

MAK

FOR ART + ARCHITECTURE, L.A.

CENTER

EMAIL: OFFICE @ MAKCENTER.ORG
WWW.MAKCENTER.ORG

835 N. KINGS ROAD 323 651 1510
WEST HOLLYWOOD FAX 651 2340
CALIFORNIA 90069

For Immediate Release

Press contacts:
Katie Klapper
(323) 874-9667
kklapper@earthlink.net
Kimberli Meyer
(323) 651-1510
kmeyer@makcenter.org



MHA Site Office © Emiel Becsky

MAK ARCHITECTURE TOUR 2007 FOCUSES ON A. QUINCY JONES

Tour Highlights Crestwood Hills, First Modernist Planned Community

(West Hollywood, August 30, 2007) The MAK Center for Art & Architecture presents its annual fundraiser, the MAK Architecture Tour, on October 6 and 7, 2007. The 2007 tour focuses on the career of Archibald Quincy Jones (1913-1979), a prolific Los Angeles-based architect and educator known for his innovative, modernist buildings and pioneering work in urban design. The tour features Jones' work on the groundbreaking cooperative community built for the Mutual Housing Association (MHA) in the Crestwood Hills area of Brentwood from 1946-1950. In a rare opportunity to view privately-owned homes, seven different MHA models are included in the tour, as well as Jones' first work, his own home and studio in Laurel Canyon (1938, in partnership with Ruth Schneider), and the St. Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church (1962) in Studio City. In addition, the tour features the Lohrie House (Rodney Walker, 1947) and the Bernheim House (Ray Kappe, 1961).

The MAK Tour opens Saturday evening, October 6 with a 6:30 p.m. lecture by Cory Buckner, architect and author of *A. Quincy Jones* (Phaidon Press, 2002). After restoring the MHA site office, Buckner spearheaded conservation efforts in Crestwood Hills and was awarded the 2002 Los Angeles Preservation Award. The tour continues on Sunday, October 7 from 11 a.m.-5:00 p.m. and may be either self-driven or conducted by shuttle bus.



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A. Quincy Jones was born in Kansas City, Missouri and moved to Southern California at age 7. He studied architecture at the University of Washington and returned to Los Angeles where he worked in the offices of Douglas Honnold and George Vernon Russell; Burton A. Schutt; and Paul R. Williams. While employed at Allied Engineers, Inc., from 1940-1942, Jones was responsible for the general layout of Roosevelt Base in San Pedro and the Naval Reserve Air Base in Los Alamitos.

Following naval service, he opened his own office in Los Angeles in 1945. With an approach that favored lightweight structural systems, working with pre-assembled parts and post-and-beam construction, Jones was well-suited to work with tract-home developers providing housing for returning servicemen and their families. He joined architect Whitney R. Smith and structural engineer Edgardo Contini to jointly design the landmark Mutual Housing Association. With lifelong partner Frederick Emmons, Jones went on to design several communities for noted developer Joseph L. Eichler, an association that continued from 1950-1974.

The Jones-Emmons partnership continued through 1969, when Emmons retired, and was responsible for a wide range of projects, including individual residences, churches, commercial buildings, and civic and university buildings. In the last ten years of his life, Jones produced many large-scale projects, including The Herman Miller Master Plan, Masonic Home for Children, Warner Brothers Records office building, and the Annenberg School for Communication at the University of Southern California. He was also a studio instructor at USC and served there as Dean of the School of Architecture from 1975-1978.

The Mutual Housing Association

Originally initiated by four musicians who wanted to be able to afford a swimming pool and expansive gardens for homes they were planning to build, the MHA grew into a non-profit with 500 member families. The goal was to create a cooperative community, offering high-quality architecture and a variety of cooperative services to people of modest means. By pooling their resources, members would save money on design fees and volume purchases of materials, as well as the costs of land development, including grading, roads, sewer systems, etc. The Association purchased 800 acres in the Santa Monica Mountains in Brentwood, and designated private tracts, as well as setting aside public spaces for communal services. The design team developed 28 house designs based on simple exposed structure and materials. Eventually, eight of the plans were constructed, as well as a park and nursery school. In addition to the MHA site office, the MAK Architecture Tour presents seven house types: model numbers 104, 106X, 108, 111, 111X, 302 and 702.

The site planning of the MHA was unique for its time. Houses are positioned at odd angles to the street and oriented to maximize views, privacy and outdoor space. Materials are used in their natural state: concrete block, redwood siding, exposed Douglas fir plywood and tongue-and-groove ceiling planks, with no applied plaster or paint. The glass walls give a sensation of free-flowing space, making small homes feel larger. Exposed posts and beams lend rhythm to the designs, emphasizing their horizontality. Although only 160 homes were ultimately built, the American Association of Architects gave the Award of Merit to the project in 1952. Due to the 1961 Bel Air fire and years of demolition and extensive remodeling, only 31 of the original houses remain to evidence the high standards possible for affordable modern homes.

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Tickets for MAK Architecture Tour 2007 are available at \$95 for the self-driven tour; \$75 for Friends of the Schindler House and students with valid I.D. To tour via shuttle bus is an additional \$50, and an organic lunch is available for \$16.75. To order tickets, the public may call (323) 651-1510, email office@makcenter.org or visit www.makcenter.org/MAK_Center_Now to purchase tickets online or download an order form to fax.

The MAK Architecture Tour is the annual fundraiser for the MAK Center for Art & Architecture at the Schindler House, a non-profit organization. A portion of this year's proceeds will benefit the remodeling of the Crestwood Hills Community Center. The MAK Center develops contemporary projects exploring art, architecture and their intersections. It operates out of the landmark Schindler House and Studio, designed by Rudolph Schindler in 1921-1922. The MAK Tour ticket includes entrance to the Schindler House and gardens.

The MAK Center is located at 835 N. Kings Road in West Hollywood. Public hours are Wednesday through Sunday, 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. The MAK Bookstore is open seven days a week, 11:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. Regular admission to the Schindler House is \$7; \$6 students and seniors. Admission and the *Schindler by MAK* guidebook is \$17; \$16 students and seniors. Admission is free for children under 12 and Friends of the Schindler House, and on Fridays from 4:00-6:00 p.m.

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IMAGES AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST