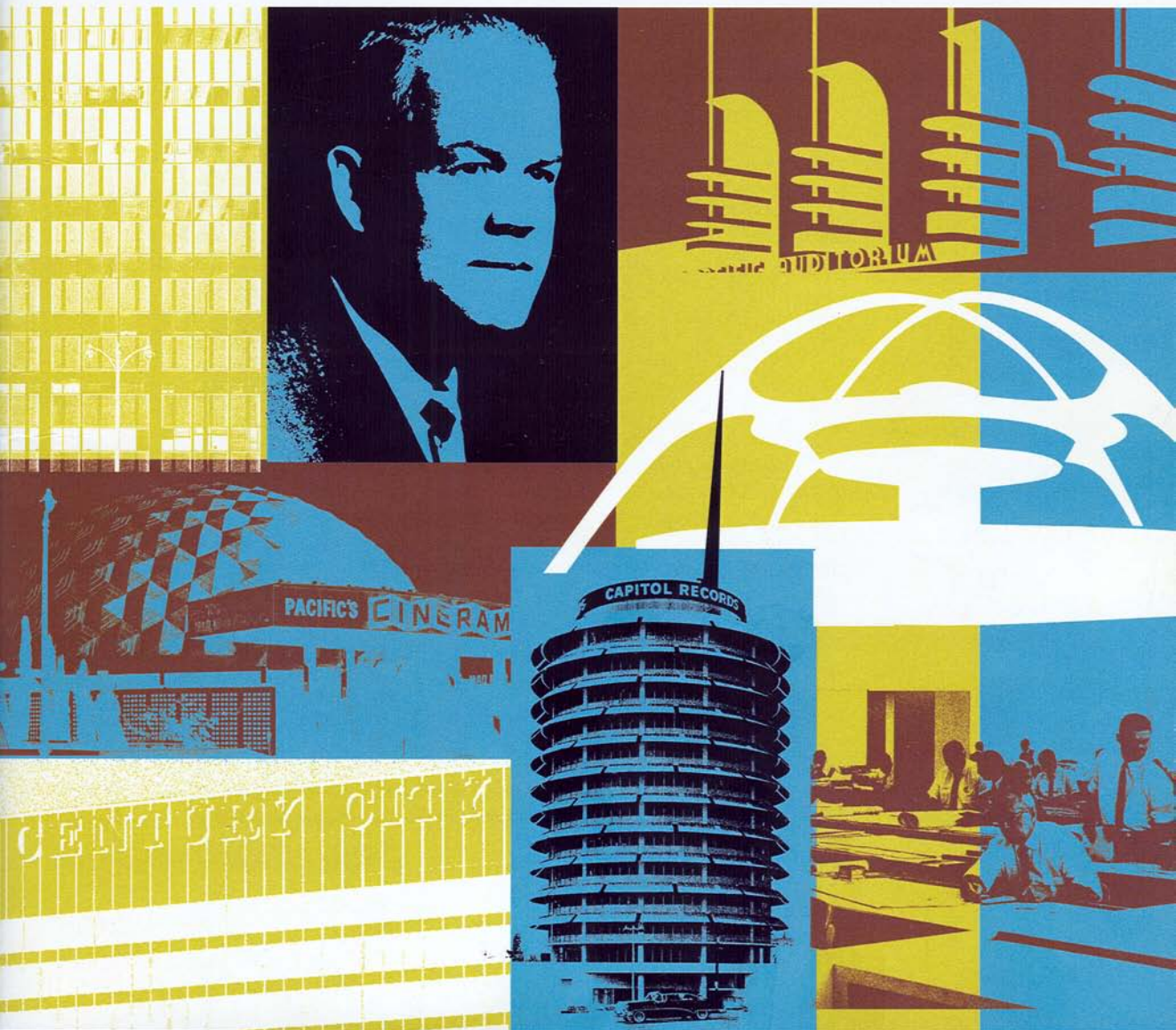


**BUILT BY  
BECKET**



**CENTENNIAL  
CELEBRATION**



PRESENTED BY THE MODERN COMMITTEE OF THE LOS ANGELES CONSERVANCY





WELTON BECKET AND ASSOCIATES OFFICE, CENTURY CITY, 1960

# BUILT BY BECKET

Edited by **Chris Nichols**

Written by **Bruce Emerton**

Introduction by **Alan Hess**

Designed by **Chris Green**

Photography by **Marvin Rand**

THE LOS ANGELES CONSERVANCY  
MODERN COMMITTEE



**Plummer, Wurdeman & Becket 1933-1938**

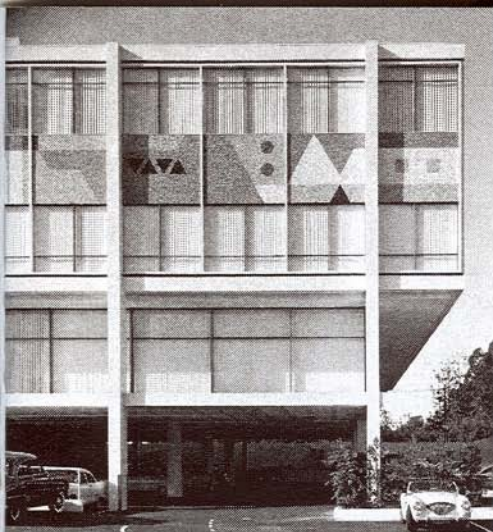
**Wurdeman & Becket 1938-1949**

**Welton Becket and Associates 1949-1988**

**Ellerbe Becket 1988-present**







## WELCOME

The Modern Committee is proud to honor the work of architect Welton Becket. Becket and his firm, Welton Becket and Associates, were responsible for a stunning array of iconic modern structures that literally defined post-war Los Angeles as the City of Tomorrow.

Through this event, as well as our work to preserve the Music Center, the Santa Monica Civic Auditorium, and tonight's host venue, the Cinerama Dome, the Modern Committee is working to make sure that Los Angeles still has a place for the City of Tomorrow, the City of Welton Becket.

Sincerely,  
Alan Leib, Chairman  
Los Angeles Conservancy Modern Committee

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction .....	4
Tour Map .....	8
Tour Stops .....	10-15
Building Descriptions .....	16-44
Lost Becket .....	45
Bibliography .....	47
Selected Projects .....	50
Featured Speakers .....	56
Bruce and Welton M. Becket .....	57
Sponsors .....	58
Credits .....	40
Modern Committee .....	60



# INTRODUCTION

by Alan Hess

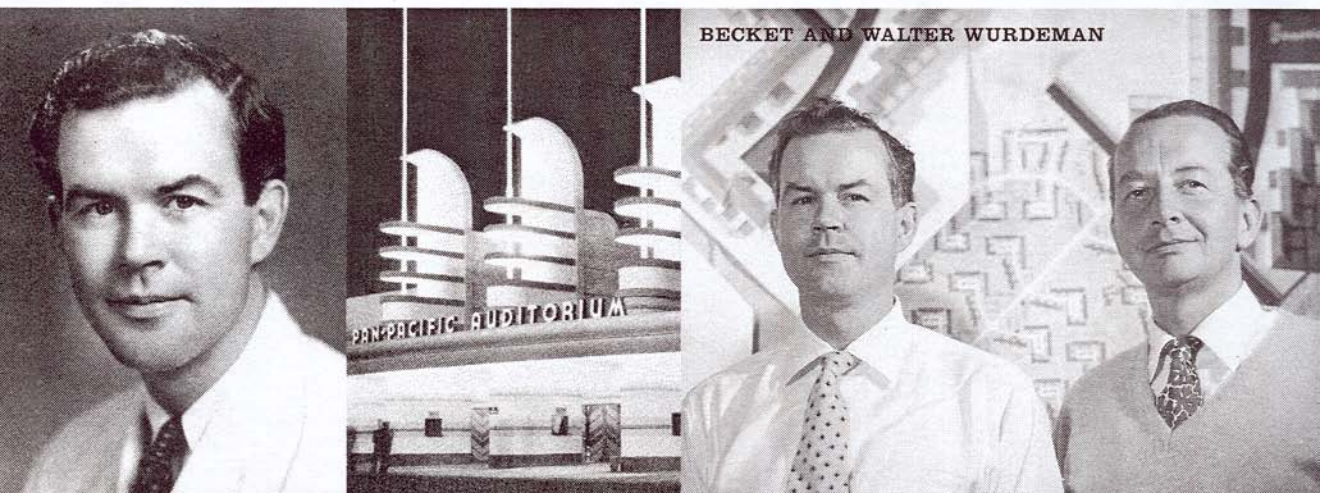
**IT IS IMPOSSIBLE** to survey the panorama of Los Angeles in the mind's eye without including certain iconic landmarks. Hollywood is crowned by a circular office tower. The annual Oscar ritual is celebrated (until recently) in a glittering palace of modernity on Bunker Hill. Could LAX ever be imagined without its great spider-legged theme building? Or Westwood without the UCLA Medical Center? Or Pasadena without Bullock's? Or Beverly Hills without the Beverly Hilton?

Each of these is a Welton Becket design. The list proves the tremendous impact Becket has had on our image of L.A. Even demolished Becket buildings can leave an indelible afterimage: the Pan Pacific Auditorium remains a part of the mental landscape of L.A. long after the actual building vanished.

And yet surprisingly Becket's name is not as recognized today as many less prolific architects. In part that's due to Becket's very success: his buildings captured so much of the personality of mid-century LA, they served as templates for so many other buildings, his pioneering planning ideas were so influential, that they established a norm. Becket buildings have blended with the pattern and texture of our postwar suburban metropolis so seamlessly that we take them utterly for granted.

It is the commercial city of shopping plazas, office centers and cultural temples, and Welton Becket had a hand in creating all of them. In the 1950s and 1960s they were each a piece in the City of Tomorrow. Los Angeles has long seen itself as just that. Along with his colleague firms Pereira and Luckman, A.C. Martin, Victor Gruen and others, Welton Becket Associates gave it form in the heyday of Imperial California.

Though Los Angeles was much smaller when Becket arrived in the early 1930s, the city was already decentralizing under the influence of the auto, the movies, aviation and popular culture. Born in Seattle in 1902, studying architecture at the University of Washington, Becket and his schoolmate and future partner Walter Wurdeman moved



BECKET AND WALTER WURDEMAN



to Los Angeles and worked with Charles Plummer, a solid commercial architect of shops, cafeterias, drive-ins and markets. But even in the dark days of the Depression, Wurdeman and Becket dreamed of tomorrow's city. This progressive vision won them the design competition that put them on the architectural map: the Pan Pacific Auditorium in 1935.

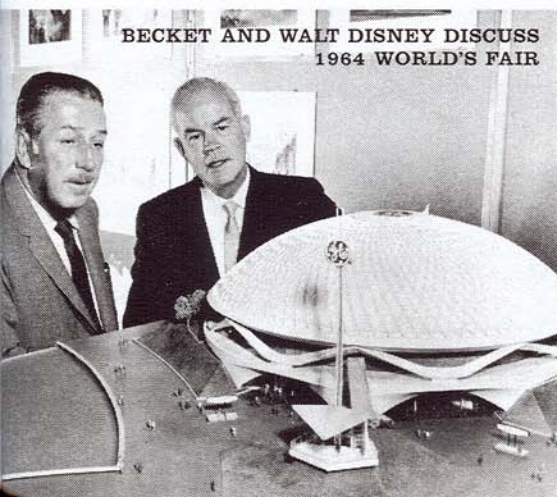
The Pan Pacific was a vivid interpretation of the Moderne, of all that was new and hopeful, of progress that would not be denied. No wonder its effortlessly fluid pylons became an iconic image of the Streamline Moderne – and Los Angeles.

With the end of World War II, the entire architectural profession realized that the face of the American city was about to change dramatically. No one knew exactly how. The architects of Los Angeles, however, were well-positioned to experiment and explore.

After the war Becket and Wurdeman continued to design buildings that would be iconic. Bullock's Pasadena was one of the first department stores designed for the suburbs, the new centers of urban gravity. Mastering the Late Moderne style, it inte-

grated the parking terraces (elegantly landscaped by Ruth Shellhorn) with auto entries and four levels in an innovative and fully realized form. It reflected the new informality of postwar life. The Prudential Center on Wilshire and the General Petroleum building downtown explored different solutions to the workplace and the need for flexibility. After Walter Wurdeman died unexpectedly in 1949, Becket bought out his partner's heirs and continued as the solely-owned Welton Becket Associates. The iconic buildings continued as well: Capitol Records, Parker Center, Los Angeles International Airport (with William Pereira, Charles Luckman, and Paul R. Williams), UCLA Medical Center, the Music Center – buildings that embodied a major era of Los Angeles.

Step by step the firm rethought almost every aspect of urban life: housing, work, shopping, housing, education, recreation, culture. Bullock's Pasadena was followed by a succession of shopping centers evolving the type: Stonestown in San Francisco, Bullock's Westwood and Northridge, Seibu, malls such as Fashion Island in Newport Beach, and literally dozens of others. The General Petroleum building led to office towers from Houston to



BECKET AND WALT DISNEY DISCUSS  
1964 WORLD'S FAIR



LARCHMONT MEDICAL, 1964



BUSINESS  
WEEK

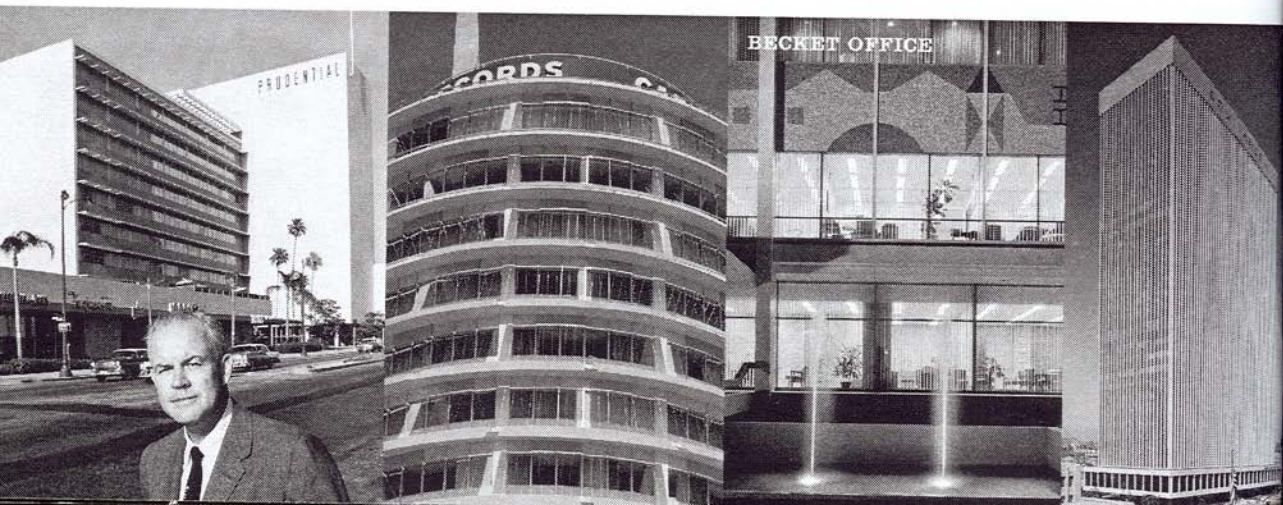


Bartlesville to Oakland, for Ford and Kaiser and Equitable. Americans began vacationing in droves, and Welton Becket designed LAX with his colleagues, Canyon Village at Yellowstone and Hawaiian Village in Honolulu. Becket played a large role behind the scenes too. None proved more consequential than when he advised his friend and Holmby Hills neighbor Walt Disney to abandon an architect's design for his new amusement park in Anaheim. Design it yourself with your movie studio staff, architect Becket urged. No advice more insightful, more far-reaching was ever made in twentieth century architecture. Though he and Wurdeman began their partnership designing Tudor homes for movie stars in the 1930s, they helped to design the classic tract houses of Panorama City for developers Fritz Burns and Henry Kaiser, based on their 1946 Post-War House. As master planner for UCLA, Welton Becket Associates designed much of the Medical Center, several dorms, classroom buildings and Pauley Pavilion. And in the ultimate assertion of the multinodal city, he planned Century City, turning the old movie factory into a new type of downtown. To fulfill the cultural and recreational needs of the new city, he built the Memorial Sports Arena (where JFK was nominated for president in 1960), the Cinerama Dome, and finally the Music Center.

