



RCFE 191500496
COA #078



BASELINE TERMITE

Full Service Termite Company • Family Owned & Operated

(909) 574-3740

baselinetermite@sbcglobal.net

- Full Service Termite Company
- Licensed Bonded and Insured
- Escrow Specialist
- Wood Repairs
- Alternative Termite Treatments
- Service with Integrity
- Family Owned and Operated

FREE ESTIMATES

Security during fumigation provided by

D.I. Security Group

Trusted &
FAMILY OWNED

baselinetermite@sbcglobal.net

BASELINE TERMITE

in memory of

JUDY CAMPBELL WRIGHT

1939-2012

CLAREMONT HISTORIAN AND ADVOCATE

Karen and Michael Rosenthal



The Mulligan Home

115 East Oak Park Drive

Built: 1951

Style: Mid-Century Modern

Architect: Foster Rhodes Jackson

Current Owner: James Mulligan

Historic Name: The Alexander Home

Foster Rhodes Jackson was a student of Frank Lloyd Wright; His organic modern style is evidence of that. The element that sets him apart is his integration of ideas stemming from the roots of the International Style and progressing towards New Formalism. Monolithic structures defy their weightiness to form open expansive spaces, and are then combined with simple unadorned detailing, like steel framing for windows and large undivided planes of glass. These choices create refinements of the period. A craftsman and architect, he sculpted and carved the spaces to create elegant light filled caverns that glowed with the natural colors of the materials gathered from the sites they occupied. Ironically, he was also a bit of a developer who designed and built spec houses but had a strong distaste for the urban sprawl that defined the post-war housing explosion.

Foster Rhodes Jackson was born in 1911 in Massachusetts. His father was a practicing architect and Foster followed in his father's footsteps. He studied architecture at M.I.T. and opened his own practice in Boston before serving in WWII as an Executive Officer on a submarine. He first met Frank Lloyd Wright in the 1930s in Boston and corresponded with Wright during WWII. Wright informed

Jackson that he was welcome to study under Wright at Taliesin as soon as he could. Jackson appears to have studied under Wright at Taliesin and Taliesin West in 1945-1946. In 1946, he moved to Chino, CA., and opened an architecture office which is where he designed the Alexander Residence. Jackson designed over 800 structures in and around the Pomona Valley. He designed everything from private homes, to churches, office buildings and even fire stations. Like most architects of the day, Jackson would take on any project that came in the door. His crowning achievement is his own home and studio on top of a hill overlooking Live Oak Canyon. It is surrounded by a number of other residential estates, designed for local attorney Herb Hafif and others.

The Alexander home was built on the southern flats of Claremont, near Oak Park Cemetery for Roger and Louise Alexander. Louise Alexander was a member of the Claremont Planning commission at the time this house was built. She was an active supporter of the arts and collected works from many of Claremont's leading artists of the 1950s. Louise and her husband Roger, owned RAM Machine and Tool Company in Pomona until their retirement.

Like his mentor Frank Lloyd Wright, Jackson designed conventional homes utilizing a standard square grid, and like Wright, Foster often broke from this vernacular and designed either round structures or asymmetric triangular structures based on the Golden Ratio. This custom home is no exception and was designed on a 60 degree triangular grid. None of the walls meet at right 90 degree angles. Another signature element to this house are the Clerestory windows. Similar looking clerestories can be seen at Frank Lloyd Wright's Phoenix First Christian Church. Wright stacked his clerestories to resemble a scorpion tale, but the single level Clerestories at Jackson's Oak Park Drive house are very evocative of the jagged Claremont desert landscape. Typical of both Wright and Jackson's work, the entrance is not grand, almost like the entrance to the caves our ancient ancestors occupied that opens up dramatically

Continued on page 32

once inside. Jackson practiced Wright's Usonian principles which are mostly about making the house private and unassuming from the street, but visually open in the back to integrate the interior and exterior spaces, creating a connection to nature.

The current owner and former housemate of Louise Alexander for more than 10 years, James Mulligan, was a former student of Claremont Graduate School, now University, who focused primarily on political theory, law and politics. He also built friendships with the faculty and student members of the school's art department, including assisting in kiln building with Scripps ceramics professor Paul Soldner. Like Mrs. Alexander, Mulligan collected artworks from local Claremont and Pomona valley artists such as Paul Soldner, Sue Sirkus, Glenn Husted, Brian Yancey, Wil Van Blokland, and T. Roberts Pacini, among others.

The Entry vestibule is very Wrightian, offers some storage and entrances to the living room on the left and principal bedroom on the right. The home is a fine example of bi-nuclear architecture that separates the public and private areas of the home, often putting the parents and children's private areas at opposite ends of the home with the public areas such as the living room and kitchen in the middle. This home is no exception.

Upon entering the living room, the space opens up with high ceilings anchored by soffits that control the light entering through clearstory windows. Some of the furniture is original to the home and was purchased by Mrs. Alexander, including the Adrian Persall designed sofa in the living room. The fireplace anchors the west side of the living room and features signature laced brickwork that both Foster and Frank Lloyd Wright utilized to create artistic interest and shadows with a typically utilitarian building element. The brickwork includes an interior planter that echoes the exterior brickwork and planters, seamlessly connecting the interior and exterior design elements. The recessed triangular light

fixtures almost read like windows in a 1930s Flash Gordon spaceship. The living room itself could almost be the interior of a spaceship or even a futuristic submarine, which Jackson may have imagined during his Naval tenure in WWII. Throughout the house, examples of Mulligan's art collection are evident and bring color and life to the spaces.

The kitchen is entirely original and features the hexagonal pulls as well as backlit slanted glass panels that light the counters. The built-in art nook features pieces from Mulligan's collection. Off the kitchen is the children's wing, currently being renovated.

