



720 Rose Avenue
Venice, CA 90291

ARCHITECTURE • LANDSCAPE • CUISINE • PERFORMANCE
A SERIES OF SPECIAL EVENTS BENEFITING VENICE COMMUNITY HOUSING
SPRING 2015 . VENICEDESIGNSERIES.ORG



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VENICE DESIGN SERIES SHOWCASES ARCHITECTURE, CUISINE, LANDSCAPE AND PERFORMANCE

***Series features exclusive architecture tours and events by major artists,
designers and chefs in private homes rarely open to the public***

Venice, CA - The first Venice Design Series will kick off on Saturday, April 25 and continue through Sunday, May 10, 2015.

Spearheaded by noted landscape designer Jay Griffith and community activist Linda Lucks, the hand-picked, site-specific special events are hosted by Venice's visionary architects, chefs, designers, authors and performers, an example of the Venice creative community rallying to support Venice Community Housing (VCH) with five design inspired fundraising events.

Attendees will enjoy meals by some of L.A.'s hottest chefs, visit architecturally distinguished homes rarely open to the public, and be entertained by some of the area's most in-demand authors and personalities.

Notable participants include leading architects Steven Ehrlich and Kulapat Yantrasast, author Mona Simpson, actor Catherine Keener, and fine food from Melisse, Superba, Gjelina, and 3 Square/Rockenwagner Bakery, Willie Jane, and the soon to open Dudley Market restaurants, among others. At a time when many experience ongoing economic distress, the Venice Design Series is an example of a community looking after its own. As Jay Griffith so aptly puts it, "*When I look around Venice today, I see a huge loss of socio-economic diversity. By supporting Venice Community Housing, we are ensuring keeping the nice, in Ve-nice.*"

The Venice Design Series opens with a **Kick-Off Party** on April 25 at the restored Spanish Colonial Pacific Palisades home of landscape designer **Jay Griffith**, once owned by actor Eddie Albert and his wife Margo. Fine food and drink are provided by **Melisse, Hal's Bar & Grill, Casa Linda Mexican Grill, Casamigos Tequila**, the new venture from George Clooney and Rande Gerber, **Feed Body & Soul, 3 Square Cafe & Röckenwagner Bakery, Lemonade,**

Canal Club, Willie Jane, Dudley Market and Whole Foods Market. Guests will socialize with the many well-known participants in the Venice Design Series that make up the eclectic mix that is Venice, CA today.

On Saturday morning, May 2, Jay Griffith leads a Hollywood-inspired **Coastal Canyon Literary Tour and Lunch** through Santa Monica and Rustic Canyons and including historic homes on Adelaide Drive. Destinations include the **Eames Case Study House** and **El Encanto**, a three acre early California estate and the **Benenson House**, designed by architect Steven Ehrlich. **Mona Simpson** will read from her book “*My Hollywood*” at her home, the historic 1909 **Henry Weaver House**. **Chef Fiona Neale** will prepare lunch with musical accompaniment by pianist **Daniel Kloehn** and readings by actress **Catherine Keener** and Marlene Dietrich’s great-grandson, **Adam Riva**.

Award winning architect **Steven Ehrlich** and author **Nancy Griffin** host the third event, a **North African Feast** on Saturday evening, May 2. Visitors will enjoy a dinner prepared by **Chef Farid Zadi** featuring paella at Ehrlich’s self-designed Venice home. KCRW’s **Frances Anderton**, host of the popular DnA radio program, will lead a conversation with special guests about “Venice Architecture: Past and Future.”

A **Moveable Feast** dinner party on Saturday, May 9 will stop at the Venice homes of international architect **Kulapat Yantrasast**, principal of wHY, realtor **Tiffany Rochelle**, and restaurateur **Paul Hibler**. Each home will feature courses provided by Hibler’s **Superba** restaurants. A salon-discussion on creativity will pair local architects and chefs.F

The fifth and final event in the series is a **Mother’s Day Jazz Brunch at architect Gregory Ain’s Historic Mid-Century Homes** on Sunday, May 10. Featuring music from **Azar Lawrence & Trio** and catered by **Gjelina**, this event is hosted by residents in Ain’s “Modernique Homes” tract in Mar Vista, the first post WWII Historic District designated in Los Angeles. Guests will tour six homes in the tract and receive a copy of Anthony Denzer’s “*Gregory Ain: The Modern Home as Social Commentary*”.

The Venice Design Series will benefit Venice Community Housing, a 26 year old nonprofit that has successfully developed lasting, neighborhood-based solutions for low-income children, families and individuals since 1988. The mission of Venice Community Housing www.vchcorp.org is to preserve the economic, racial and social diversity of Venice and surrounding neighborhoods by maximizing affordable housing and economic development opportunities and providing needed social services to the area’s low income population.

Eva, a recent resident at TLC, the transitional living residence for homeless women and their children, had been homeless for almost 10 years. Her two children had spent the majority of their lives living in her car or in emergency shelters. During her stay in the program she completed an Associate Degree in Criminal Justice, gained nine months of work experience, and moved with her family into their first permanent home in many years. Now she is pursuing a Bachelor’s Degree and her children are thriving in school and extracurricular activities. “Thanks to the Transitional Living Center my family is off the streets. I see a future now for myself and for my children.”

For tickets and information on the Venice Design Series, contact: www.venicedesignseries.org, email Linda Lucks at llucks@vchcorp.org or call (310) 526-3857..