Dear AIA|SFV Members and Friends,

In July of 1987, AIA San Fernando Valley received its official charter. In honor of this significant occasion, we would like to look back to our beginnings and recognize the substantial accomplishments of our founders and leaders.

Sincerely,

AIA|SFV Communications Committee

1949 print ad from the Architects of the San Fernando Valley. The group's motto was "A greater and more beautiful San Fernando Valley through better planning and construction."
Beginnings: Post-War Building Boom

The post-war building boom that transformed the San Fernando Valley from farmland to suburbs brought an immediate need for architects. Published figures indicate that more than three-quarters of new subdivisions created in Los Angeles between 1945 and the early 1950's were in the growing communities of the San Fernando Valley.

In 1946 several architects living and working in the San Fernando Valley decided to meet once a month for lunch to exchange ideas and to help each other in their practices. The original group called themselves Architects of the San Fernando Valley. Most were members of the Southern California Chapter of the AIA and were interested in working with government reps to make an impact on local development.

Architects of the San Fernando Valley, 1946-1959
Presidents
1946   J. Robert Harris & Don Ayres
1946   Henry F. Withey
1948   Lyle N. Barcume
1949   John Alec Murray & Lucille Bryant Raport
1950   Harry W. Hillier & Robert B. Stacy-Judd
1951   Stanley A. Moe & George H. David
1952   Leo P. Rafaelli
1953   R. Martin Snell
1954   Olive Kingsley Chadeayne
1955   Joe Jordan
1956   Hans Waller
1957   Leon Edgar
1958   Robert G. Johnson
1959   Howard R. Lane

Richard Neutra's Fine Arts Building at San Fernando Valley State College (now California State University at Northridge (CSUN). Completed in March 1960. Photograph by Julius Shulman.

Growth and Change: AIA San Fernando Valley District & AIA|LA Section
In 1960, Howard R. Lane, AIA (later FAIA) led the Valley architects into formal association with the AIA as the San Fernando Valley District of the Southern California Chapter. He later served as president of both the Southern California chapter and the California Council. As the growth of the region caused the creation of new chapters, the Southern California Chapter became the Los Angeles Chapter in 1977 and the Valley became a Section of the Chapter.

### AIA Southern California Chapter

**San Fernando Valley District**

**1960-1976 Presidents**
- 1960 Howard R. Lane, FAIA
- 1961 Joe Jordan, AIA
- 1962 Howard Mielke, AIA
- 1963 Harold Levitoff, AIA
- 1964 William E. Mader, AIA
- 1965 Bert E. Levine, AIA
- 1966 John J. Stockemer, AIA
- 1967 Stephen U. Gassman, AIA
- 1968 Rudolph V. DeChellis, FAIA
- 1969 Alex A. Miller, AIA
- 1970 Everett V. Bertoia, AIA
- 1971 William M. Bray, AIA
- 1972 Richard E. Eastman, AIA
- 1973 William O. Brock, AIA
- 1974 Richard E. Eastman, AIA
- 1975 Joseph Railia, AIA
- 1976 Gordon A. Forrest, AIA

### AIA Los Angeles Chapter

**San Fernando Valley Section**

**1977-1987 Presidents**
- 1977 Peter T. Creamer, AIA
- 1978 Frank R. Bernard, AIA
- 1979 Clyde L. Smith, AIA
- 1980 William Z. Landsworth, AIA
- 1981 Michael Shotwell, AIA
- 1982 Gordon A. Forrest, AIA
- 1983 Alex A. Miller, AIA
- 1984 Joe Jordan, AIA
- 1985 Joe Jordan, AIA
- 1986 Lawrence A. Robbins, AIA
- 1987 Thomas W. Layman, AIA

In 1987 AIA|SFV President Tom Layman, AIA, stood atop Mulholland Drive with the presidents of AIA|LA and AIA|PF to set the boundaries of the new chapter. The result was an area encompassing all of northwest Los Angeles County to the north of Mulholland and to the west of Barham Blvd. (including the city of Burbank.)
A New Chapter: AIA San Fernando Valley

Under the leadership of Joe Jordan, AIA, the Valley's original movement toward localized governance began in 1955 and continued to be a goal as the AIA established the Southern California Chapter in 1960 and the Los Angeles Chapter in 1977. The relationship with the Los Angeles Chapter proved to be beneficial - although the desire for local governance still remained. High housing prices in the 1980's pushed growth of the Los Angeles metropolitan area outward. The rapid growth of the San Fernando, Santa Clarita and Antelope Valleys during this time, initiated a stronger drive for a separate chapter. These efforts culminated in a fact-finding visit to the San Fernando Valley from Washington D.C.-based AIA officials, a visit by Valley Section leadership to the AIA in Washington D.C., and ultimate approval of the Section's quest for Chapter-hood. It took another two years of focused efforts to receive final certification of the Articles of Incorporation from California's Secretary of State, March Fong Eu. This two year period was also an intense time of establishing all the elements of a fully functioning chapter.