The Music Center, with William Pereira's Los Angeles County Museum of Art, proved that Los Angeles had arrived as a major capital. Tellingly, neither required the importing of a famous east coast architect. Welton Becket had the ability, staff and – even more importantly – the experience in designing large complexes and public spaces for Southern Californians. The Music Center is today a masterpiece of a modern era, in the broad formal gestures, in the open air plazas, and especially in the self-confident ornamental invention of its terraces, grand staircases and chandeliers. This is the assured opulence of American mid-century might.

This brief list doesn't give full credit to Becket's entire work. His long career took his firm overseas to design an embassy in Warsaw, Hiltons in Havana, Cairo and Manila, towers for the Riviera Hotel in Las Vegas, pavilions for Ford and General Electric at the 1964 New York World's Fair, the Contemporary and Polynesian hotels at Walt Disney World, and office buildings and shopping centers everywhere.

This was architecture on a scale and scope never before seen. To accomplish it, Becket had to reorganize the traditional architecture office on a new corporate footing. As Welton Becket Associates





grew into the nation's largest architecture office in the 1960s, Becket developed the methods for the architecture profession to be able to deal with the larger scale and complexity of commercial and institutional projects in the last third of the 20th century. The new era demanded a new sophistication in the organizational scope of an office, the services it provided, and Becket pioneered the means – "Total Design" he labeled it – to mobilize a firm to deliver a constant, consistent architectural product to the growing U.S. economy.

Yet for all the national and international reach of his work, we should not overlook that Becket remained a Los Angeles architect. From the beginning of his career, he was designing the City of Tomorrow. Los Angeles was shaped by the forces of technology, commerce and popular culture; Becket understood them and welded them into a popular product. Without the pressure or aspiration to high art, such a designer was not likely to excite the interest of most critics of the time. He did not invent and promote a theory of design or planning so much as recognize the trends at work in society, business and technology and respond to them with pragmatism and innovative thinking.

Today we can begin to rediscover that faith in Los Angeles as we begin to see the delicate interplay between the 35-year-old Music Center and its new neighbor under construction. Frank Gehry's Disney Hall doesn't rebuke or overpower, shame or ignore the Music Center; it responds to and enhances, creating a stronger unified cultural center, as was always intended, atop Bunker Hill. The cost of failing to acknowledge the seminal influence of Welton Becket's images and concepts is the loss of their urban lessons and the graceful presence of his best buildings.

Growing from a two-man office into one of the largest in the world, prepared to handle any project of any size and any complexity, Becket's career rode the trajectory of twentieth century Los Angeles. Today, thirty four years after his death in 1969, Welton Becket's legacy is still an inescapable part of Los Angeles. His contributions have not diminished; they have simply become so integral to the fabric of the city that we have forgotten that it was not always this way.





## TOUR STOP

## #1 BULLOCK'S PASADENA (1947)

(See description page 10)

401 South Lake Avenue

Travel South on Lake Avenue to California Ave.  
turn RIGHT

At Arroyo Parkway turn LEFT

Continue South along Arroyo Parkway as the  
110 Pasadena Freeway South approachesTravel South on 110 Pasadena Freeway  
toward Downtown Los Angeles

Prepare to exit on the LEFT side of the freeway

EXIT onto Hill Street Southbound

Proceed South through Chinatown

Turn LEFT on Temple

Turn RIGHT on Los Angeles Street

Halfway down the block on your left is

## #2 PARKER CENTER (1955) (See description page 30)

150 S. Los Angeles Street

Continue South on Los Angeles Street to 1st Street

Turn RIGHT on 1st Street

Proceed 7 blocks to Hope Street

Turn RIGHT on Hope Street where you will approach

## TOUR STOP

## #3 THE MUSIC CENTER (1964-1967)

(See description page 12)

135 N. Grand Avenue

EXIT NORTH Hope Street to Temple

TURN RIGHT on Temple

Turn RIGHT on Grand Avenue

Proceed South on Grand

Approximately 6 blocks to WILSHIRE BOULEVARD

Turn RIGHT on Wilshire

At the Corner of Wilshire and Grand is

## #4 STANDARD FEDERAL SAVINGS (1954)

(See description page 43)

601 Wilshire

Continue West on Wilshire 1 block to

## #5 GENERAL PETROLEUM BUILDING

(See description page 19)

731-735 Wilshire at Flower

Proceed West on Wilshire to

## #6 ALLSTATE SAVINGS BANK (1970)

800 Wilshire Boulevard

Later highrise

Proceed West on Wilshire

After you pass through MacArthur Park

Turn RIGHT on Coronado Street

Immediately on your left will be

## #7 REMINGTON RAND (1951)

2601 Wilshire Blvd.

(Now Department of Social Services)

Kahn &amp; Jacobs, Associated Architects

Exterior intact, notice the glass box and marble cube.  
Aluminum canopy at the entrance.

Proceed North on Coronado St. to 6th Street

Turn LEFT on 6th Street to

## #8 NEW YORK LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY (1955)

2801 6th Street

(Now LAUSD Metro Skills Center)

mostly intact but obscured by landscaping and fencing

Continue West on 6th Street to Virgil

Turn left on Virgil

On the SW corner of 6th and Virgil is

## #9 AMERICAN POTASH AND CHEMICAL (1957)

3000 6th Street

(Currently under construction)

Large mass of marble over all-glass first floor

Continue South on Virgil to Wilshire

Turn RIGHT on Wilshire to

## #10 U.S. BORAX CO. (1963)

3075 Wilshire Blvd.

Now U.S. Government offices

Exterior intact, interiors and artwork gone

Continue West on Wilshire to

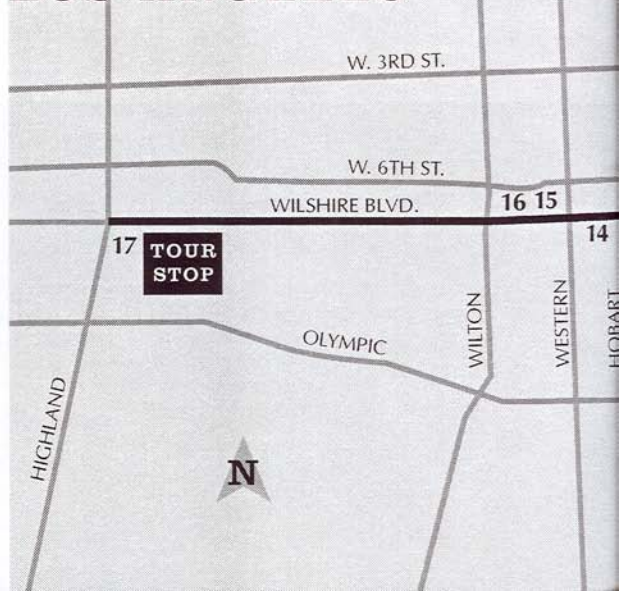
## #11 CLIFTON INVESTMENT CO. (1960)

(Now Towers-on-Wilshire)

3200 Wilshire Blvd.

Continue West on Wilshire to

## LOS ANGELES





Continue West on Wilshire to

4950 Highland Avenue





(Now Macy's)

**1946, Exterior Intact, Interior Altered, Pasadena Historical Landmark**  
Wurdeman & Becket, Architects; Raymond C. Dexter, Interior Designer;  
Ruth Shellhorn, Landscape Architect  
401 South Lake, Pasadena, California

Proclaimed "One of the World's Most Modern Buildings" in the November 1946 issue of *Arts and Architecture* magazine and a recipient of an AIA Merit Award in 1950. P.G. Winnett, president of Bullock's Department Stores, visited many of the homes Wurdeman and Becket had designed for movie stars. From those visits came his vision of a department store designed as if it were a fine residence as befitted Pasadena, which at the time had the highest per-capita income in the country. This commission was critical to the development of the Becket philosophy of "total design." The firm oversaw the design and installation of everything in the store including wallpapers, artwork, fixtures, carpets, murals, counters, display cases, contemporary and antique furniture and even the conveyor system that delivered purchases directly to the parking lot.





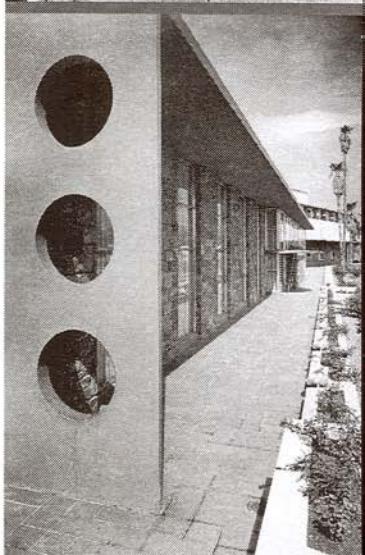


The main entrance to the building is in the rear, oriented to the motor court rather than the street. This is because Bullock's Pasadena carried on the Southern California tradition of designing for the automobile with a then unheard of six-acre parking lot.

Bullock's Pasadena was the first of over 100 department stores designed by Wurdeman & Becket, later known as Welton Becket and Associates. The Bullock's chain had over 25 stores in California. Other large chains who utilized Wurdeman & Becket's skills included Gimbel's, Joseph Magnin, Saks Fifth Avenue, Buffum's, Ohrbach's, and Macy's to name a few. In addition to individual stores, Welton Becket and Associates is responsible for dozens of shopping centers including Stonestown Shopping Center in San Francisco, Del Amo Shopping Center in Torrance, Fashion Island Shopping Center in Newport Beach and The Beverly Center in Los Angeles.

The Bullock's Pasadena commission also led directly to the General Petroleum Building Commission. One of the directors of Bullock's was on the Board of Mobil Oil. He was so impressed with Bullock's Pasadena that he became a champion of Wurdeman and Becket and was instrumental in securing the firm for the General Petroleum building.

In 2002, Johnson Favaro architects wrapped "The Shops at Lake Avenue" around the historic Bullock's store. Pasadena Heritage and the Los Angeles Conservancy worked with the developers to preserve as much of the site as possible. Bullock's is now a Macy's Department Store.





## MUSIC CENTER

(Now Music Center/Performing Arts Center of Los Angeles County)

1964-1967

Welton Becket and Associates, Architects

Cornell, Bridgers and Troller, Landscape Architects

135 North Grand Avenue, Los Angeles, California

The Music Center is composed of three interrelated theaters designed in the New Formalist Style. The theaters are arranged on a sweeping plaza at the top of a rise overlooking the Civic Center. Constructed in two phases over a period of five years, the original Music Center consists of the 3,250-seat Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, the 2,100-seat Ahmanson Theater and the 750-seat Mark Taper Forum. Parking for over 2,000 cars is located below the Center.

### **DOROTHY CHANDLER PAVILION**

1964, Intact

Welton Becket and Associates, Architects

The Dorothy Chandler Pavilion was the first theater constructed and is the most imposing of the three buildings, enclosed as it is in a free standing colonnade. The interior lobby area with its impressive chandeliers and sweeping grand staircase is a wonderful statement of mid-sixties sophistication.





## **AHMANSON THEATRE**

---

**1967, Altered**

Welton Becket and Associates, Architects  
Ellerbe Becket, Remodeling Architect

The Ahmanson Theater and the Mark Taper Forum were both constructed in 1967. The Ahmanson, which was originally faced in off-white Onyx on all four sides, underwent extensive interior and exterior alterations in 1995, by the successor firm to Welton Becket and Associates, Ellerbe Becket.

## **MARK TAPER FORUM**

---

**1967, Altered**

Welton Becket and Associates, Architects

The Mark Taper Forum is a circular building that originally rose from a reflecting pool of water which has since been removed. Its curved wall is adorned with a low-relief sculpture with an abstract design repeated every seventh panel.

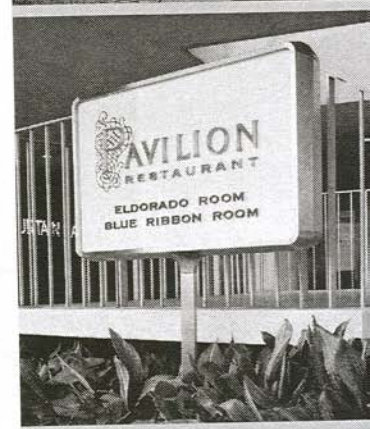
## **MUSIC CENTER PLAZA**

---

**1964-1967, Intact**

Welton Becket and Associates, Architects  
Cornell, Bridgers and Troller, Landscape Architects  
Jacques Lipschitz, "Peace on Earth" sculpture

The Music Center Plaza was designed in tandem with the three main buildings. In size and intent, the central sunken plaza becomes the fourth element of the complex. The plaza was intended as a public gathering space, recessed so as to set the buildings apart symbolic of their roles as temples to culture. The design of the Music Center Plaza is an integral part of the design of the buildings themselves, and is key to the viewers experience of those buildings and their surroundings.





# THE POST-WAR HOUSE

## 1946, Altered

Wurdeman & Becket Architects  
Eckbo, Royston, and Williams, Landscape Architects  
Bullock's Inc., Decorators  
4950 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles, California

The Post-War House was designed as a prototype. Part serious research house, part model home, and part gimmick, it was all marketing. Featured in dozens of magazines, including an unheard of 42-page spread in the May 1946 issue of *House Beautiful*, the house was visited by over a million people and read about by millions more.

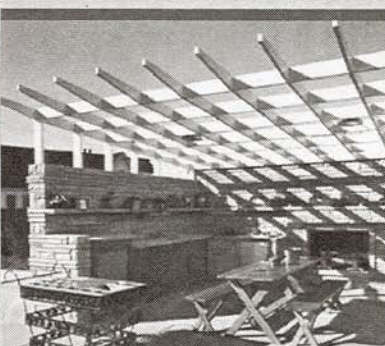
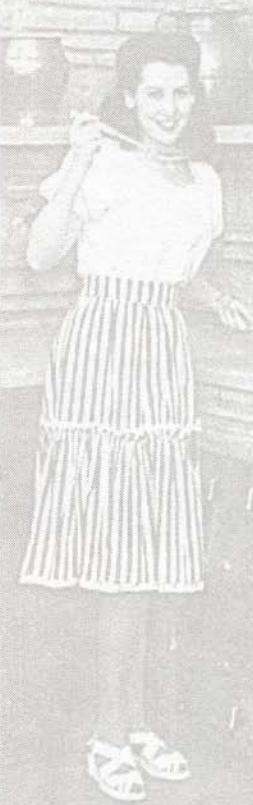
Fritz Burns was one of the most important real estate developers in Southern California. Burns introduced innovations in prefabrication techniques for the production of affordable homes. Following World War II, in association with Henry J. Kaiser, he formed Kaiser Community Homes to help ease the post-war housing shortage. Burns opened the Post-War House in 1946 charging an entry fee of \$1.00 per person.

