

JULIA MORGAN *Homeowners' Dinner*

NEARLY FIFTY owners of Julia Morgan homes joined members of the Berkeley City Club Conservancy Board for dinner on June 11th. The evening, celebrating Morgan's receipt of the American Institute of Architects Gold Medal, began with a tour of the BCC building.

Despite the fact that the City Club was designed for public use and to accommodate large events, homeowners noticed details that were similar to features in their residences, whether they were lighting fixtures, architectural elements, or the thoughtful integration of interior and outdoor spaces. Most of Morgan's commissions for private residences date to early in her career, but owners agreed that their hundred-year-old homes still functioned well in the twenty-first century. Many commented on how well sited their homes were, and how Morgan made sure that views were accented.

Karen McNeill, a member of the BCC Conservancy Board and an authority on the life and work of Morgan, spoke to the guests about the AIA award and answered questions they had about their homes. Trish Hawthorne, wife of Board member Tony Hawthorne, shared her experiences documenting the history of their Julia Morgan 1920 house and her pride in helping to preserve a part of Morgan's legacy. Guests were presented with a pre-publication copy of a thought-provoking article, "[Gold Medal: Julia Morgan.](#)" *Architect Magazine*, June 23, 2014, authored by their son Christopher Hawthorne (architecture critic for the *Los Angeles Times*).

Tony Hawthorne stressed the benefits of closer ties among the homeowners and between the homeowners and the Conservancy. Comments received from attendees confirm that they concur in Tony's assessment of these benefits. One of the missions of the Conservancy is to promote Julia Morgan and her work. It is hoped that a collaboration with others who are stewards of Morgan-designed buildings will increase the recognition of her achievements and ensure the preservation of her work.

HOMEOWNERS' PHOTOGRAPHS



Photo courtesy of Marlon Maus

One of Julia Morgan's earliest domestic commissions for the Kofoid family, 2616 Etna Street in Berkeley, soon after 1905 completion. The climbing rose bush captures how nature, instead of paint and applied ornament, provided decoration on Bay Tradition homes.



Photo courtesy of Marlon Maus

Entrance to the Kofoid house, early 21st century. In 2010, the current owners received a Berkeley Architectural Heritage Assoc. (BAHA) restoration award.



Photo courtesy of Carol Anne Brown

Elizabeth Glide and Seldon Williams house at 2821 Claremont Boulevard, Berkeley, was one of Morgan's favorite designs. The current owners lovingly restored the 1928 building to its original glory and were honored for their stewardship by BAHA in 2011.

NEWS FROM THE CASTLE
FALL 2014

News from the Castle is the official newsletter of the Berkeley City Club Conservancy. The Conservancy is a tax-exempt charitable organization dedicated to the preservation of the unique Julia Morgan-designed building that is home to the Berkeley City Club.

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The Julia Morgan Preservation Fund Committee of the Conservancy meets monthly to approve projects and disbursements. The Conservancy Board meets bimonthly. Anyone is welcome to attend these meetings; call (510) 883-9710.

Free public tours are jointly sponsored by the Conservancy and the Berkeley City Club the fourth Sunday of every month except December. For public tour details or information on group tours, contact the Berkeley City Club Conservancy.



**BERKELEY CITY CLUB
CONSERVANCY**

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www.berkeleycityclubconservancy.org

The Conservancy office is staffed
Wednesday & Thursday 10am–2pm



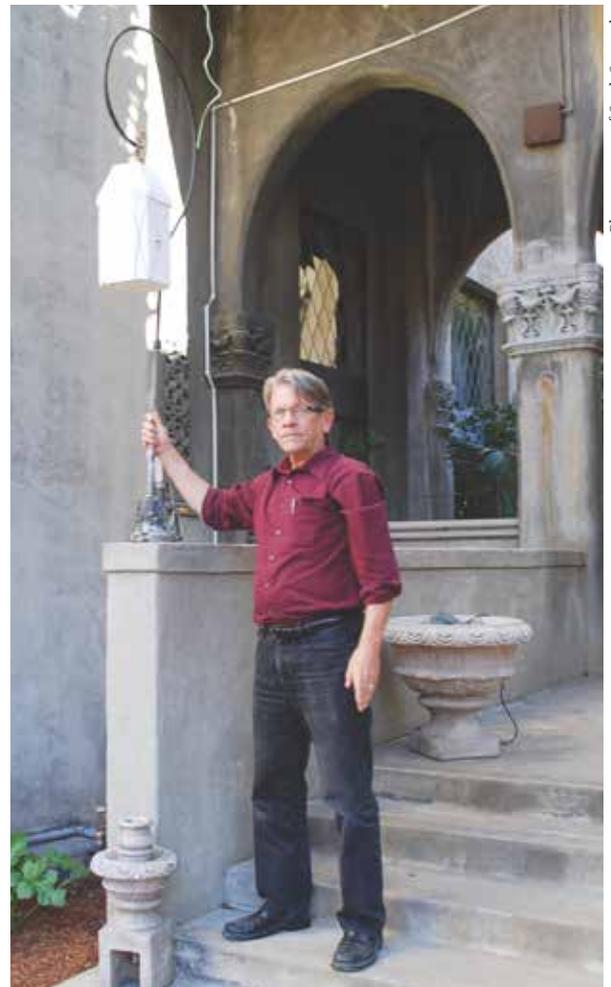
IRS Form 990 for 2013 is available in the Conservancy office, on request.