One enters the principal bedroom from the entry vestibule and features an en suite open plan that integrates both bath and bedroom in one space. One first encounters the bathroom area, featuring a tub, a shower and sink area with storage. An interesting story is that in the shower area, the owner, Louise Alexander, commissioned a painting by Scripps professor Alan Blizzard of her depicted as a mermaid. When James Mulligan bought the home, the painting had suffered 50 years of showers. Refusing to lose the shower portrait, he commissioned Claremont photographic artist Marilyn Waters to photograph the painting which was transferred to ceramic tiles and installed in place of the original painting. Simultaneously, Mr. Mulligan's late wife Karine commissioned artist Doug Siros to paint two more mermaid images to complete the bathroom's tile mermaid theme. Note the suspended mirror that separates the bath area from the sleeping area, Again, clerestory windows face the street with open glass sliders facing the backyard and pool area. The principal bedroom features a fireplace of similar design to that of the living area and creates a sitting area where one can lounge.

Continued on page 37

JOHN DOMINGUEZ

HARDWOOD FLOORS

624-1246

Claremont, Ca

Since 1977 Lic# 554274



Free Estimates
Lic# 778793

RIDGELINE ROOFING *Always Your Best Choice*

RANDY DENTON
Owner
RidgelineRoof@aol.com

Phone (909) 987-2353
Fax (909) 494-9888



Valerie Martinez
President/CEO

243 Oberlin Avenue • Claremont, CA 91711
909.445.1001 • VMAPR.COM

Stark | Wealth Management



Jeffrey Stark LPL Registered Principal

246 North Indian Hill Boulevard
Claremont, California 91711
T. 909.624.3949 jstark@fsplan.com

Securities and advisory services offered through LPL Financial, a Registered Investment Advisor Member FINRA/SIPC California Insurance License 0690443




JAHANNA NICHOLS DESIGN

909-262-0668

JAHANNANICHOLSDSIGN.COM
IG: JAHANNANICHOLSDSIGN




CINDY RAINEY
REALTOR®

626.485.7270
cindykrainey@gmail.com

CalDRE# 01920191




ClaremontEvents.com
Produced by Claremont Heritage



GARNER HOUSE RESTORATION



We're Movin' On Up!

Phase Two of "Our House," the campaign to restore the historic Garner House, home of Claremont Heritage in Memorial Park, is underway. After completing the Ginger Elliott Exhibit Center, maid's quarters and guest rooms on the first floor, the kitchen restoration, adding a restroom and storage, and renovating the courtyard in the first phase, it is time to move upstairs and complete the second-floor restoration.

But **we need your help**. Thanks to funds raised in the first phase, only \$25,000 is needed to meet our goal of \$75,000 to complete the second-floor restoration.

\$100% of your tax-deductible donation will be used for the restoration project of this treasured residence now owned by the citizens of Claremont.

Visit **GARNER HOUSE** at
840 N. Indian Hill Blvd., Claremont

More details at ClaremontHeritage.org
909.621.0848
director@ClaremontHeritage.org



The Friedman Home - *Continued from page 5*

The Friedman's recognized the role the home played in fostering, even hosting, a great many artists and craftspeople whose work is now part of private museum collections around the world. Padua Hills is a place of wild beauty, native flora and fauna. Sheets' skill and thoughtfulness, along with the Friedman's commitment to retaining the design of the original structure, makes this home an iconic, historic Claremont home.

The Dodds Nikels Home - *Continued from page 15*

Paul Revere Williams, who is known for buildings of perfect proportions, designed over 2,000 houses, and his design aesthetic can readily be seen in the one home he created in Claremont on West Eleventh Street.

The Tucker Schoeman Home - *Continued from page 17*

Beginning in the 1980s, some of the posts in the structure were replaced with steel. In fact, in the most recent renovation, steel was used to reconstruct the front porch and carport in their original configuration, as well as to frame the added bedroom.

As you leave this wonderful home, we hope it will be with a heightened appreciation of mid-century modernism, of which this is an excellent example.

The Mulligan Home - *Continued from page 33*

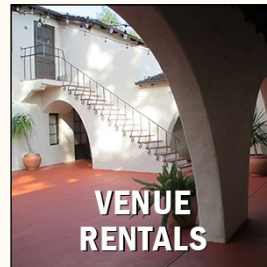
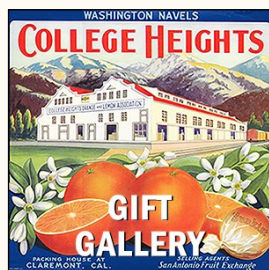
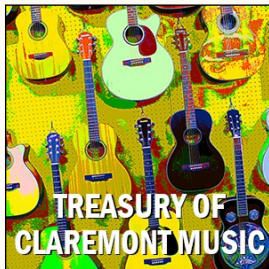
The backyard is currently being restored to its previous glory. Note the asymmetric pool design, another common design element that Jackson and Wright shared. Hexagonal "suntraps" in the rear overhang allow for sunlight to filter in. These apertures combined with the arbor-like elements also create interesting shadows along the walls and floors throughout the day. These elements blend with the natural materials such as brick and wood to give us a masterful example of organic architecture.





YOUR MEMBERSHIP Helps Us to
Keep Claremont's History Alive
Please JOIN TODAY

Individual • Family • Business Memberships



Visit
ClaremontHeritage.org

Our Updated, Interactive Website
Featuring a Wide Variety of Interesting Topics

Explore more at



**Historic Garner House
in Memorial Park**



Private Courtyard

*Special Events with a Unique
Historic Claremont Style!*

Living Room



Rental info at ClaremontHeritage.org

909.621.0848

info@ClaremontHeritage.org