The Post-War House was a showcase for practically every building product on the market and must have been a marvel to war weary Americans, and a thing of envy to housing-desperate GI's. It was also a brilliant design with clever built-ins, indoor/outdoor spaces and above all, every labor saving device known to man.

*"CLEAN AIR ELECTRONICALLY ... dust will be rare in this new home. The Precipitron, an electronic air cleaning device developed by Westinghouse, removes more than 90 per cent of all dirt, dust and other foreign particles in the incoming air. A little larger than an electric refrigerator, and containing no moving parts, the Precipitron requires practically no attention."*  
Souvenir Pictorial Booklet of the Post-War House, 1946

*"Open till 9 P.M. Every Day of the Week - Even Sunday!"*

As attendance slowed Burns dropped the entry fee to 35 cents. The house had been viewed by over one million people when he temporarily closed the house in 1950 for a year for remodeling. With only minor changes, mostly the addition of a helicopter landing pad and a few more futuristic gadgets, Burns reopened the building in 1951 as the "House of Tomorrow." Once again, it drew large crowds.



COURTESY LOS ANGELES TURNERS 121



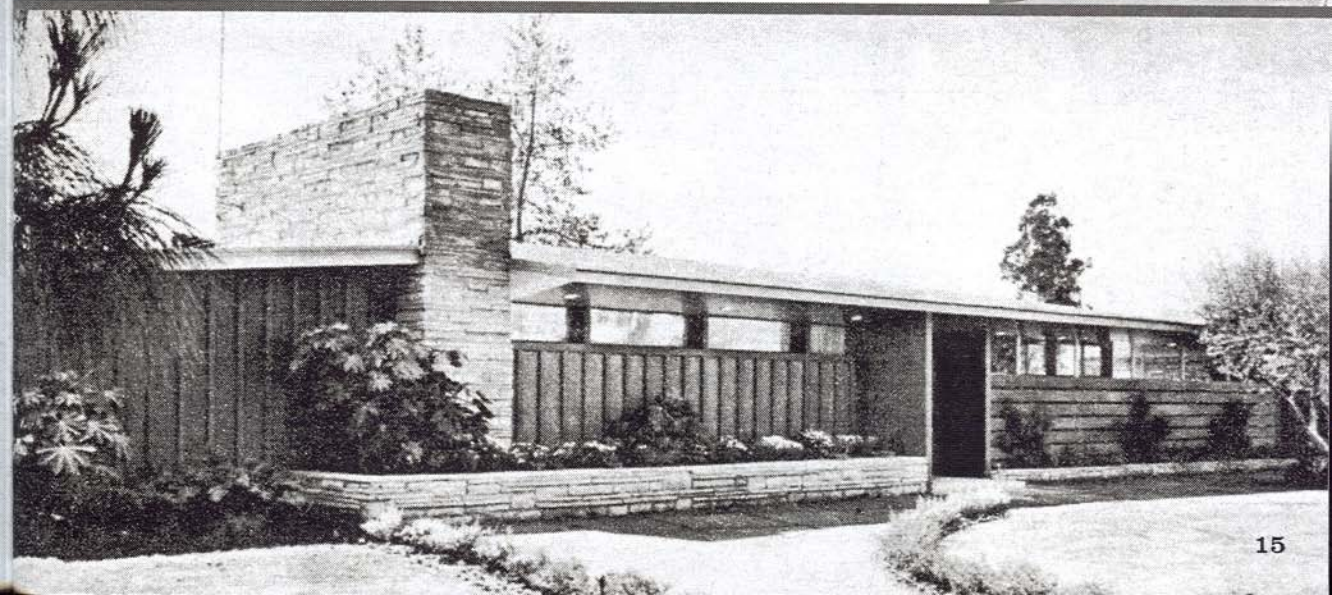
The house was beautifully decorated by Bullock's and marks the start of a Welton Becket/Bullock's collaboration, a partnership that would result in the design and construction of over 25 Bullock's/Federated Department Stores.

Unfortunately, the interior has been altered over the years, but the exterior is largely intact and much of the original landscaping remains. Today it seems quite startling that this low slung modern ranch house lurks amongst the behemoths of Wilshire Blvd, but at the time it was surrounded by open space, crops, and lots of parking.

*"The Most Thought-Provoking House in America"*  
Fritz B. Burns

*"Designed to enchant, astound and inspire the home-loving public, this exhibition house displays a multitude of novel ideas, innovations, and devices. Manufacturers have supplied, and architects have incorporated, almost every known (and some till now unknown) contribution that our mechanical age is making to the ease, comfort, and delight of the prospective home builder. No expense has been spared in providing the utmost in glamour and gadgets...to bring into focus the focus of public opinion the very best in postwar thought that architects, builders, and manufacturers have to offer."*

*Architectural Record, April 1946*





# RESIDENTIAL PROJECTS

Some of Charles Plummer, Walter Wurdeman and Welton Becket's earliest work was in residential design. After Charles Plummer's death in 1938, Wurdeman and Becket continued as a team designing homes and other small commissions. After designing the award winning Pan Pacific Auditorium in 1935, they received a \$5,000 dollar commission and prize. Wurdeman used his portion of the fee to join the Beverly Hills Tennis Club, a club frequented by celebrities. As a result of this shrewd investment, Plummer Wurdeman and Becket received a number of residential commissions, enough work to see them through the depression and into the Los Angeles building boom following World War II.



In the late 1930s and early 1940s Wurdeman and Becket designed period revival homes for some of Hollywood's biggest stars including James Cagney, Cesar Romero, and Robert Montgomery. In 1948, Welton Becket built his own beach house at Trancas beach in Malibu. The beach house is significant in that it was his first published modern residence (*Architectural Record*, Sept. 1948). The house is post and beam with walls of glass and is a major stylistic break from his earlier designs.

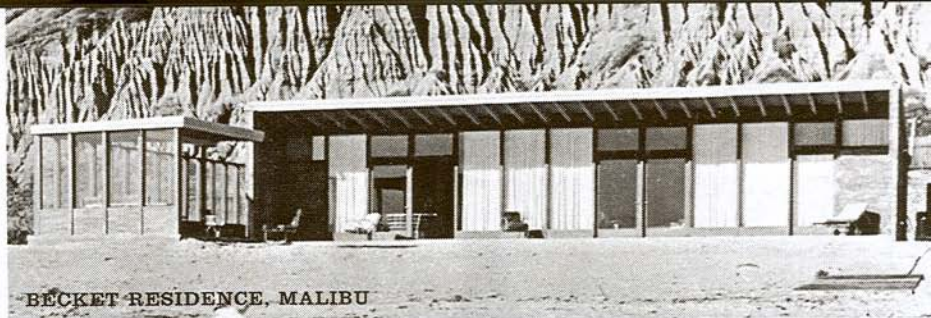
In addition to private homes, Wurdeman and Becket also designed a number of multi-unit residential projects, including two landmark public housing projects in Los Angeles. Wurdeman and Becket were part of a consortium of prominent architects including Paul Williams, Adrian Wilson, and Richard Neutra. Wurdeman and Becket helped design Hacienda Village Housing located near the Watts District of Los Angeles and Pueblo Del Rio Public Housing in the South Central District of Los Angeles (both in 1941.)

Pueblo Del Rio was one of the earliest public housing projects in Los Angeles and the nation, and the only Los Angeles area public housing development open to African Americans in the early 1940s. Fifty-seven two-story units were placed on this 17.5 acre site landscaped by Ralph Cornell. Hacienda Village was built on 17.6 acres of flat land. Its 71 single story buildings provide 182 units of housing.

During World War II, Wurdeman and Becket also designed as many as 14,000 housing units to meet the needs of military families and war workers. It was during this time that the Wurdeman and Becket office expand-



ed. In order to handle its defense contracts, the office increased to almost 40 employees. This large staff positioned the firm to be competitive in the post-war residential and commercial building boom.



BECKET RESIDENCE, MALIBU

## **ROBERT McCULLOCH RESIDENCE**

**1955, Threatened**

Welton Becket and Associates

Rancho Mirage, CA

Widely publicized as an aesthetic and technological wonder, the house was dubbed "McCulloch's Push-Button Paradise" by *Life* magazine in 1956 for its futuristic incorporation of remote controlled motorized devices throughout the house.

The house is characterized by a low-pitched roof, deep overhangs, extensive use of glass, an open floor plan, exposed beams, terrazzo floors and an integration of landscaping with interiors creating an indoor/outdoor living environment.

The McCulloch House also features site-specific artwork and a host of mechanically operated devices. The house is remarkably intact and currently on the market.



McCULLOCH RESIDENCE, RANCHO MIRAGE



# KAISER COMMUNITY HOMES

## 1947-48, Altered

Wurdeman & Becket, Architects; Fritz Burns and Associates,  
Fritz Burns Development for Kaiser Homes, Inc.  
Panorama City, California

The original Kaiser Community Homes tract boundaries were  
Osborne Blvd, Woodman, Van Nuys Blvd. and Roscoe Blvd.

Loosely affiliated with the Fritz Burns "Post-War House," Kaiser Community Homes is a large development of over 4,000 houses in Panorama City. The houses incorporated the thoughtful design of the Post-War House as well as many of its innovations all for under \$10,000. Initial design was by Wurdeman and Becket with extensive modifications and changes by Fritz Burns' staff.

The largest subdivision of Kaiser Community Homes was Panorama City. Other Kaiser Community Homes include: 1,410 houses in San Jose, 471 houses in Ontario, 430 houses in Compton, 562 houses in Monterey Park, 300 houses in Westside Terrace, and 1,295 houses in Westchester. A factory was constructed near the Los Angeles Airport to prefabricate and prepare the houses for shipment to the building site for assembly.

Panorama City was developed on the site of the 1,000 acre Panorama Ranch, one of the largest dairy farms in Southern California. Purchased by Fritz Burns and steel magnate Henry Kaiser for around \$2,250 dollars an acre, it became the site of Panorama City and Kaiser Community Homes.

Kaiser Community Homes were, for the most part, pre-milled and shop-fabricated, and represent an early large scale experiment in prefabrication. Everything for a house was delivered on site and assembled in just a few weeks. Kaiser Homes were prefabricated by Kaiser Shipbuilders, a division of Kaiser Metals. After the war the shipbuilder was looking for a peace-time business and diversified greatly into construction, especially prefabrication. This experiment was a failure. While Burns was prefabricating 3,000 homes in the Kaiser shops, he was also hand-making hundreds of others on site, which cost significantly less to build.

This Wurdeman & Becket involvement with Kaiser marked the beginning of a 30-year personal and professional relationship between Welton Becket and Henry J. Kaiser, culminating in the 1960 construction of the Kaiser Center in Oakland California.

Kaiser Community Homes were extremely popular with the war-weary house-hungry public. On average 5,000 people a week viewed model homes. On some weekends, so many people showed up, the Los Angeles Police Department had to be called up for traffic and crowd control.



FARMERS AT PANORAMA RANCH





# GENERAL PETROLEUM BUILDING

## Building and Parking Garage

1947, Adaptively Re-used

Wurdeman & Becket, Architects

Killefer Flammang, Adaptive Reuse Architects

612 S. Flower Street, Los Angeles, California

The General Petroleum Building was built in 1947 as headquarters for Mobil Oil. When built it was the largest office building in Southern California, with a gross space of 504,425 square feet. General Petroleum was one of the nation's first buildings to conserve energy through thoughtful siting and placement of shading devices. Fifty-nine non-glare aluminum fins shade 1,600 windows and conduct the sun's heat to the top of the building.

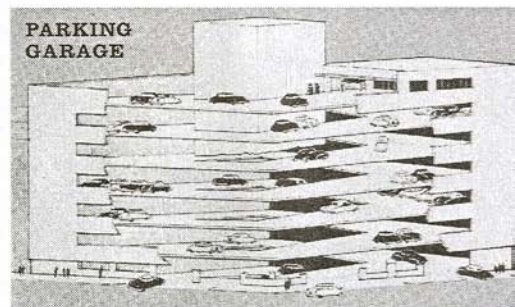
Wurdeman and Becket were also pioneers in making buildings lighter and cheaper. "Strength without Weight" was achieved through the extensive use of steel and lighter concretes. Wurdeman & Becket helped develop a concrete which used pumice and vermiculite as aggregate rather than traditional gravel. This new lighter "rocklite" concrete is also responsible for giving Becket buildings their famous whiteness. This material was first used in the General Petroleum Building and later in the Prudential Building.

The building is outwardly modern in appearance but with classic Art Deco touches, especially the pronounced vertical banding and the use of colored terra-cotta. Above a black granite base, the exterior of the structure is covered with a warm, grey-beige terra-cotta, with grey-green terra-cotta spandrels.

The General Petroleum Building was one of the first in the United States to have open floors with movable "modular" walls for ultimate flexibility – even the plumbing system was movable. Built-in flexibility and modularity has since become a standard feature of most office buildings.

Even more radical, innovative and modern than the General Petroleum Building itself was its parking garage. The garage has been described as a single floor, six stories high. It is essentially a continuous rectangular spiral, extending like a corkscrew from basement to roof on a 4% grade around a central core housing elevators and stairways. It was a radical design that would be copied in parking structures nationwide for decades.

Restoration and adaptive reuse of the General Petroleum Building into 322 residential lofts is nearing completion. The building will be renamed Pegasus in homage to its past as "Home of the Flying Red Horse" and Mobil Oil.





# PRUDENTIAL BUILDING

(Now Museum Square)

Orbach's Headquarters and Department Store

1948, Altered

Wurdeman & Becket Architects;

Ruth Shellhorn, Landscape Architect.

5757 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles, California

A 1949 *Arts and Architecture* magazine cover story called Prudential Square "a symbol of Los Angeles and the western way of life." Embracing the International Style, it marked a stylistic change for Wurdeman & Becket. Stretching across two city blocks and with 517,000 square feet of office and retail space, it was, at the time, the tallest and largest privately owned structure in the city.

COURTESY BECKET FARMY







1949



AFTER ADDITION

The Prudential building is made up of two asymmetrical flying wings flanking a central windowless shaft. The shaft contains electrical and mechanical services. Originally the exterior was finished with louvers and sunshades arranged in varying patterns to add visual interest. Most of the sunshades and louvers have been removed, but the original main entrance and lobby, which pierces the building from front to back, is relatively intact in shape and form. The entrance is lined with thirteen state medallions. In the main lobby the cornerstone incorporates an actual piece of the Rock of Gibraltar, Prudential's corporate symbol. One unique aspect of the building that remains unchanged is that at night it becomes an illuminated negative of itself.



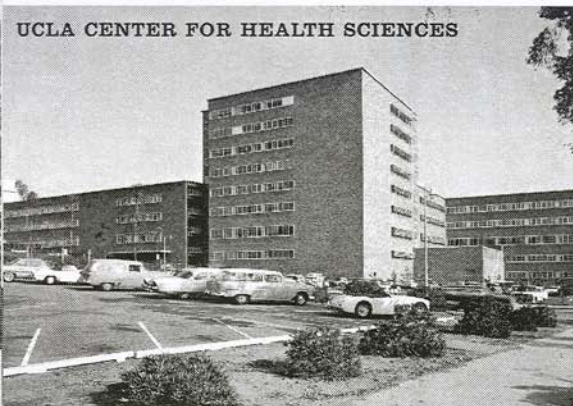


# UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, LOS ANGELES

For over two decades Welton Becket and Associates was the Master Planner for the UCLA campus, and the firm was the architect for some of UCLA's most important buildings. The Becket firm has left a major imprint on the campus.