LET THERE BE LIGHT FIXTURES!

CONSERVANCY director Gary Samonsky has been working with Jana Olson of Panache Lighting in Berkeley to design and produce new light fixtures for the West Court, loggia, and garden.

There are two lantern types. The first is an actual reconstructed pool lantern that will be mounted on the original wall bracket outside the door to the Court. This lantern and bracket are visible in the 1930s photograph shown here. The second are wing wall fixtures, new copies of the pool lanterns at two-thirds scale, mounted on new curled standards with cast concrete floral bases.

The inspiration for the curled standards came from garden lights that Julia Morgan designed for the 1929 Dr. Willis L. Jepson house in Berkeley. The cast floral bases can be seen in numerous locations supporting pendant lights in the Berkeley City Club. In addition to the fabrication of the three lanterns, Jana will be refurbishing the two original glass globe fixtures hanging in the loggia. One is visible in the 1930s photograph.



Gary Samonsky stands on the steps of the NW garden, holding a mock-up of the new light fixtures.

BECAUSE OF YOU,
*our generous donors, the
Conservancy has been able to
launch both the Lanterns and
Pool projects that are summarized
in this newsletter.*

*Work has begun, and we give our
donors heartfelt thanks.*

*But there's a long way to go.
Please dig deep. Send a check or
donate securely online.*

*Visit us online at
berkeleycityclubconservancy.org*

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Tatjana Haschemi, President



West Court and loggia, early 1930s.

Photo courtesy of Sarah Samonsky

JULIA AND ME

As reported in the last issue of "News from the Castle," the Berkeley City Club Conservancy learned with great pleasure that the American Institute of Architects' 2014 Gold Medal had been awarded posthumously to Julia Morgan. Conservancy Board members Karen Fiene, Karen McNeill, and Kimberly Perette were instrumental in preparing the winning nomination. Kimberly offers these reflections:

ON JUNE 28, 2014, Julia Morgan became the first woman to win the AIA Gold Medal in the prestigious award's 107-year history. As I stood and clapped and yelled for Julia, I felt a sense of honor and pride that I had played a major part in making this all happen.

Gold medal recipients are automatically elevated to the College of Fellows, the AIA's highest distinction (FAIA). AIA Fellows must be not only great architects, but also have a lasting effect on the profession. There is no better example than Julia Morgan.

In 1972, a little girl visiting Hearst Castle was struck by its beauty and the fact that it was designed by a woman. Nearly 30 years later that girl, now a woman, graduated with a degree in architecture and spent time studying architecture in Paris, as Julia had done almost 100 years before. This year, 57 years after Julia Morgan's death, that same woman, now a bit older and an architect herself, stood with her peers in Chicago to celebrate Julia Morgan's finally being honored by the profession.

Julia Morgan once said, "My buildings will be my legacy ... They will speak for me long after I'm gone." Julia, not only do your buildings speak to us of wonderful architecture, but they speak to us of your great contribution to women, to engineering, to grace, to beauty, and to perseverance. They have spoken to me, for I was that little girl who visited Hearst Castle and was inspired to pursue a career in architecture.

Perhaps, Julia Morgan's quiet persistence and tenacity may teach us something. After all, she has finally been recognized for her contributions to the field of architecture. In reading and researching about her work and life, however, I have learned two important lessons: First, "Do the Work," and do it well and consistently. And second, "Speak Up," lest your contributions be forgotten. It is important that we know about you and what you've contributed to the world while you are alive, for your words can help others long after you're gone. If Julia Morgan had spoken up, maybe it wouldn't have taken so long to officially celebrate her genius.



Photos courtesy of Kimberly Perette

Kimberly Perette (left) stands with Julia Morgan's great-great-niece, Lauren Woodland; AIA Gold Nomination chair, Julia Donoho, AIA, Esq.; and Ellen North, Morgan's great-niece, at the AIA convention in Chicago.



Kimberly Perette, with an exhibit about Julia Morgan that she designed for the 2014 AIA convention and Gold Medal Award ceremony.



Beverly Willis, FAIA, delivered the keynote address at the award ceremony. "On behalf of women architects," she said, "I express our collective and respectful anger" that it took the AIA more than 100 years to recognize the contributions of women.

