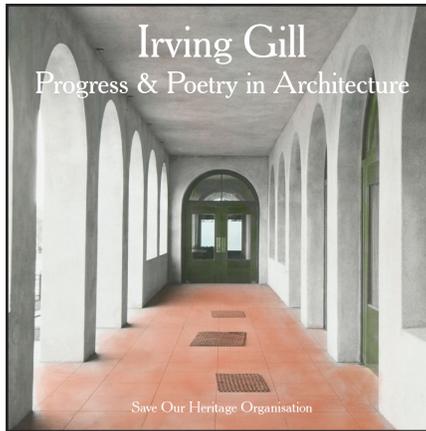


• ‘Dedicated to the Straight Line, the Arch, the Cube and the Circle’ • Review of SOHO’s New Book about Architect Irving J. Gill

As an appealing combination of an exhibition catalog and a collection of contemporary and period essays about Irving J. Gill and his architecture, a new book on Gill, edited by Alana Coons, offers the reader a photography-filled overview of the man, his work, and his place in history. As the dedicatory page states, “Dedicated to the Straight Line, the Arch, the Cube and the Circle,” that are the principles by which Gill worked and lived.

Offered by Save Our Heritage Organisation (SOHO), the book supports and augments the organization’s exhibition on Irving Gill that’s currently running through Sunday, March 26 at the Marston House (for more details about this exhibit, and a photo of Irving J. Gill, see the article on page 20 in this *Adelante*).



SOHO’s exhibit, *Irving Gill: Progress & Poetry in Architecture* (which is also the title of the book), is being held in the Gill-designed Marston House, located 3525 Seventh Ave., San Diego 92103. The exhibition offers insights into the genius of Gill through his creative processes, including recently-discovered and previously-unknown c.1908 glass-plate photographs of his buildings and interiors, both black & white and hand-tinted.

(Special Gill Tours in the house museum have been offered by SOHO on the third Sunday of every month, through March 2017. **NOTE: The last, special Gill Marston House Tour will be Sunday, March 19.** Purchase house tour tickets at the Marston House Museum Shop, 3525 Seventh Ave., San Diego 92103.)

This beautiful book is divided into two main sections: *The Exhibition* and *Thoughts on Irving Gill: Contemporary & Period Essays*.

• *The Exhibition* (both in the book and in Marston House) is filled with color and black & white photographs of Gill’s work, many of them from his newly-discovered black & white and hand-tinted glass photo slides (as mentioned above), originally intended for magic-lantern projections. What a treat for the Gill-lover!

As architectural historian Ann Jarmusch explains, in this chapter about the Gill slides, “More than a century has gone by since Gill likely stood with a commercial photographer to capture insightful views of his then-new buildings. If we cannot visit a building, seeing it through the eyes of a gifted architect is the next best thing to being there.” The many, beautiful photos in this chapter attest to that fact!

Other color photos in this section include contemporary photos in a chapter about Irving Gill’s rare furniture. This redwood furniture came from the home of Wheeler Bailey. In 1907 the new architectural firm of Irving Gill & Frank Mead designed a home for Bailey, a successful San Diego businessman. The house was a weekend retreat that was built overlooking the ocean in La Jolla. Gill also designed simple, redwood furniture for the home. Jarmusch notes, “Unlike his contemporaries, Gill is known to have created furniture just this one time, making the rare, surviving pieces exceptionally valuable for study...”

The eight color photos of details of four pieces of Gill furniture are complimented by two black & white historical, interior photos (courtesy of the San Diego History Center) showing the living room and dining room, and as a bonus, introducing this chapter, a black & white exterior shot of the completed house upon a high cliff.

The final chapter in this first section highlights some of the best Gill-related postcard in the vast collection of Erik Hanson, a local historian/collector/Gill architecture specialist. Fourteen postcards, 10 of them in color, depict Gill buildings as they were celebrated in his own day. I love historic postcards, so this was a real treat!

• *Thoughts on Irving Gill: Contemporary & Period Essays* is the second main section, full of inspiring, thoughtful essays about Gill and his contribution to architecture. There are seven essays, too many to list each here. Three of the essays are by Gill, himself, and all of the essays are illustrated with drawings and photos. Just fascinating reading! The book has a Forward by Bruce Coons, SOHO executive director; an Introduction by Ann Jarmusch, and short biographies of the book’s eight contributors, in the back. It is 133 pages, soft cover, with numerous photos, for \$22.99 (shipping & tax extra). Purchase from SOHO, or Sunbelt Publications, El Cajon.

Bye for now, until May. Hope you’re enjoying the Conference! Take care, *Helen Halmay*, Editor