## UCLA CENTER FOR HEALTH SCIENCES

UCLA CENTER FOR HEALTH SCIENCES



**1948-1970, Altered**

Welton Becket and Associates, Architects  
University of California, Los Angeles  
Westwood, California

The giant two-million square-foot UCLA Center for Health Sciences was planned in 1948 and constructed between 1951 and 1970. The interconnected complex is the largest single building in Southern California and cost over 100 million dollars to construct. The main buildings in the UCLA Center for the Health Sciences include: Clinical Research Building, 1954; Vivarium, 1954; Neuropsychiatric and Brain Research Institute, 1961; Marion Davies Childrens Clinic, 1962; Institute for Chronic Disease, 1965; Jules Stein Eye Institute, 1966; School of Public Health, 1968; Reed Neurological Research Center, 1970.

## ENGINEERING BUILDING

**1952, Intact**

Welton Becket and Associates, Supervising Architects  
Allison and Rible, Associate Architects  
University of California, Los Angeles  
Westwood, California

Designed for heavy duty loads, this building will accommodate "live loads" ranging up to 600 pounds per square foot. Provisions were made for heavy equipment, trucks, and free movement of tractor trailers up to 67 tons on all levels including the roof.

JULES STEIN  
EYE INSTITUTE







## **SCHOENBERG HALL**

**1955, Intact**

Welton Becket and Associates, Architects  
University of California, Los Angeles  
Westwood, California

This Modern building was obviously influenced by the work of Eliel Saarinen, and the Scandinavian aesthetic. When built, Schoenberg Hall was a radical departure for UCLA. It was one of the first buildings approved by the UC Regents that was not a hybrid neo-classical style. Above the exterior foyer of the building is a 164-foot mosaic mural by Richard Haines. In 16 panels it depicts the history of music through the ages.

## **ACKERMAN UNION BUILDING**

**1959-60, Altered**

Welton Becket and Associates, Architects  
University of California, Los Angeles  
Westwood, California

This building is a late 1950s modular Modernist box equipped with sun grilles. The building was, according to an article of the time, "carefully related to its [1931 gothic] neighbor Kerckhoff Hall, through the use of related materials."

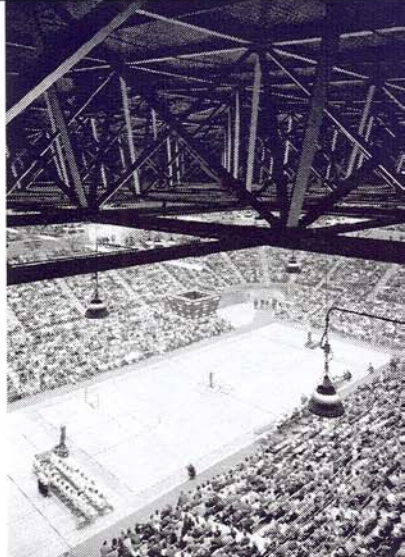
## **PAULEY PAVILION**

**1965, Intact**

Welton Becket and Associates, Architects  
University of California, Los Angeles  
Westwood, California

Edwin W. Pauley Pavilion opened in June 1965 and is the home of the UCLA basketball and volleyball teams. The venue, with its distinctive "space-frame" construction, seats over 12,000 people and was the home of John Wooden's UCLA Bruins dynasty of the 1960s and 1970s. It has also been the site of many large music events as well as host to such programs as the 1984 Olympics and the 1988 presidential debates.

PAULEY PAVILION





# BULLOCK'S DEPARTMENT STORES

## BULLOCK'S WESTWOOD

1950, Adaptively Re-used

Now Ralphs, Best Buy and Expo

Welton Becket and Associates, Architects;

Raymond C. Dexter, Interior Designer

Stephen Kanner/Kanner Architects, Adaptive Reuse Architects

10861 Le Conte, Westwood, California

*"The ultimate in contemporary suburban department store shopping"*  
(1951 advertisement).

This building is considered a premiere example of the Becket philosophy of "total design." Everything in the building was coordinated: architectural design, finishes, interior decorations, landscaping, graphics, fixtures, and art. There were specially commissioned Gladding McBean and Company "Westwood Tiles" and two Bernard Rosenthal sculptures. Everything was carefully coordinated to create "a perfect merchandising mechanism." Bullock's Westwood is also a monument to Southern California's obsession with the automobile, featuring two-and-one-half acres of rooftop parking. The building finishes featured luxurious materials such as fine and exotic woods, stained concrete, fieldstone, Arizona mint stone, and, as noted above, specially commissioned tiles and art work. With its lush indoor and outdoor plantings, the building had a distinctive Southern California Style. No detail was overlooked by the designers from the wrapping paper in the toy department to the labels in women's dresses. It was, indeed, a total design.

In 2001 Bullock's Westwood was converted into a Ralphs supermarket and several other stores. The conversion and redevelopment was undertaken by developers Madison Marquette Company under the direction of supervising architect Stephen Kanner. The L.A. Conservancy award-winning



WESTWOOD



WESTWOOD



conversion kept many of the original features of the building including the famous display window boxes along Le Conte Avenue.

## **BULLOCK'S PALM SPRINGS**

1947, Demolished

Wurdeman & Becket, Architects

151 South Palm Canyon Drive, Palm Springs, California

This magnificent modern temple of shopping was destroyed in the early 80's and the lot stood vacant for over 15 years. The building was sited beautifully on the west side of Palm Canyon. It was always bathed in sunlight and stood out in sharp relief against the rugged mountain backdrop. Symmetrically placed wings enclosed an entrance patio and vertical louvers protected the windows from the sun.

Other significant Bullock's Stores by Welton Becket and Associates include:

## **BULLOCK'S PASADENA**

1946 (See page 10)

## **BULLOCK'S DEL AMO**

1961

## **BULLOCK'S FASHION SQUARE**

1963, Intact

Sherman Oaks, California

## **BULLOCK'S LAKEWOOD**

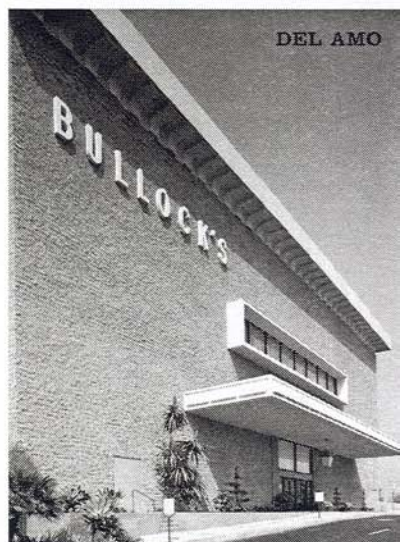
1965

## **BULLOCK'S NORTHRIDGE**

1971, Altered

## **BULLOCK'S LA HABRA**

1969





# CAPITOL RECORDS

## 1955, Intact

Welton Becket and Associates, Architects; Louis Naidorf, Designer  
Barry Milofski/M2A Architects, additions  
1750 Vine Street, Hollywood, California

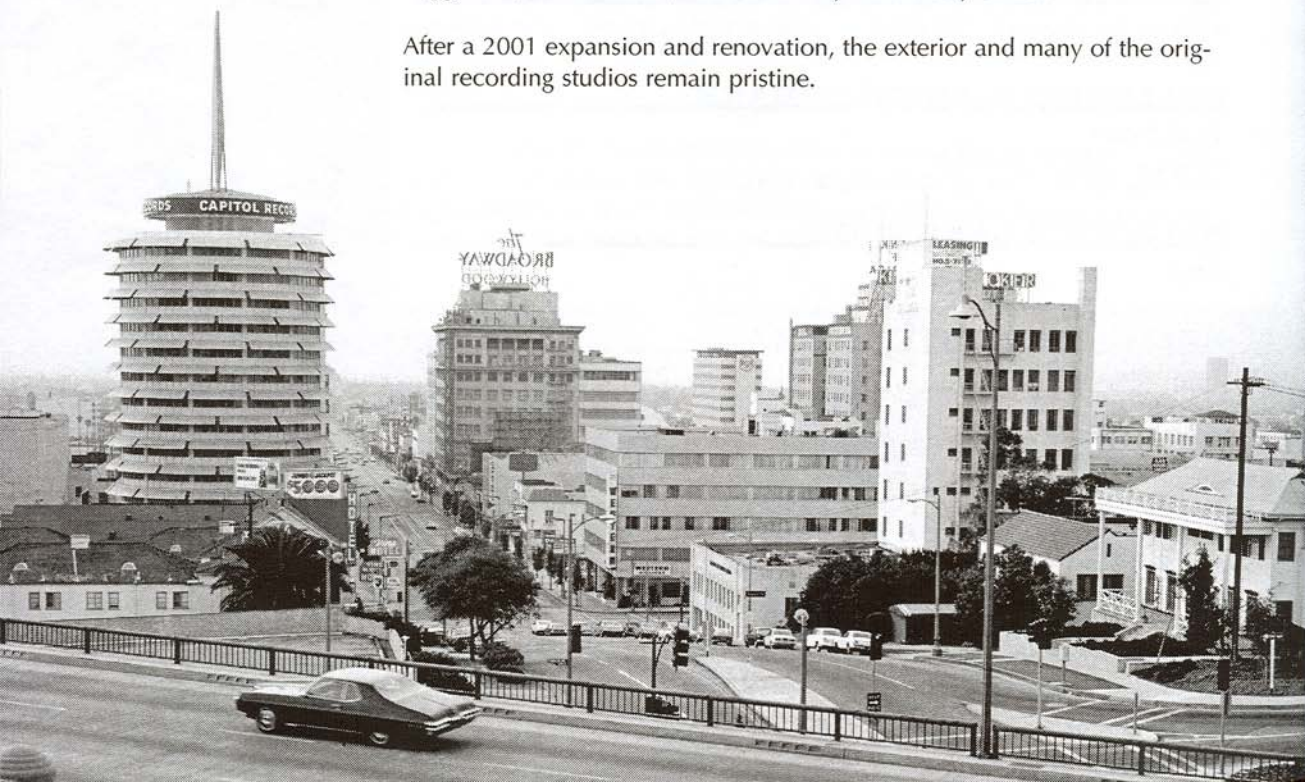


GLEN WALLICHS AND BECKET

Southern California's most recognizable office building and Hollywood's most spectacular Mid-Century Modern icon was the world's first circular office building. The earthquake resistant reinforced-concrete structure was the first fully air conditioned office building. Sunshades of porcelain enamel, a trademark of Becket Buildings, protect the building from receiving too much sun and glare. The underground recording studios were the first ever built for high fidelity. On the roof, the beacon at the tip of the 90-foot aluminum spire blinks out H-O-L-L-Y-W-O-O-D in Morse code. Each December the spire supports Hollywood's tallest Christmas tree.

In 1942 songwriter Johnny Mercer, movie producer Buddy DeSylva and music retailer Glen Wallichs, of Wallich's Music City, began Capitol Records at Sunset and Vine. In 1955, The Electric and Musical Industries (EMI) of England acquired Capitol Records for \$8.5 million and committed to build a new state-of-the-art studio in Hollywood equal to the Abbey Road studio in London. Over the years many timeless records were made here by legendary entertainers including Nat King Cole, Frank Sinatra, Peggy Lee, Dean Martin, The Beach Boys and Keely Smith.

After a 2001 expansion and renovation, the exterior and many of the original recording studios remain pristine.









# THE BEVERLY HILTON

**1955, Exterior Slightly Modified, Interior Altered**

Welton Becket and Associates, Architects

Bernard Rosenthal, Fountain Sculpture

Lambert Landscape Company, Landscape Architects

9876 Wilshire Blvd. at Santa Monica Blvd., Beverly Hills, California

Built at a cost over \$13 million, this classic Mid-Century Modern resort hotel is seven stories tall, and has over 500 rooms, including penthouse suites. In many ways Hilton's tropical resort hotels in Puerto Rico and Hawaii influenced it's design. Each of the luxurious rooms have private balconies, which had all but died out in American hotels at the time. Originally these balconies were divided with bright colored panels which against the white building gave the hotel a progressive modern artistic look. A large cantilevered circular dining room and terrace extend out over the swimming pool area. Included in the lush tropical landscaping both inside and out, were over 200 large-scale modern pots and planters made by Architectural Pottery.

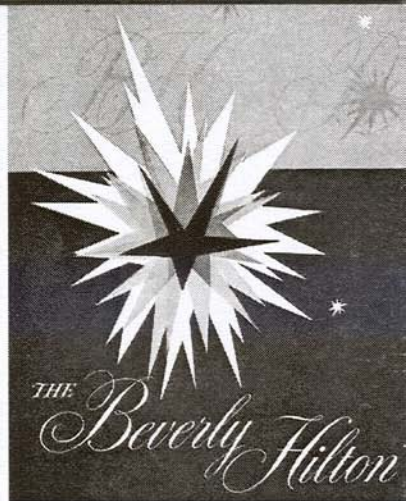




Today, with the exception of the motor entrance, the color scheme and reduced balconies, the exterior is intact. The interior has changed many times but basically retains its original layout.

Welton Becket and Associates had a long and productive association with Conrad Hilton and Hilton Hotels.

Other significant Hilton Hotels by Welton Becket and Associates include: Manila Hilton (now Holiday Inn), 1968; Beirut Hilton, 1975; Baghdad Hilton; Athens Hilton; London Hilton; Long Beach Hilton; Hilton Hawaiian Village, 1955; Puerto Rico Hilton; Hilton Havana (now Habana Libre Hotel), 1958; and The Nile Hilton, 1959. The Nile Hilton is the most fanciful of all the Hilton Hotels and featured the world's largest mosaic tile mural.





# PARKER CENTER

## Police Administration Building

1955, Intact

Welton Becket and Associates, Architects;

Director of Design, Maynard Woodard; Project Architect, Francis Runey

J.E. Stanton, Associated Architects

150 Temple Street, Los Angeles, California

Few police buildings are known for their architectural merit and even fewer for use of the related arts or their landscaping. In all these respects, Parker Center is an exception. A Bernard Rosenthal bronze sculpture, "Family Group," is mounted on a tile wall beside the main entrance. Featured in the lobby is a 36-foot long, 6-foot high tesserae mosaic depicting the architectural history of Los Angeles, including City Hall, The Chinese Theater and Angel's Flight. The cantilevered mural created by Joseph Young in 1955 was, at the time, the world's largest.

