

Julia Morgan Legacy Day – “Women Designers Then & Now”

Sunday, March 5, 2017 at the Annenberg Community Beach House, Santa Monica

The Beach=Culture series of the City of Santa Monica presents a panel discussion as part of the annual Julia Morgan Legacy Day celebration at the Beach House, in co-production with the Santa Monica Conservancy and the Association for Women in Architecture + Design. Stop by starting at 11:00am for tours of the historic site and 12:30 for the panel discussion.

Julia Morgan’s challenges as a pioneering female architect have been well documented during and after her career. As we mark 60 years since her passing in 1957, what challenges still remain for women today, and what has changed? The Association for Women in Architecture + Design (AWA+D) gathers female architects, planners and designers to explore Julia Morgan milestones and current advancements, continued challenges, and transformative opportunities within the field of design.

Panelists:

Pooja Bhagat, City Architect, City of Santa Monica

Claudia Carol, Senior Associate, Planning & Urban Design Practice Area Leader, Gensler

Gere Kavanaugh, Gere Kavanaugh Designs

Stephanie Reich, Design and Historic Preservation Planner, City of Santa Monica

Discussion moderated by Bill Stern, Executive Director of the Museum of California Design

Raised in Delhi, India, **Pooja Bhagat** came to Southern California Institute of Architecture’s Master’s program to specialize in Metropolitan Research and Design in 2000. Pooja’s work includes large-scale housing and urban design projects with particular focus on multifamily and affordable housing development projects. As project manager for the Santa Monica Village Housing Project, she coordinated the overall master plan process, a complex client team, and multiple consultant groups, and managed the design of two high end mixed use condominium buildings. Bhagat received her Bachelor in Architecture degree from Sushant School of Art and Architecture, Gurgaon, and a Master of Architecture degree from SCI-Arc. She is a Registered Architect in California and India and a LEED™ Accredited Professional. She was most recently Senior Associate at Moore Ruble Yudell Architects & Planners.

Claudia Carol is a Firmwide Planning & Urban Design Practice Area Leader and team leader in Gensler’s Los Angeles office, providing thought leadership and project management for its diverse

portfolio of planning work. As a licensed architect with experience in landscape architecture and planning, Claudia has an exceptional perspective on the interface of the natural and built environment. Her wide range of experience – from theme parks and resorts to city centers and college campuses – gives Claudia a unique insight in addressing complex issues. Claudia’s passion is using urban design strategies for social good, particularly as it relates to health and wellness, accessibility and mobility. She has won numerous awards for her work, including honors from the American Planning Association for Excellence in Neighborhood Planning on the Willowbrook MLK Wellness Community project.

Gere Kavanaugh is a pioneering multidisciplinary designer whose practice ranges widely from textile and type to interiors and exhibitions. After studying fine arts at the Memphis College of Art, Kavanaugh was fifth woman to attend Cranbrook Academy of Art’s design program, along with mid-20th-century legends Ray Eames, Florence Knoll, and Ruth Adler Schnee. After Cranbrook, Kavanaugh worked at General Motors’ styling studio as part of GM’s “Damsels of Design,” the first group of women to work as professional designers in a U.S. corporation. There she designed exhibitions to showcase GM’s automobiles, created model kitchens, and would even work on the interior design of private homes of GM’s top executives. In 1960, Kavanaugh joined Victor Gruen’s architecture firm, first in Detroit, then in Los Angeles, and there worked on interiors of retail stores and shopping centers across the country. Following Gruen’s vision of recreating the atmosphere of European town centers in suburban America, Kavanaugh designed the first town clocks at shopping malls as public meeting places.

Striking out on her own, she shared an office space in Santa Monica with colleagues Frank Gehry and Greg Walsh, later joined by Deborah Sussman and Don Chadwick. Since its founding in 1964, Gere Kavanaugh Designs’ has brought ceramics, textiles, light fixtures, homes, store interiors, furniture and a plethora of other objects, ideas and environments to life. Her work has been featured in the collections of major museums nationwide, and was seen locally in the 2011 Pacific Standard Time exhibit at the Craft and Folk Art Museum and in the 2012 Designing Women exhibit at the Autry Museum of the American West. She was the first interior designer to win a COLA grant from the City of Los Angeles’ Cultural Affairs Department, and other recent awards include the Julia Morgan Icon Award at the Los Angeles Design Festival in 2014 and the American Institute of Graphic Arts (AIGA) Medal in 2016.

gerekdesigns.com

Stephanie Reich has practiced architecture and urban design with a variety of firms in Los Angeles, New York and Philadelphia. Upon completing a Masters Degree in Architecture at SCI-Arc she went on to work with Thom Mayne and Morphosis as a project designer. In addition, she has worked with Libeskind Studio

and Coop Himmelblau, where she helped develop winning competition designs. Stephanie's interest in urban design and large-scale architecture led her to work on projects such as conceptual design for MAGLEV Master Plan with Kate Diamond, FAIA, design and construction of the Paul Brown Stadium in Cincinnati with NBBJ, among other notable projects. As part of her commitment to the broader design community Stephanie has been active in the local AIA chapter (AIA/LA), serving on the Board of Directors. Between 2001 and 2010 she served as Chair of the AIA/LA Urban Design Committee, providing a forum for multi-disciplinary dialogue on key urban design issues. Stephanie is also an active member and past president of Association for Women in Architecture + Design (AWA+D) for which she leads a monthly Salon discussion group, and serves as a mentor for young professionals.

Moderator **Bill Stern** is Executive Director of the Museum of California Design, and an author, curator and lecturer. His exhibitions include *California's Designing Women 1896-1986* at the Autry National Center, *California Pottery: From Missions to Modernism* at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art and the Autry Museum in Los Angeles - *Starring William Haines* at the Pacific Design Center and the Palm Springs Convention Center, , and *Frank Gehry: 40 Years of Product Design 1972 to 2015* at JFChen@1135. He was Consulting Curator for LACMA's exhibition *California Design 1930-1965: Living in a Modern Way*. Among Stern's many publications are the books *California Pottery: From Missions to Modernism* and *California's Designing Women 1896-1986* and the essays "Edith Heath: Artist of the Everyday," in *Heath Ceramics: The Complexity of Simplicity*, and "War and Peace: Unexpected Dividends" in the catalog of LACMA's *California Design 1930-1965: Living in a Modern Way*. He has lectured on California's contribution to American commercial design, collecting and related subjects at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, the University of Southern California, the Japanese American National Museum, the Orange County Museum of Art, the Getty Center, and numerous other venues. mocad.org

The **Association for Women in Architecture + Design (AWA+D)** is a non-profit professional organization dedicated to supporting and promoting women in architecture and allied design fields. Based in the greater Los Angeles area, AWA+D provides education, mentorship and social programming, and through our sister organization, the AWA Foundation, offers scholarships and fellowships to students and mid-career professionals. AWA+D has a rich history dating back to 1922, when four women studying architecture at the University of Washington, St. Louis were struggling to enter a profession many regarded as exclusive to men. They established a national association, Alpha Alpha Gamma, which evolved into Association of Women in Architecture. In 2017 AWA+D Los Angeles celebrates the 95th anniversary of this founding as the last remaining chapter of this once national organization. awaplusd.org