WELCOME NEIGHBORS ∞ *Welcome to our new neighbors at Lions Hall. You are invited to wine, dine, catch a play, become a Club member and enjoy a swim in the plunge, or participate in any of the many activities hosted at the Berkeley City Club every month that are open to the public (see www.berkeleycityclub.com). Fourth Sunday tours of the building, sponsored jointly by the Conservancy and the Berkeley City Club, are free (but, of course, donations are welcome).*

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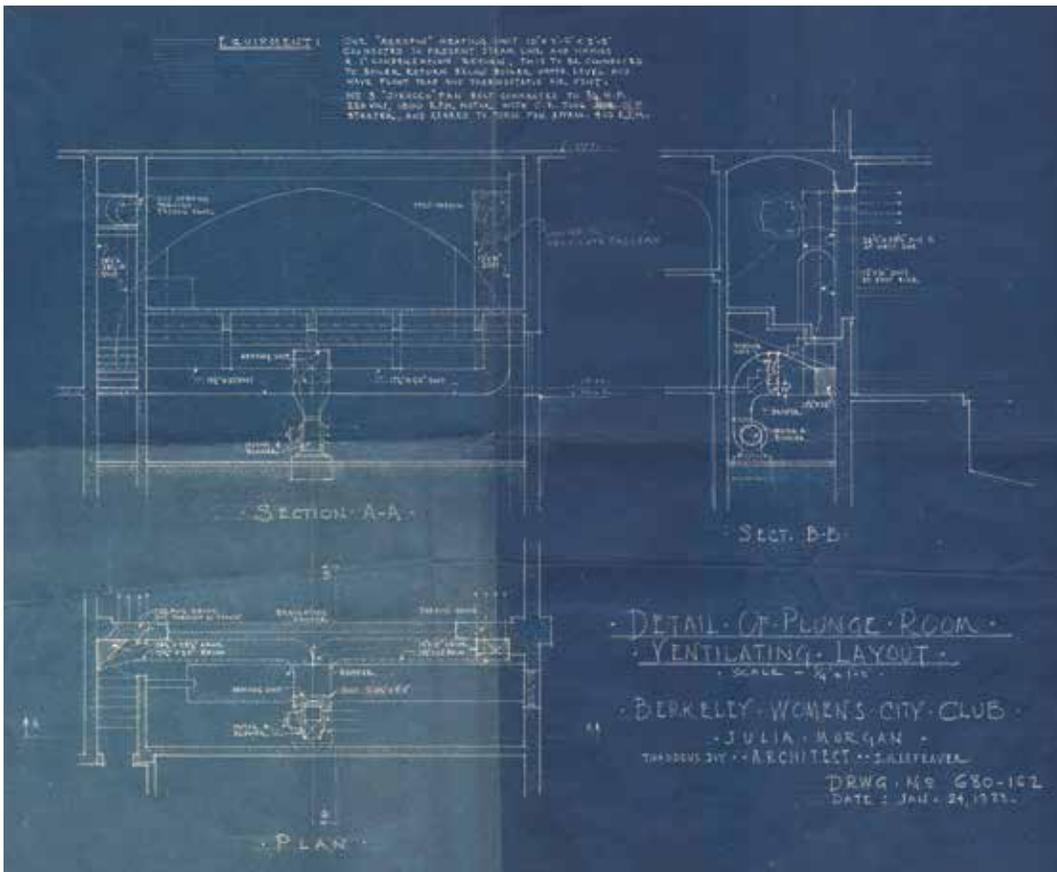
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UPDATE ON THE PLUNGE RESTORATION

THE BERKELEY CITY CLUB CONSERVANCY'S effort to solve destructive condensation in the pool area has been covered in previous editions of the newsletter. The plan to replace the six fans over the windows, failing and not original, has evolved into a more robust proposal of placing a single air handler under the stage, in a basement vault, making air handling invisible and significantly reducing noise.

What is new is the recent discovery by Sarah Gill, Berkeley

City Club member and former Conservancy officer, of documents in Berkeley City Club archives noting the historic nature of the pool room's condensation issue and its adverse effects on surfaces. Amongst the documents Dr. Gill found is a January 24, 1933 blueprint by the firm of Julia Morgan. This blueprint shows a plan to place an air handler under the stage, the same location that Bob Hamilton, Karen Fiene and their consultants had proposed months earlier.



In addition, Dr. Gill found the following notes in a 1948 Berkeley Women's City Club newsletter, "The Record":

"Special class for children in summer: 434 class lessons given. New plumbing and showers installed, dressing rooms repainted, furnished with shower curtains. There is still the need of an adequate ventilation before attempting any permanent repair and painting of the walls of the pool."

Given these discoveries, it is edifying to know the Berkeley City Club Conservancy is taking a similar tack to Julia Morgan's plan to permanently resolve condensation issues, the first of a number of projects to restore the pool area as currently planned.

Design details for updates to the ventilation system of the Berkeley Women's City Club plunge room — just three years after the building opened!