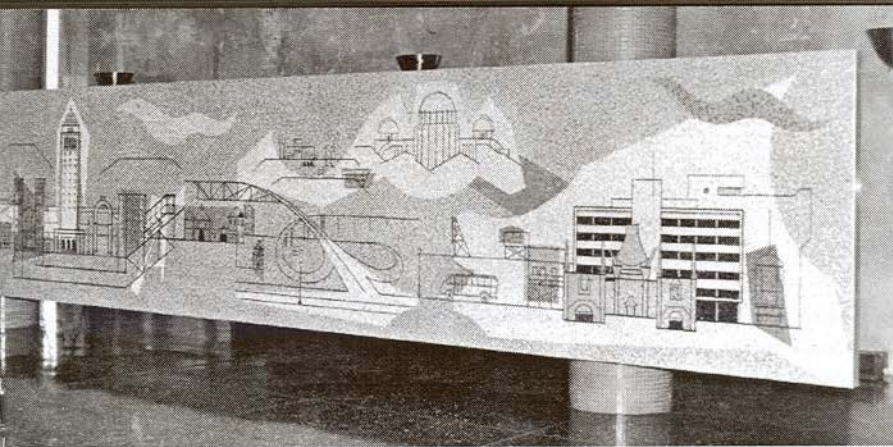
In 1955, Parker Center was the most modern police building in the world, with all the latest equipment and gadgets. The building was also innovative in its use of glass walls rather than steel bars to separate some criminals, mostly juveniles, from the law abiding public.

The design of Parker Center was predicated on the philosophy that a city police department should be made inviting rather than forbidding to the citizens. Oriented toward the street, the public entrance is surprisingly



CHRIS NICHOLS COLLECTION, MARVIN RAND



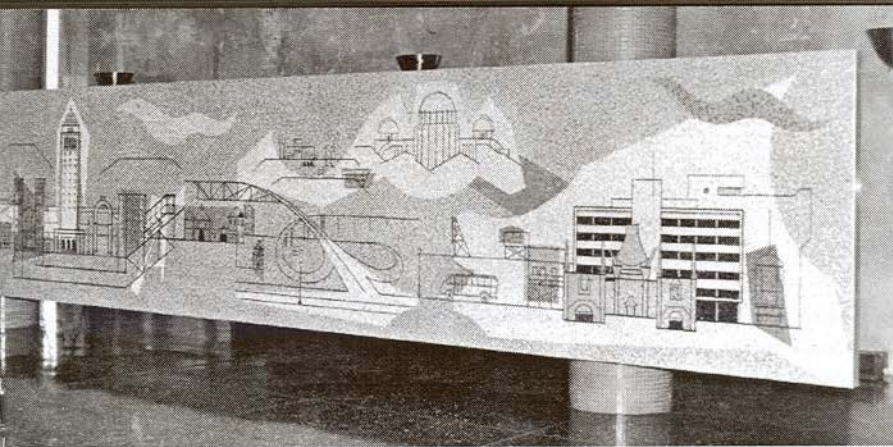


welcoming with landscaping and fountains. Blue mosaic tile covers the ceiling and columns at the entrance and creates a calming effect on visitors. A spacious, lavishly planted plaza, with a pool and modern sculpture, add to the informal atmosphere. All police departments of concern to the general public – such as missing persons, traffic, and information desk were located off this main entrance.

Upon Chief Parker's death in 1966, The Police Facilities Building was renamed for William H. Parker, the creator and father of the modern Los Angeles Police Department. Parker is credited with transforming the force into an efficient, modern police department. This building has an extraordinarily high degree of architectural integrity. All public spaces are virtually unchanged from its opening nearly fifty years ago.







welcoming with landscaping and fountains. Blue mosaic tile covers the ceiling and columns at the entrance and creates a calming effect on visitors. A spacious, lavishly planted plaza, with a pool and modern sculpture, add to the informal atmosphere. All police departments of concern to the general public – such as missing persons, traffic, and information desk were located off this main entrance.

Upon Chief Parker's death in 1966, The Police Facilities Building was renamed for William H. Parker, the creator and father of the modern Los Angeles Police Department. Parker is credited with transforming the force into an efficient, modern police department. This building has an extraordinarily high degree of architectural integrity. All public spaces are virtually unchanged from its opening nearly fifty years ago.





# LOS ANGELES MEMORIAL SPORTS ARENA

## 1959, Intact

Welton Becket and Associates, Architects and Engineers

Brandow and Johnson, Structural Engineers

3939 South Figueroa, Los Angeles, California

The Sports Arena was initially planned by the architectural firm of Morgan Walls and Clements (Wiltern Theater). Despite being far along in the design and construction process, Clements' firm lost out in the bid process to design the arena. Utilizing the existing excavated site, Welton Becket and Associates won the job and developed working plans in an amazing 14 weeks.

The oval bowl shaped arena, the exterior of which is covered in aluminum panels, was an engineering marvel. In order to give every seat a good view, Welton Becket and Associates eliminated interior columns in this arena requiring steel trusses as long as 315 feet. When built, these were the longest steel building trusses ever used in an American building. In a revolutionary design, spectators entered the building at the middle of the seating and walked up or down to one of the 22,400 seats. Half of the seating rows were located below grade.

The first major event held in the new arena was the Democratic National Convention of 1960 during which John F. Kennedy won the party's presidential nomination.

Welton Becket had several other presidential connections. He was a good friend of President Dwight D. Eisenhower and went on to design the Eisenhower Museum in Abilene, Kansas, as well as the Eisenhower House in La Quinta, California. Most intriguing, though, was his role in the Nixon/Khrushchev "Kitchen Debate." Welton Becket and Associates had designed the dome and pavilion for the 1959 American National Exhibition in Moscow. On July 24, 1959, Vice-President Richard Nixon and Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev held a public discussion in the pavilion comparing the technologies of the two super powers.





# SEIBU DEPARTMENT STORE

(now Petersen Automotive Museum)

1962, Altered

Welton Becket and Associates

The Russell Group, Remodeling Architects

6060 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles, California

Seibu was the last department store built on Wilshire Boulevard's Miracle Mile. Seibu Department Stores were a chain that specialized in exotic products from Japan. The stores were designed to feature traditional Japanese touches often interpreted in a Mid-Century Modern vocabulary. The store was short lived and closed after only a few years.

On opening day, the Japanese Modern style of the four-story store was recognized with a design award from Los Angeles Beautiful, a civic group. An unusual feature of this store was the restaurant, located on the roof, and surrounded by a Japanese garden and reflecting pool. The restaurant was linked by a bridge to a penthouse cocktail lounge.

In 1965, Orbach's department store moved from Prudential Square into this building. The Russell Group added the soaring car-wash style fins when the facility was acquired by The Petersen Automotive Museum in 1994. The Petersen is currently planning a major renovation of this building.





# CIVIC CENTERS

## **SALINAS CIVIC COMPLEX**

1957, intact

Welton Becket and Associates, Architects  
200 Lincoln Avenue, Salinas, California

The Salinas Civic Complex is similar to the Pomona Civic Complex but on a more modest scale and perhaps acted as a testing ground for the ambitious Pomona project. A rectangular city hall with circular council chambers is adjacent to a civic plaza.

## **POMONA CITY HALL & COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

1968-69, Intact

Welton Becket and Associates, Architects  
B.H. Anderson, Associate Architect  
505 S. Garey Ave., Pomona, California

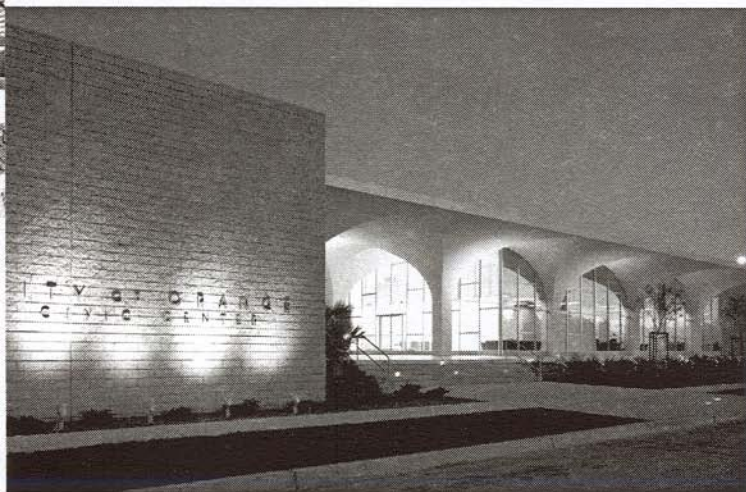
Only six of the planned 12 buildings in the Pomona Civic Center complex were completed. Despite not being fully realized, the Pomona Civic Center can claim the title of largest concentration of Welton Becket designed architecture in the country. The planned monorail station, downtown heliport, shopping mall, civic auditorium, and residential high-rises were never built. All of the buildings that were built were carefully related to each other and feature similar building materials, especially exposed aggregate concrete. Spatial variation in the complex is created by a unifying pedestrian plaza that changes levels and ties the complex together. Completed buildings in the civic complex include: City Hall, Council Chambers, Public Library, Police Department, Superior Courts Building, and the Public Health Building.

## **CITY OF ORANGE CIVIC CENTER**

1963, Intact

Welton Becket and Associates, Architects  
300 East Chapman Avenue,  
Orange, California

Mission Modern, this building gives a winking nod to California's Mission heritage. With slumpstone bricks and mission arches it echoes the past but is unquestionably modern.







## **SANTA MONICA CIVIC AUDITORIUM**

**1958-59, Intact**

Welton Becket and Associates, Architects  
1855 Main Street, Santa Monica, California  
Santa Monica City Landmark

This building seems ready to take off from its site. An icon of the "Jet Age" with its 72-foot concrete masts, parabolic colonnade, and perforated concrete screens; it is a perfect example of architecture of its period. It was also functional, with an innovative hydraulic floor, the largest ever built, which could be reconfigured to accommodate everything from concerts to athletics. With the help of the Modern Committee, the Santa Monica Civic Auditorium was recognized in 2002 as a Santa Monica local landmark.





# CENTURY CITY

## 1959 and later

A four block by six block area bound on the east and west by Century Park East and Century Park West, Santa Monica Boulevard on the north, and Pico Boulevard on the south.

Built on 148 acres, the former site of the historic 20th Century Fox Studio backlot, this stylish master planned utopian community was envisioned as a self contained. "city within a city." Developed by Alcoa Aluminum and William Zeckendorf, the upscale residential, retail, entertainment, and office park is in a lush garden setting with large plazas decorated by fountains and public artworks. The mile wide "city" is divided by the "Avenue of the Stars," which is planted with trees saved from the old movie backlot. Ironically Century City has been featured in several films, most prominently, *Conquest of the Planet of the Apes*.

Significant Welton Becket and Associates buildings in Century City include:

## WELTON BECKET AND ASSOCIATES BUILDING

---

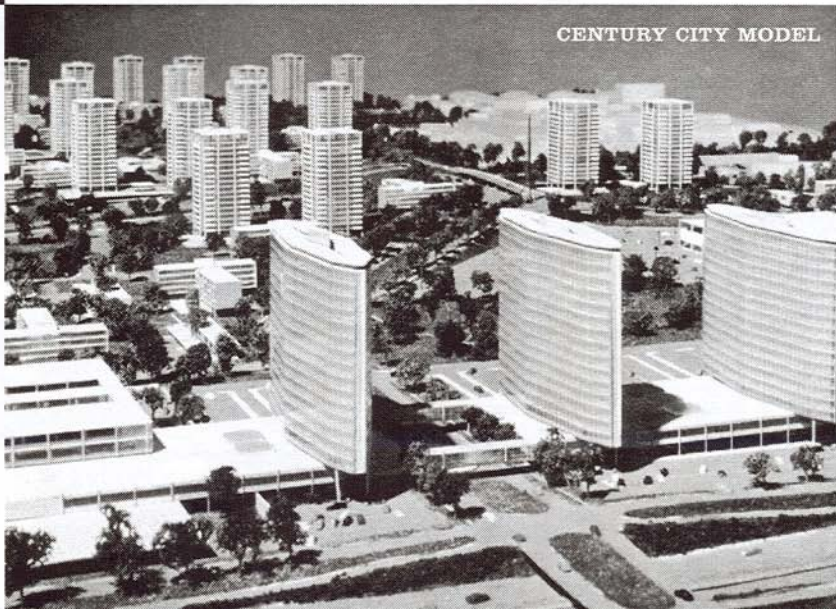
### 1960, Altered

(now Fox Television)

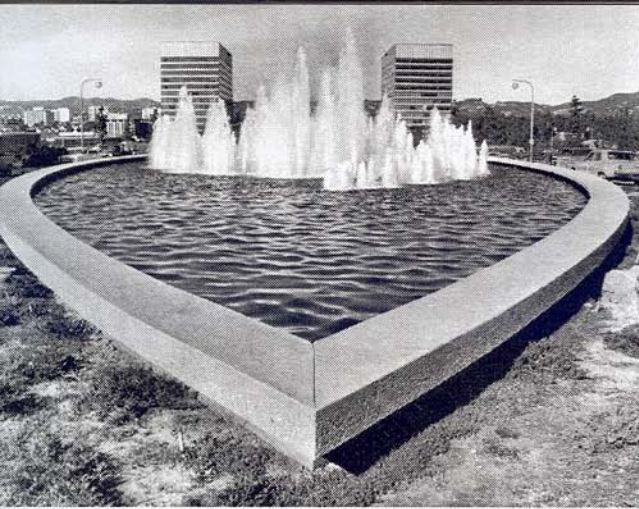
Welton Becket and Associates

10000 Santa Monica Blvd., Century City, California

The first building constructed in Century City. This four-story concrete building featured a rooftop pavilion and floated over a reflecting pool with







**GATEWAY BUILDINGS**



fountains. The mosaic art that covers the façade was created by John Smith, and is intact, although there have been major interior alterations to the building.

## **GATEWAY BUILDINGS**

**West, 1962; East, 1964; Intact**

Welton Becket and Associates

1800 Avenue of the Stars, Century City, California

## **CENTURY CITY SHOPPING CENTER**

**1964; Altered**

10250 Santa Monica Blvd., Century City, California

Open-air suburban-style shopping center in the shadow of the Century City highrises, featuring a 3-level Broadway department store anchoring the center of the complex and a Mayfair market.

## **NORTHROP BUILDING**

**1970 and later, Intact**

Welton Becket and Associates

1800 Century Park East, Century City, California

The first tower from 1970 was followed by another, taller neighbor in the early 1980s. Both are in the brutalist style with intact exteriors.





# CINERAMA DOME

## 1963, Intact

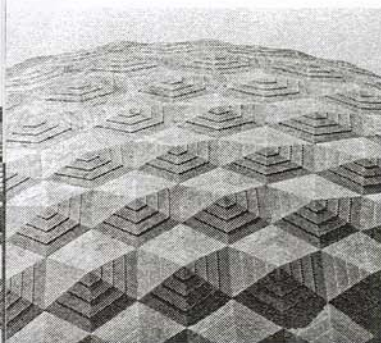
Welton Becket and Associates, Architects;  
Louis Naidorf, Principal Designer; Pierre Cabrol, Designer;  
Richard Prebble, Interiors  
Geometrics Inc., Engineering  
6360 West Sunset Blvd., Hollywood, California  
Historic Cultural Monument #659

Originally this ultra modern architectural icon was built as a prototype for 600 proposed theaters. It was to be a showcase for the three-camera Cinerama process. Ultimately few Cinerama theaters were built. The Cinerama process, first developed in 1952, requires 3 projectors and a curved 90-foot screen. Before the dome was finished, the process was abandoned because of expense and technical difficulties.

This is the only concrete geodesic dome in the world. Becket licensed the patented technique from Buckminster Fuller's Geometrics, Inc. and utilized the design in an innovative 856-seat theater.