AIA San Fernando Valley
1987 Officers & Directors
Thomas W. Layman, AIA, President
Mark Smith, AIA, Vice President
Sherry Dickens, AIA, Secretary
Rudolph V. DeChellis, FAIA, Treasurer
Stanley Brent, AIA
Jean Cramer, AIA
Richard C. Diradourian, AIA
Jaime J. Gesundheit, AIA
Joe Jordan, AIA
Jeffrey M. Kalban, AIA
Kenneth David Lee, AIA
Alex Miller, AIA
Lawrence A. Robbins, AIA
Dennis Thrasher, AIA

AIA San Fernando Valley
1988 Officers & Directors
Mark L. Smith, President
Rudolph V. DeChellis, FAIA, Vice President
Jean Cramer, AIA, Secretary
Richard C. Diradourian, AIA, Treasurer
Joe Jordan, AIA, AIACC Delegate
Stanley M. Brent, AIA
Jaime J. Gesundheit, AIA
Jeffrey M. Kalban, AIA
Thomas W. Layman, AIA
Kenneth David Lee, AIA
David M. Marsh, AIA
Alex Miller, AIA
Lawrence A. Robbins, AIA
Frederick M. Yerou, AIA

AIA|SFV Continued Development

By 1989 the AIA|SFV Long Ranch Planning Committee, under the leadership of Committee Chair Bouje Bernkopf, AIA, had initiated a comprehensive 5-year strategic plan. By 1990 there were 23 thriving committees in place. As Mr. Bernkopf said at the time regarding committee participation:

*It is abundantly clear that the architectural profession is consistently losing ground and that the conditions under which we practice are becoming increasingly more difficult. It is also clear that the problems in the physical environment - our area of involvement, are becoming overwhelmingly complex. Obviously, our activities as architects in the past were not adequate, nor appropriate, to effect this trend.*

*It is time for our profession to reevaluate its role in society, to unite and to commit greater resources toward addressing the problems of today and the challenges of tomorrow. We must raise the quality of
services we provide to new heights, we must become innovators, and we must commit ourselves to greater involvement with the AIA and with the political and public life. The AIA is the major structured network which concerns itself with the health of our profession, and its success or failure will depend on the personal commitment and participation of each and every one of us.

Bouje Bernkopf, AIA
1990 AIA|SFV President

The San Fernando Valley: looking north from the Universal City area.

The Originals

Along with the members listed above who were part of the 1987 and 1988 AIA|SFV Board of Directors’, we additionally acknowledge the other original chapter members who continue to be members today and have made significant contributions to the chapter as Board members, Chapter committee members, and through other service and support.

Dale Bergerson, AIA
Thomas Berkes, AIA
Roger L. Bown, AIA
Robin Jaffe, AIA
Myron A. Kusnitz, AIA
Murray Siegel, AIA
Clyde L. Smith, AIA
Mark Sutter, AIA
Ebbe Videriksen, AIA

Samuel J. Wacht, AIA
Joseph E. Bricio, AIA
Sherman L. Kanne, AIA
Miguel M. Miguel, AIA
Tim Saivar, AIA
Jef J. Van Der Borght, AIA
Mark Bielski, AIA
Marvin Berman, AIA
John Sergio Fisher, AIA
AIA|SFV Leadership

There are many chapter luminaries not mentioned here - and many mentioned whose contributions deserve greater accolades beyond appearing in a list of names. Throughout the remainder of this year - and culminating in the January 2018 celebration of design excellence at our annual awards gala, we will continue to highlight significant chapter events and leaders.

AIA San Fernando Valley Presidents
1987-2017
1987 Thomas W. Layman, AIA
1988 Mark L. Smith, AIA
1989 Rudolph V. DeChellis
1990 Bouje M. Berndorf, AIA
1991 Frederick M. Yerou, AIA
1992 Kenneth David Lee, AIA
1993 Roger Lee Bown, AIA
1994 Arthur J. Bannick, AIA
1995 Craig Earl, AIA
1996 Robin C. Jaffe, AIA
1997 Robert R. Lowe, AIA
1998 Roger Winston Bray, AIA
1999 Lawrence A. Robbins, AIA
2000 John A. Parezo, AIA
2001 Alan M. Bernstein, AIA
2002 John P. Grounds, AIA
2003 Joel A. Jaffe, AIA
2004 Robert K. (Gus) Duffy, AIA
2005 Miguel C. Renteria, AIA
2006 Richard Gemignani, AIA
2007 Russell E. Myers, AIA
2008 Matthew Epstein, AIA
2009 Sylvia Botero, AIA
2010 Kenneth David Lee, AIA
2011 Arturo Yanez, AIA
2012 Bradley J. McDonald, AIA
2013 Max A. Williams, AIA
2014 Vladimir Elmanovich, AIA
2015 Miguel Maio, AIA
2016 Matthew Epstein, AIA
2017 George De La Nuez, AIA