Construction cost half as much as most conventional theaters and was built in half the time. 316 pentagonal and hexagonal panels each averaging 80 square feet and weighing 3,200 pounds were bolted together creating the dome which is more than 70 feet tall and weighs more than 700 tons. The 16-foot-high circular concrete base is almost a foot thick.

The grand opening celebration at the Dome was the star-studded premiere of *It's a Mad, Mad, Mad, Mad World* which ran at the theater for 66 weeks. In 2002, after a preservation effort by the Los Angeles Conservancy, Hollywood Heritage and Friends of Cinerama, the historic dome was restored as it became the centerpiece of the new Arclight/Cinerama Dome Entertainment Center. Oddly enough it wasn't until 2002 that the Cinerama Dome actually screened a film shot in the Cinerama process.









# LIBRARIES



As master planners of Civic Centers and Universities, the Becket firm was involved in a number of libraries, including the following:

## **POMONA PUBLIC LIBRARY**

---

**1965, Intact, Interior Altered**

Welton Becket and Associates  
Everett & Tozier, Associate Architects  
625 South Garey Avenue,  
Pomona, California

The Pomona Public Library is an International Style building. The Library is especially dramatic at night because with no internal columns the massive roof seems to float on light.

POMONA PUBLIC LIBRARY



## **KNOX LIBRARY**

---

**U.S. Naval Post Graduate School**

**1968**

Welton Becket and Associates, Architects  
Monterey, California

This large research library is part of the U.S. Naval Post-Graduate School. It was designed to complement the Becket designed academic buildings at the Naval School.



## **GLENDALE PUBLIC LIBRARY**

**1973, Intact**

Welton Becket and Associates, Architects  
Fong, Jung and Nakaba, Landscape Architects  
222 E. Harvard St., Glendale, California

Typical of the Neo-Brutalist Modern style of the early 1970s, the exterior was finished in rough textured concrete. At the entrance the plaza is an outdoor sunken living room. The interior features rare African hardwoods, Herman Miller furniture and Jens Risom designed card catalogs. The ceiling features waffle slabs which absorb sound.

When built, the library had a wonderful view of the Verdugo Hills through a two-story wall of windows. Now, the view is blocked by a retail building across the street.

Other Becket designed Libraries include La Sierra College Library in Riverside California, Salinas Public Library, UCLA Medical Library.





# LOS ANGELES INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

## 1959 and later

One World Way, Los Angeles, California

Group Commission:

Welton Becket and Associates

Pereira & Luckman

Paul R. Williams

Airport Theme Building, Historic Cultural Monument #570

Located on 265 acres, the 46 million dollar Los Angeles airport expansion was built to accommodate the new jet-age, and promoted as "The Gateway to the World." Seven ultramodern ticketing buildings, lining the perimeter of the 5,000 car parking lot, were connected via underground passenger and baggage channels to eight satellite buildings, each with 10 jet loading positions. Each terminal had landscaped "Southern California-style" patios. A 172-foot control tower atop the administration building, covered in aluminum louvers, marked the airport's main entrance.

The new airport's centerpiece and crowning touch was the futuristic Theme Building. It is a modern marvel of engineering and design – one of the most spectacular space age structures in the world. Construction began in April 1960 and was completed in August 1961. On the ground floor visitors entered through the Court of Stars, with a floor of terrazzo stars and a series of huge color transparencies of faraway galaxies. Seventy feet above, the round, split-level "sky-high" restaurant and cocktail lounge provided travelers a bird's eye view of airport activities. The Airport Theme Building was remodeled by Disney Imagineering in 1997 and currently houses the "Encounter" restaurant. Though Becket, Pereira, Luckman and Williams shared equally in the airport project, it is Pereira's office that is generally credited with the Theme Building.



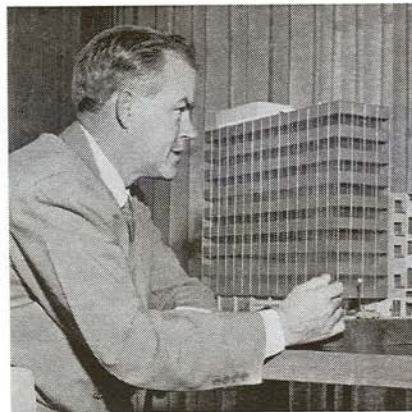


# STANDARD FEDERAL SAVINGS

**1954, Intact, ground floor altered**

Welton Becket and Associates, Architects  
601 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles, California

Standard Federal Savings is a narrow office tower sheathed in blue glass and grey blue enameled steel. It also holds the distinction of being one of the earliest glass curtain wall buildings in America. It became known as the "narrowest little skyscraper in the West."



# CITY NATIONAL BANK

**1956**

Welton Becket and Associates, Architects;  
Maynard Woodard, Design Director; Clyde Whitlow, Project Architect;  
Robert H. Carter, Landscape Architect  
400 North Roxbury Drive at Wilshire Blvd.  
Beverly Hills, California

City National Bank was a colorful addition to Wilshire Boulevard with its "Becket White" structural uprights and spandrels covered in aqua-colored Italian glass mosaic tiles. Projecting aluminum "eyebrows," since removed, originally protected the windows from the sun. Sunshades, a character-defining element of many Mid-Century Modern buildings in Southern California, are rapidly being lost to renovations.





# TRAVELERS INSURANCE



## 1960, Intact

Welton Becket and Associates

3600 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles, California

Twenty-two story office tower with 100,000 square feet of blue Venetian glass mosaic tile on the facade. A stripe of light blue tile runs down the middle of each blue-gray tile spandrel section, set between white pre-cast quartz aggregate columns. An 88-foot-wide approach to the front entrance between twin single story wings forms a plaza area which contains fountains and reflecting pools.

The main lobby features a mosaic mural by Gyorgy Kepes. The mural is 12 feet high and 57 feet long in 4 sections and abstractly portrays the human life span.

# FLUOR CORP BUILDING



## 1973-1976, Intact

Welton Becket and Associates, Architects

Fong, Jung, Nakaba, Landscape Architects

3333 Michelson Drive, Irvine, California

Wurdeman and Becket had a long connection with the Fluor Corporation, beginning with their design for the Fluor corporate offices at 2500 Atlantic Boulevard in Los Angeles in the 1940s. Later, in the early 1970s they designed the Irvine building which was possibly the last project in which Welton Becket had direct involvement. When built, the Fluor Headquarters in Irvine was an early mirrored glass building and a model of energy efficiency. The building is a series of boxes sheathed in silver reflective material with a series of semi-independent stainless steel pods protruding around and above the massive building. These pods house the building's mechanical systems.



# LOST BECKET

## **PAN PACIFIC AUDITORIUM**

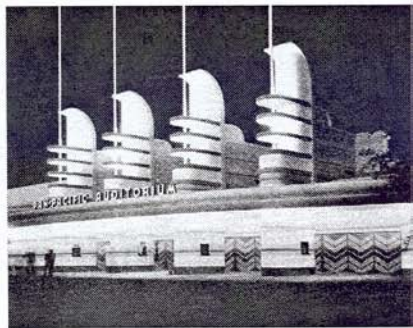
---

**1935, Demolished**

Plummer, Wurdeman and Becket, Architects  
7600 Beverly Blvd., Los Angeles, California

Four Streamline Moderne flagpole towers marking the entrance of this exhibition hall and auditorium made this one of Los Angeles' most beloved architectural icons. The Pan Pacific's style was influenced by the aesthetic of the 1933 Chicago Worlds Fair. It was the result of an architectural competition for the 1935 National Housing Exposition and the first significant commission for the young architectural firm of Plummer, Wurdeman and Becket. It brought the firm a flood of new architectural commissions and an Honor Award from the Southern California Chapter of the AIA.

For many years the Pan Pacific was Southern California's premiere special events center. Ice shows, roller skating competitions, home shows, car shows, rodeos, sporting events and political rallies attracted huge crowds. In 1952, during his election campaign, General Dwight D. Eisenhower addressed an audience of 20,000 people. In 1957 Elvis Presley rocked the house with two sold-out concerts. In the mid 1960s, when the Convention Center was built in downtown Los Angeles, the Pan Pacific fell out of favor and into disrepair. It stood empty for many years. In the early 1980s the auditorium was demolished, but the legendary pylons were saved and slated for restoration. In 1989 just weeks before restoration was to begin, the famous façade caught on fire and was completely destroyed. It is however preserved on film, in *Funny Lady* and *Xanadu*.



## **JAI ALAI BUILDING**

---

**1940, Demolished**

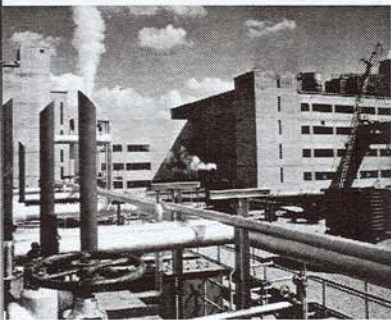
Wurdeman and Becket, Architects  
Taft Avenue, Manila, Republic of the Philippines

One of Wurdeman and Becket's earliest works and similar in style to the Pan Pacific Auditorium, this building has suffered a similar fate. After a local preservation effort, it was razed in 2002. This was the only example of Art Deco in Manila.





# LOST BECKET



## **LEVER BROTHERS**

---

**1951, Demolished**

Welton Becket and Associates, Architects  
6300 Sheila Ave., City of Commerce, CA

This iconic building on the Santa Ana Freeway in Commerce was razed in 1996. The building was one of the first structures built in the industrial City of Commerce and was probably best known for its glass wall fronting the freeway affording a view of the interior free floating 10-story staircase. Before teaming with William Pereira, Charles Luckman was president of Lever Brothers Soap and was responsible for Becket's commission.

## **BECKET RESIDENCE**

---

**1952, Demolished 2002**

Welton Becket and Associates, Architects  
George Hasslein, Project Architect  
248 S. Mapleton Drive, Holmby Hills

Welton Becket's own home in Holmby Hills. It featured heavy timbers and walls of Arizona quartz in a tropical Polynesian setting.



## **SECURITY FIRST NATIONAL BANK**

---

**1960, Demolished**

Welton Becket and Associates, Architects  
Los Angeles Airport

Security First National Bank was built by the Del Webb Construction Company. Del Webb, famous for Las Vegas casinos and the Sun City retirement communities, was at that time one of the largest construction companies in the US. This circular pre-cast bank was notable for its striking 80-foot diameter main lobby surrounded by glass panels suspended from the roof. The roof was supported by a single, large central core or pillar. Access was via a 64-foot bridge over a sunken plaza.



# BIBLIOGRAPHY

- (1942). "Industrial section: R.E. Campbell, general contractor." *California Arts and Architecture* 59: 51-66.
- (1942). "Pueblo del Rio: a low rental housing project." *California Arts and Architecture* 59: 32-35.
- Jones, F. W. (1942). "Pueblo del Rio: Los Angeles' most recent housing project." *Architect and Engineer* 150: 11-21.
- (1944). "Resort hotel for postwar travelers: proposed Hollywood Hotel, Las Vegas, Nevada." *Architectural Record* 96: 74-75.
- (1944). "Theater: a California movie house .." *Architectural Forum* 81: 109-112.
- (1945). "Elementary school ... for Manhattan Beach, Calif. .." *Architectural Forum* 82: 130-131.
- (1945). "Jai alai sports center in Manila." *Architectural Record* 97: 74-79.
- (1946). "\$75,000 showcase .." *Architectural Forum* 84: 98-101.
- (1946). "Show place like home." *Architectural Record* 99: 90-99.
- (1947). "Office buildings." *Architectural Record* 102: 119-146.
- (1947). "Restaurant combines quick counter service and leisurely dining." *Architectural Forum* 86: 82-83.
- (1948). "40 stores." *Architectural Forum* 88: 93-144.
- (1948). "For living between sea and land." *Architectural Record* 104: 109-111.
- (1948). "Houses." *Architectural Record* 104: 82-134.
- (1948). "The years work." *Contract Interiors* 108: 76-113.
- (1949). "Built-in salesmanship and canny construction ...: [Kaiser homes, Los Angeles, Calif.]." *Architectural Forum* 90: 118-122.
- (1949). Miller, L. E. "Prudential Insurance Building, Los Angeles: lightest building per square foot ever built in Los Angeles." *Architect and Engineer* 176: 14-20.
- (1949). "The new general petroleum building." *Arts and Architecture* 66: 43-45.
- (1949). "The office building of tomorrow: General Petroleum office building - Los Angeles." *Architect and Engineer* 177: 16-21.
- (1949). "Two office buildings in Los Angeles are dramatically designed, cannily constructed, full of new techniques." *Architectural Forum* 90: 84-91.
- Portevin, M. (1949). "Wurdeman et Beckett architects Américains." *Construction Moderne* 65: 401-408.
- (1950). "Architects' offices." *Progressive Architecture* 31: 59-76.
- (1951). "Industrial buildings." *Progressive Architecture* 32: 82-96.
- (1951). "Merchandising center: a new store for Bullock's [Westwood, Calif.]." *Arts and Architecture* 68: 29-31.
- (1951). "Regional shopping centers." *Architectural Record* 109: 120-143.
- (1952). "[The Welton Becketts' taste ...]." *House Beautiful* 94: 195-199.
- (1952). "Designed for 600-lb. live loads." *Architectural Record* 112: 154-158.
- (1952). "Hillsdale [Calif.]: ultra-modern shopping center." *NAHB correlator* 6: 26-27.
- (1952). "Small laboratory for oil-well research." *Architectural Record* 111: 169.
- (1952). "Store design." *Architectural Record* 111: 149-178.
- (1953). "Beverly Hilton Hotel, Beverly Hills, Calif." *Architectural Forum* 98: 114-115.
- (1953). "Cadillac, Stonestown agency, San Francisco, California." *Architect and Engineer* 194: 16-21.
- (1953). "Commercial buildings." *Architectural Record* 113: 162-186.
- (1953). "Drive-in United States post office, Los Altos Village (Los Angeles)." *Architect and Engineer* 193: 8-9.
- (1953). "Joseph Magnin store in Stonestown [San Francisco, Calif.]." *Architectural Record* 114: 144-153.
- (1953). "New thinking on shopping centers." *Architectural Forum* 98: 122-145.
- (1953). "Police facilities building, Los Angeles, California." *Architect and Engineer* 193: 7-9.
- (1953). "Remington Rand Building, Los Angeles, Calif." *Architectural Record* 114: 174-176.
- (1954). "Office buildings." *Architectural Record* 115: 186-209.
- (1954). "Standard Federal Savings building, Los Angeles: Becket, Welton and associates." *Architectural Forum* 100: 152-154.
- (1954). "Un exemple de centre commercial aux États-Unis: Stonestown shopping center, San Francisco." *Architecture Française* 15(145): 7-10.
- (1955). "Hospitals." *Architectural Record* 118: 199-226.
- (1955). "Offices in the round: first of its kind, this building tries out new economies, acts as trademark for its owner." *Architectural Forum* 102: 147.
- Becket, W. (1955). "Shopping center traffic problems." *Traffic Quarterly* 9: 162-172.
- (1956). "[The Beverly Hilton Hotel, Beverly Hills, Calif.]." *Architectural Forum* 104: 124-127.
- (1956). "Bank and rental offices: City National Bank building, Beverly Hills, Cal." *Architectural Record* 120: 181-186.



- (1956). "Buildings for retailing." *Architectural Record* 119: 205-228.
- (1956). "Built in the round for economy: [Capitol Records bldg., Hollywood, Calif.]." *Architectural Forum* 105: 155.
- (1956). "Four bright new homes for industry." *Architectural Forum* 105: 136-151.
- (1956). "L'agence de l'architecte Welton Becket à Los Angeles." *Architecture d'Aujourd'hui* 27(67): 67.
- (1956). "Modern hospital: Mount Sinai in Los Angeles." *Arts and Architecture* 73: 18-20.
- (1956). "P/A Design Survey for 1956 and Third Annual Design Awards Program." *Progressive Architecture* 37: 75-123.
- (1956). "Police headquarters, Los Angeles, Calif." *Progressive Architecture* 37: 108-115.
- (1957). "High-rise office buildings." *Progressive Architecture* 38: 159-191.
- (1957). "Hotels." *Architectural Record* 121: 213-240.
- (1957). "Modern office." *Arts and Architecture* 74: 28-29.
- (1957). "Modern plant by Welton Becket and Assoc., archts., engrs." *Arts and Architecture* 74: 18-19.
- (1957). "Office buildings." *Architectural Record* 121: 227-249.
- (1957). "Verwaltungsgebäude einer Spar- und Darlehensbank in Los Angeles, Kalifornien." *Bauen und Wohnen* 11(6): 193-195.
- (1958). "[Examples of recent work of Welton Becket and Associates, Los Angeles, Calif.]." *Michigan Society of Architects. Monthly bulletin* 32: 87.
- (1958). "A large module for motor co.: general offices." *Architectural Record* 124: 203-206.
- (1958). "Civic Arena, Los Angeles Memorial Sports Arena, Exposition Park, L.A." *Architectural Record* 123: 212.
- (1958). "Henry Kaiser's compound hostelry at the crossroads of the Pacific." *Contract Interiors* 117: 108-113.
- (1958). "Hotel Beverly Hilton, Beverly Hills, Kalifornien." *Bauen und Wohnen* 12(4): 115-117.
- (1958). "KTVU-channel 2, studio building, Oakland, Calif." *Architect and Engineer* 212: 5.
- (1958). "Nevada's newest: Clark County courthouse, Las Vegas, Nev." *Architect and Engineer* 213: 10-11.
- (1958). "Wavy roof for bathers." *Architectural Forum* 109: 128-129.
- (1959). "[Santa Monica Civic Auditorium: Welton Becket and Assoc., archts.-engrs]." *Progressive Architecture* 40: 150-151.
- (1959). "Acoustical excellence in a campus music building." *Architect and Engineer* 217: 38-39.
- (1959). "Blockbuster in Dallas: [Southland center]." *Architectural Forum* 111: 94-101.
- (1959). "Buildings for correction." *Architectural Record* 126: 215-230.
- (1959). "Designing the Moscow exhibit." *Architectural Record* 126: 169-176.
- (1959). "Extension de l'hôpital des vétérans centre des traitement et de rééducation pour les paralysés." *Architecture d'aujourd'hui* 30: 50-51.
- (1959). "Hospitals." *Architectural Record* 125: 195-222.
- (1959). "Industrial building." *Architectural Record* 125: 147-170.
- (1959). "Modern hotel: [Nile Hilton Hotel, Cairo]." *Arts and Architecture* 76: 16-17.
- (1959). "Office building and hotel combined, Southland Center, Dallas, Texas." *Architectural Record* 126: 141-146.
- (1959). "Office building: [Humble Oil and Refining Co.]." *Arts and Architecture* 76: 30-31.
- (1959). "Visitor's center for National park vacationers." *Architectural Record* 126: 210-211.
- (1959). "Welton Becket and Associates." *Contract Interiors* 119: 110-131.
- (1960). "An economical sized elliptical arena." *Architect and Engineer* 219: 28-30.
- (1960). "Arènes sportives, Los Angeles." *Architecture d'aujourd'hui* 31: 91-92.
- (1960). "Commercial development: the new Cullen Center for Houston, Texas." *Arts and Architecture* 77: 16-17.
- (1960). "Headquarters building columns framed outside: [Bethlehem Steel Co., San Francisco, Calif.]." *Architectural Record* 128: 205-210.
- (1960). "Headquarters building for the California Teachers Association." *Arts and Architecture* 77(5): 10-11.
- (1960). "International airport, San Francisco, Calif." *Architectural Record* 128: 177-179.
- (1960). "Kaiser Center, Oakland, Calif." *Architectural Record* 128: 117-122.
- (1960). "Kaiser Center." *Arts and Architecture* 77: 10-13.
- (1960). "Lakeside colossus." *Architect and Engineer* 220: 17-21.
- (1960). "Southland Center: Welton Becket and Associates, archts. and engrs." *Arts and Architecture* 77: 10-11.
- (1960). "Sports arena." *Arts and Architecture* 77: 10-11.



- (1960). "The schoolteachers' suburban palace." *Western Architect and Engineer* 219: 16-21.
- (1960). Welton Becket and Associates, architects--engineers. *Vision ... through supervision.* Corp Author(s): Welton Becket and Associates, Los Angeles
- (1961). "Los Angeles Music Center." *Architectural Forum* 114: 53.
- (1961). "Small public library." *Arts and Architecture* 78: 12-13.
- (1961). "U.S. Embassy in Warsaw, Poland." *Architectural Record* 130: 13.
- (1962). "Hospitals." *Architectural Record* 132: 171-194.
- (1962). "Ingenuity in aluminum." *Contract Interiors* 121: 109-113.
- (1962). "Kaiser Center Roof Garden." *Landscape Architecture* 53(1): 14-18.
- (1962). "Kleine Bibliothek in Salinas, Kalifornien." *Baukunst und Werkform* 15: 135-136.
- (1962). "Office buildings." *Architectural Record* 131: 177-200.
- (1962). "Student residence hall: [Dykstra Hall, University of California at Los Angeles]." *Arts and Architecture* 79: 29.
- (1963). "[Seibu Department Store, Los Angeles, Calif.]." *Architectural Record* 133: 159-182.
- (1963). "Design against sun and glare." *Architectural Record* 134: 173-178.
- (1963). "For expansion in two stages: [Salinas Public Library, California]." *Architectural Record* 133: 166-167.
- (1963). "Stadiums." *Architectural Forum* 119: 96-104.
- (1963). "Stores." *Architectural Record* 133: 159-182.
- (1964). "Hispanic overtones for Bullock's San Fernando [and] Saks Fifth Avenue in sun-baked Arizona." *Contract Interiors*: 75-78.
- (1964). *Vision ... through supervision,* Corp Author(s): Welton Becket and Associates, Los Angeles.
- (1965). "Apartments." *Architectural Record* 137: 197-220.
- (1965). "Hospitals." *Architectural Record* 137: 161-180.
- (1965). "Los Angeles Music Center." *Interior Design* 36: 166-171.
- (1965). "North Carolina Mutual Life Insurance Company, Raleigh." *Architectural Forum* 122: 25.
- (1965). "Offices, Phillips Petroleum, Bartlesville, Oklahoma." *Interior Design* 36: 128-137.
- (1965). "Small banks: a sampling of current work." *Architectural Record* 137: 191-200.
- (1965). "Stores." *Architectural Record* 137: 187-210.
- (1965). "Une banque à l'Aéroport international de Los Angeles." *Architecture Française* 26: 9-11.
- (1966). "[Interiors of] offices and banks: cross-country round-up." *Contract Interiors* 126(2): 112-117.
- (1966). "Hospitals: trends in planning." *Architectural Record* 140(4): 197-216.
- (1966). "Space frame costs less than \$4 a square foot." *Architectural Record* 139: 181-184.
- (1966). "Symbolic structure in the South." *Progressive Architecture* 47: 222-226.
- (1966). "Ten buildings that climax an era." *Fortune* 74(7): 156-162.
- (1967). "Century Square: shopping center within a city within a city." *Producers' Council. Technical Bulletin*(121): 32-35.
- (1967). "Fun on the Sun Coast." *Progressive Architecture* 48: 192-193.
- (1967). "Hospitals." *Architectural Record* 142(3): 189-204.
- Sheehan, R. (1967). "Portrait of the artist as a businessman." *Fortune* 75(3): 144-148.
- (1968). "Image and elegance in precast concrete." *Architectural Record* 143: 137-142.
- (1968). "New approach for shopping centers." *Architectural Record* 143(4): 167-180.
- (1968). "New approaches for shopping centers: building types study 382." *Architectural Record* 143(4): 167-180.
- (1969). "Evolution in precast concrete: two major buildings for insurance companies in the U.S.A." *Concrete* 3: 356-359.
- (1969) Becket, W.. "Jacksonville's new tower: two disciplines unified." *American Institute of Architects. Journal* 50(2): 51-54.
- (1969). "Stores in urban and suburban shopping centers." *Architectural Record* 146(1): 135-150.
- (1971) Hunt, W. D.. *Total design; architecture of Welton Becket and Associates.* New York, McGraw-Hill.
- (1997) *Designing Disney's theme parks : the architecture of reassurance.* New York, Flammarion.
- (2001) Wharton, J.D. *Building the Cold War: Hilton International Hotels and Modern Architecture.* Chicago, University of Chicago Press.
- (2001) Keane, J.T. Fritz B Burns and the development of Los Angeles: the biography of a community developer and philanthropist. Los Angeles, Loyola Marymount University.
- (2003) "Fritz B. Burns and the Palisades del Rey" Department of Archives & Special Collections, Loyola Marymount



# SELECTED PROJECTS

The following is a sampling of Becket projects not listed elsewhere in this booklet. Information is as accurate as possible.

Year	Building	Condition	Address	Associated Architects/Partners
1935	M.C. Taylor Residence		254 McCarty Place Beverly Hills, CA	Plummer, Wurdeman & Becket
1935	Clifton's Brookdale Cafeteria	Altered	648 South Broadway Los Angeles, CA	Plummer, Wurdeman & Becket
1936	Tilford's Restaurant (Now MTA Building)	Altered	5301 Wilshire Blvd. Los Angeles, CA	Wurdeman & Becket
1941	Frontier Club		Las Vegas, NV	
1940's	William Goetz Residence		411 3/4 Spalding Drive Los Angeles, CA	
1940's	Robert Montgomery Residence		Los Angeles, CA	
1940's	Henry Morgan Residence		Los Angeles, CA	
1940's	James Cagney Residence		2043 Coldwater Canyon Dr. Beverly Hills, CA	
1940's	Walter Wurdeman Residence		228 Copa De Ora Road Los Angeles, CA	Wurdeman & Becket
1940's	Bercu Tobacco Shop/Mobil Bldg.		Los Angeles, CA	
1940's	Fluor Corp. Executive Offices		2500 Atlantic Los Angeles, CA	Wurdeman & Becket
1940's	Barker Brothers Dept. Store		3700 W. Santa Barbara Los Angeles, CA	
1940's	Hollywood Memorial Cemetery (Hollywood Forever Cemetery)	Intact	6000 Santa Monica Blvd. Los Angeles, CA	
1948	Mausoleum			
1950's	Lobby			
1945	Hillcrest Country Club		10000 West Pico Blvd. Los Angeles, CA	Wurdeman & Becket
1945	Lerner's Dept. Store		Los Angeles, CA	Wurdeman & Becket
1945	Elementary School		Manhattan Beach, CA	
1945	Wurdeman & Becket Office	Lost	3757 Wilshire Blvd. Los Angeles, CA	Wurdeman & Becket
1946	Buffum's Department Store	Altered	Pine & Broadway Long Beach, CA	Wurdeman & Becket
1946	Buffum's (Superior Court & Probation Dept.)	Altered	Main Street & 10th Santa Ana, CA	Wurdeman & Becket
1948	Cock 'n Bull Restaurant - Interiors	Lost	Sunset Blvd. West Hollywood, CA	
1948	Van De Kamp's Restaurant	Lost	Wilshire Blvd. Los Angeles	Wayne D. McAllister



Year	Building	Condition	Address	Associated Architects/Partners
1949	Wurdeman & Becket Office Building (Welton Becket and Associates)	Altered	5657 Wilshire Blvd. Los Angeles, CA	Wurdeman & Becket
1950	B.D. Howe & Sons Jewelers (Jim Dickson Realtors)		336 S. Lake Avenue Pasadena, CA	
1950	McCulloch Motors Employment Bldg.		West Century Blvd. El Segundo, CA	
1950	General Insurance Company of America		Wilshire Blvd. Los Angeles, CA	
1950's	Veteran's Hospital		5901 East 7th Long Beach, CA	
1950's	Mariposa Apartments		El Monte, CA	
1962	Panorama Towers		8155 Van Nuys Blvd. Panorama City, CA	
1951	Lockheed Engineering Bldg.		Hollywood Way Burbank, CA	
1952	Abbey Rents Showroom & Warehouse		Los Angeles, CA	
1952	Hollywood Bowl (Remodel)		Hollywood, CA	
1953	Hilton Hotel Offices		9990 Wilshire Blvd. Beverly Hills, CA	
1953	Post Office		Los Altos Village Los Angeles, CA	
1953	Hody's Restaurant		Long Beach, CA	Wayne D. McAllister
1954	Mess Hall & Recreation Building		Calif. Air National Guard Van Nuys, CA	
1954	Office & Recreation Center Anaconda Wire & Cable Company		Palm & Lemon Orange, CA	
1955	Robert McCulloch House	Threatened	Thunderbird Country Club Rancho Mirage, CA	
1955	Broadway Department Store (now Wal-Mart)	Altered	8333 Van Nuys Blvd. Panorama City	
1955	Hospital and Dental Clinic Marine Corps Auxiliary Air Station		Mojave, CA	
1955	Western Geophysical Co. Office Bldg.			
1955	American Airlines Building		Los Angeles, CA	
1956	Mount Sinai Hospital (Cedars Sinai's 1st Bldg)		8712 Beverly Blvd. Los Angeles, CA	
1957	Interscott Realty Company		Beverly Hills, CA	
1958	Clark Center		Los Angeles, CA	
1958	Santa Monica Beach Facilities		1642 The Promenade Santa Monica, CA	



Year	Building	Condition	Address	Associated Architects/Partners
1958	May Co. Department Store		Pico Blvd. & Overland Ave. Los Angeles, CA	
1958	Elizabeth Arden Offices and Showroom		9700 Wilshire Blvd. Beverly Hills, CA	
1958	Airport Marina Hotel - Low Rise	Altered	8601 Lincoln Blvd.	
1965	Airport Marina Hotel - Tower		Inglewood, CA	
1958	Los Coyotes Country Club		Buena Park, CA	
1958	Linda Isle		Newport Beach, CA	
1958	Henry Clay Jr. High School		12226 S. Western Avenue Los Angeles, CA	
1958	Del Amo Shopping Center	Altered	3 Del Amo Fashion Square Torrance, CA	
1955-59	Consolidated Electrodynamics		Pasadena, CA	
1959	Northrop		Century City	
1955-60	Bendix Electronic Center		Sylmar, CA	
1960	Security First National Bank (Remodel of existing building)		561 S. Spring Street Los Angeles, CA	
1960	City National Bank		Palm Springs, CA	
1960	Santa Barbara Fire Station		Santa Barbara, CA	
1960	San Francisco Int'l Airport South Terminal	Altered	South San Francisco, CA	
1960	Packard Bell Electronics		Ventura, CA	
1960	City National Bank		Los Angeles, CA	
1960	Smith and Lang Department Store		Stockton, CA	
1961	Veterans Administration Hospital	Altered	3801 Miranda Avenue Palo Alto, CA	
1961	Eisenhower Residence		Eldorado Country Club, 11th Fairway Indian Wells, CA	
1962	Buffum's	Altered	2nd Street Pomona, CA	Millard Sheets
1962	Sheraton Plaza La Reina Hotel & Office Complex	Intact	Century Blvd. Los Angeles, CA	
1962	The May Company Department Store (Remodel)		8th & Broadway Los Angeles, CA	
1962	Hollywood Bowl (re-design)	Altered	Hollywood, CA	
1963	St. Joseph's Hospital Chapel	Altered	501 South Buena Vista Burbank, CA	
1963	Eisenhower Medical Center		Rancho Mirage, CA	
1963	McCarren Field Terminal		Las Vegas, NV	



Year	Building	Condition	Address	Associated Architects/Partners
1963	L. A. County Harbor General Hospital		Carson & 220th Sts. Torrance, CA	
1963	First Western Bank – Computer Facility		6111 E. Washington Los Angeles, CA	
1963-64	International Airport Hotel	Altered	Los Angeles, CA	
1964	Santa Monica Shores (Ocean Park Project)		2720 Neilson Way Santa Monica, CA	
1964	Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall		7285 E. Quill Drive Downey, CA	
1964	Ohrbach's Department Store		Panorama City, CA	
1964	Mutual Savings Building		Pasadena, CA	
1964	General Electric Attraction "Carousel of Progress" 1964-1965 New York's World Fair	Moved	New York, NY (Moved to Disneyland)	
1964	Larchmont Medical Building	Intact	321 N. Larchmont Blvd. Los Angeles, CA	
1963-65	Security First National Bank		Santa Ana, CA	
1965	Automobile Club of Southern Calif. Beverly Hills-Westwood Office		1950 Century Park East Century City, CA	
1965	United Savings and Loan		9800 S. Sepulveda Blvd. Los Angeles, CA	
1965	U.S.A.F Medical Facility		March Air Force Base Riverside, CA	
1965	Science Center and Construction Museum		Pepperdine College Malibu, CA	
1965	Los Feliz Estates		Los Bonitos Way Los Angeles, CA	
1965	Bachelors Officer's Quarters		Vandenberg Air Force Base Vandenberg, CA	
1965	Security First National Bank - Branch		1901 Avenue of the Stars Century City, CA	
1965	KTLA-5 TV Additions		5800 W. Sunset Blvd. Los Angeles, CA	
1965	Monterey West		Monterey Park, CA	
1965	McCulloch Office Buildings		Los Angeles, CA	
1965	Webb-F.A.A. Office Building			
1970	First Western Bank Center		Los Angeles, CA	
1966	Douglas Aircraft Company Building		Orange County, CA	
1966	Federal Office Building		Los Angeles Street Los Angeles, CA	
1966	Oliver Wendell Holmes		Northridge, CA	



Year	Building	Condition	Address	Associated Architects/Partners
1966	Bank of America	Intact	6300 Sunset Blvd. Hollywood, CA	
1967	Security Pacific National Bank Tower & Branch		950 Westwood Blvd. Westwood, CA	
1967	Greyhound Bus Terminal	Altered	6th & Los Angeles Sts. Los Angeles, CA	
1967	Fashion Island Shopping Center (Newport Center)	Altered	401 Newport Center Drive Newport Beach, CA 92660	
1967	Hirschmann Corporation Building	Intact	3477 Fletcher El Monte, CA	
1968	U.S. Naval Postgraduate School Academic Building		Monterey, CA	
1968	Los Angeles Music and Art School		3630 E. 3rd Street Los Angeles, CA	
1968	McCulloch Building		Westwood & Wilshire Blvds. Westwood Village, CA	
1969	The May Company Department Store		5000 Montclair Plaza Lane Montclair, CA	
1969	Keith Spalding Bldg. of Business Science		Caltech Pasadena, CA	
1969	Bullock's Department Store		100 East Fashion Square La Habra, CA	
1960s	St. Jude Hospital (extension)		Fullerton, CA	
1960s	Wilshire Medical Arts		Los Angeles, CA	
1960s	El Toro Marine Hospital		El Toro, CA	
1960s	Independence Life Building		Pasadena, CA	
1960s	Pasadena Mutual Building		Pasadena, CA	
1960s	Camp Stuart Mesa Hospital		Camp Pendleton CA	
1968-70	Centinela Valley Community Hospital		550 East Hardy Inglewood, CA	
1969-71	Olive View Hospital Medical Treatment & Care Facility	Lost	14445 Olive View Drive Sylmar, CA	Charles Luckman Associates
1970	Wells Fargo Bank - Branch		1800 Century Park East Century City, CA	
1970	Northrop Building I	Intact	1800 Century Park East Century City, CA	Maguire-Thomas Partners
1970	Sears Los Cerritos Department Store		Cerritos, CA	
1970	Security Pacific Bank Operations Center	Intact	100 North Brand Glendale, CA	
1971	United California Bank		Panorama City, CA	



Year	Building	Condition	Address	Associated Architects/Partners
1971	Avco Financial Tower		620 Center Drive Newport Beach, CA	
1971	Mechanics Bank Building (Mechanics Tower)		Front & Salem Sts. Worcester, MA 01608	
1972	Security Pacific National Bank - Branch		10950 Wilshire Blvd. Westwood, CA	
1972	West Coast University		440 Shatto Place Los Angeles, CA	
1972	Tishman Building	Intact	10960 Wilshire Blvd. Westwood Village, CA	
1972	Apartments		Marina Del Rey, CA	
1970s	Taylor Ranch		Ventura, CA	
1970s	The May Company Department Store		San Bernardino, CA	
1970s	The May Company Department Store		Buena Park Center Buena Park, CA	
1970s	The May Company Department Store		El Rancho Santa Anita Arcadia, CA	
1970s	Garrett Corporation Remodel	Proposed	Torrance, CA	
1970s	Wells Fargo Bank		Hollywood, CA	
1970s	Crocker Citizen's Bank	Intact	Del Amo Shopping Center Torrance, CA	
1970s	Tishman Building	Intact	Los Angeles International Airport Los Angeles, CA	
1970s	Western Federal Savings and Loan		La Habra, CA	
1970s	Newport Beach Civic Center		Newport Beach, CA	
1970s	Downtown Riverside master plan		Riverside, CA	
1970s	La Sierra College Library		Riverside, CA	
1970s	Computer Sciences Corp Aerospace Corp.		El Segundo, CA	
1970s	I. Magnin		Santa Clara, CA	
1970s	Newhall Civic Center		Newhall, CA	



## FEATURED SPEAKERS

### **ALAN HESS**

---

Alan Hess is an author of *Palm Springs Weekend* and the architecture critic for the San Jose Mercury News. His landmark books include *Googie* and *Viva Las Vegas*. He divides his time between Detroit and the San Francisco Bay Area.

### **LEO MARMOL**

---

Leo Marmol, AIA is managing principal of Marmol Radziner + Associates in Santa Monica, a unique design-build practice led by architects. With a passion for Mid-Century Modern residences, Marmol's extensive research and creative construction methods have resulted in numerous awards for Marmol Radziner + Associates' renovation and restoration work. Several noteworthy examples include the restoration of homes by Frank Lloyd Wright, Richard Neutra and R.M. Schindler.

### **MARTIN BROWER**

---

A native of Los Angeles, Martin Brower graduated from UCLA where he was editor-in-chief of the *UCLA Daily Bruin*. Brower was with Welton Becket and Associates as Vice President in charge of Public Relations from 1959 through 1973. In 1973, Brower left Becket to become director of Public Relations for the Irvine Company. Today, Brower writes a monthly column for *Coast* magazine in Orange County.

### **STEPHEN KANNER**

---

Stephen Kanner, FAIA, President of Kanner Architects, received his Masters Degree in Architecture in 1980 from the University of California at Berkeley. He became the firm's president in 1998 with the passing of his father Charles Kanner, FAIA. He is the chairman of the new A+D (Architecture+Design) Museum in Los Angeles. Kanner Architects recently won the 2002 Los Angeles Conservancy Historic Preservation Award for the Bullock's Westwood/10861 Building.

### **LOUIS NAIDORF**

---

Louis M. Naidorf, FAIA was Director of Design for Welton Becket and Associates. He was with the firm from 1950-1993. From 1990-2000 he served as dean of the school of Architecture at Woodbury University. Some of his major Los Angeles projects for Becket include: Capitol Records, Santa Monica Civic Auditorium, Los Angeles Memorial Sports Arena and the Becket office building in Century City.

### **RUTH SHELLHORN**

---

Ruth P. Shellhorn graduated from the Landscape Architecture program at Cornell University in 1933. Her landscape projects for Wurdeman and Becket include: Bullock's Pasadena and Palm Springs, Prudential Square and the Santa Monica Civic Auditorium. In 1955, Shellhorn was consulting landscape architect and site planner for Disneyland in Anaheim and the *Los Angeles Times* named her "Woman of the year."

### **ROBERT TYLER**

---

Robert Tyler, FAIA graduated cum laude first in class from USC School of Architecture in 1952. Later that year he went to work for Welton Becket and Associates as a designer; he went on to become design director and design principal. Some of Mr. Tyler's projects include: Equitable, Travelers and Texaco buildings on Wilshire Blvd., as well as the master plan and Contemporary Hotel at Walt Disney World.





## BRUCE BECKET

Mr. Becket's son, Bruce David Becket, A.I.A. is an architect and President of the firm of Bruce Becket and Associates practicing in California with offices in Los Angeles. In addition, Mr. Becket provides real estate development services for clients under the Becket Development Corporation. His education includes the University of Washington, California State Polytechnic University (SLO), and the Ecole Des Beaux Arts in Fontainebleau, France. He holds a Bachelor of Architecture degree and a Bachelor of Science in Architectural Engineering. His spare time is spent on his own hands-on construction projects.

His wife Sharon manages a ranch property owned by Becket Development Corporation. His daughter Alisa is currently travel program manager at the Museum of Contemporary Art in Los Angeles, daughter Alexandra is a textile designer. Alisa and Alexandra are active in the Los Angeles Conservancy. Son Mark recently graduated from Colorado State University.



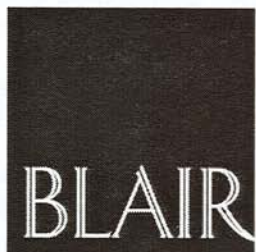
## WELTON M. BECKET

Mr. Becket's son, Welton MacDonald Becket, graduated from Chouinard Art School in Los Angeles. He is a Project Manager at Meeks and Partners in Newport Beach, California. He and his wife, Karen, live in Laguna Beach where Mrs. Becket has an antique shop. Their children are: Welton Becket, Associate Director with Susquehanna International Group in Philadelphia; Cayce Becket, Project Manager with INARCH, LLC in New York City; Heidi Becket, an independent Graphic Designer in Chico, California; Dr. Marc Taub, Medical Director of Emergency Services at South Coast Medical Center in Laguna Beach; Dr. Lora Taub-Pervizpour, Professor of Communications at Muhlenberg College in Allentown, Pennsylvania.

The Conservancy is grateful to the entire Becket family for their assistance in this program and for opening their extraordinary archives to us.



SPONSORED BY



an *ARC* company

[www.blairgfx.com](http://www.blairgfx.com)

**MARMOL RADZINER**  
AND ASSOCIATES    AIA

[www.marmol-radziner.com](http://www.marmol-radziner.com)

***NORTHROP GRUMMAN***

[www.northropgrumman.com](http://www.northropgrumman.com)



## **MARCH 4, 2003 EVENT**

Executive Producer ..... Chris Nichols  
Producer ..... Alan Leib  
Panel Moderator ..... Leo Marmol  
Keynote Speaker ..... Alan Hess

### **FILM**

Produced, directed  
and written by ..... Alan Leib  
Edited by ..... Dan Reed  
Original Music by ..... The Millionaire  
Narration by ..... Alan Leib  
Archival Film Transfer by ..... A. Lori Tucci  
and Jim Tucci  
A/V Technical Support by ..... Paul Mulder

### **EXHIBIT**

Alexandra Becket	Michael Palumbo
Bruce Becket	Leah Tadena
Welton M. Becket	

## **BUILT BY BECKET COMMITTEE**

Alexandra Becket	Alan Leib
Alisa Becket	Leo Marmol
Bruce Becket	Jane McNamara
Sharon Becket	Tony Merchell
Welton M. Becket	Chris Nichols
Adriene Biondo	Michael Palumbo
Bruce Emerton	Daniel Paul
John English	Marvin Rand
Charlene Gould	Julia Rose
Chris Green	

It is believed that the information, quotations, and dates  
contained in this booklet are reasonably accurate

## **MARCH 8, 2003 TOUR**

Bullock's Pasadena  
Site Captain ..... Adriene Biondo  
Music Center  
Site Captain ..... Daniel Lynch Millner  
Post-War House  
Site Captain ..... Chris Nichols

## **THANK YOU**

Ron Avery/MPTV  
Robert Brugeman, Michael Forman,  
Christopher Forman, and Amy Wood,  
Pacific Theatres  
Carolyn Cole, L.A. Public Library  
Millie Crespo, Macy's Pasadena  
Luis De La Cruz, Music Center/Performing Arts  
Center of Los Angeles  
George Ellison, Glendale Public Library  
Sandra Evers-Manly and Richard Racklin,  
Northrop Grumman  
Dennis Fredericks and Ray Layton,  
Los Angeles Turners  
David Glomb  
Janie Hoffman  
Kanner Architects  
Gary Krakower and Rick Porter, Blair Graphics  
Pete Moruzzi  
Susan Mossman, Pasadena Heritage  
Palm Springs Modern Committee  
Charles Phoenix  
Jerry Rubin  
Julius Shulman  
Social Blueprint  
Larry Underhill  
Martin Eli Weil  
Mary Alice Wollam  
and of course, the  
Los Angeles Conservancy Volunteers



# MODERN COMMITTEE

**T**HE LOS ANGELES CONSERVANCY MODERN COMMITTEE is a volunteer group formed in 1984 in response to the rapid destruction of a generation of postwar buildings. The Modern Committee's focus is 20th century architecture and related fields which reflect the heritage of Modernism and popular culture. The Modern Committee plans tours, exhibitions and lectures, researches and nominates buildings for landmark designation, and serves as an advocate for Modern design.

## **Why a Modern Committee?**

Recently there has been a tremendous resurgence of interest in the Modern era: furniture, décor, fashion and music. Modern buildings are also popular again: homes, motels, hotels, restaurants, cocktail lounges, offices, retail shops, banks, supermarkets, bowling alleys, and theaters.

But the real world of tomorrow has been less than kind when looking back at its own first steps. Tragic remodeling and wanton demolition of many of our greatest Modern buildings has already taken place. The few remaining examples of this period are often endangered by new development.

"ModCom" holds regular monthly meetings to plan educational events such as tours, exhibitions and lectures; research and nominate landmarks; organize field trips; and serve as advocates for Modern design.

Contact the Los Angeles Conservancy for more information at:

523 W. Sixth St.  
Suite 826  
Los Angeles, CA  
90014

Tel: 213-623-2489  
Fax: 213-623-3909

[www.laconservancy.org](http://www.laconservancy.org)

[www.modcom.org](http://www.modcom.org)





WELTON BECKET AND ASSOCIATES OFFICE, CENTURY CITY, 1960