



**ARCHITECTURAL  
FOUNDATION**  
OF SANTA BARBARA

**December 2016**

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**PROGRAMS**

- Kids Draw Architecture
- BEEP, Built Environment Education Program
- High School Design Competition, March 15, 2016
- Sabado & Domingo Architectural Walking Tours
- Art Gallery Exhibitions

**SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS**

- AFSB Fund
- Lulah Maria Riggs Fund
- Ken Kruger Memorial Fund
- The Sustainability Project Fund

# Architectural Foundation of Santa Barbara

*Promoting Education in Support of Excellence in the Built Environment*

## **N E W S L E T T E R**



*Architects of the future building wood frame models.*

## **Summer Camp at the Architectural Foundation**

For the first time in its thirty-three year history, a summer camp took place at the Architectural Foundation. Kidz Engineering 101, a non-profit operated by Irene Rinta, conducted two one week camps at the Acheson House, taking advantage of its gallery space and back patio. The first camp was geared towards younger elementary school children and focused on architecture and community, using Legos to build a town. Energy and infrastructure were important considerations and informed many of the learning objectives of the camp. In the culminating presentation to parents, children explained how solar power worked as well as strategies for building healthy communities. The second camp catered to older children

and focused on structural and material considerations such as framing, concrete, and trusses. Organized around the building of house models, campers learned a variety of architectural and engineering principles while designing a unique light filled home.

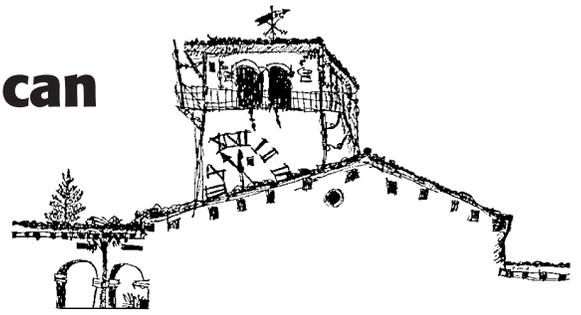
Rinta has been running camps and after school programs for over a decade in Santa Barbara County, and AFSB is excited to team up with her. Rinta volunteered earlier this year to help run AFSB's annual High School Architectural Design Competition. Rose Hillebrandt, one of the winners of that competition, served as Irene's camp counselor this summer. This is the sort of collaboration and mutual reinforcement AFSB is striving to

build between many of its programs. Plans are in the works to expand this collaboration by creating an after school program at the Acheson House.



*Irene Rinta explaining concrete.*

# Ensberg Honored by the American Institute of Architects



We at AFSB are pleased to celebrate Cassandra Ensberg's admission to the American Institute of Architects' College of Fellows. She is one of 146 architects in the United States to be admitted this year, and the first woman honored in Santa Barbara since Lutha Maria Riggs enjoyed that award in 1950. According to the AIA's secretary, John Padilla, Ensberg has made important "contributions to the advancement of the profession of architecture." We are particularly pleased because she received this honor largely for her work with AFSB.

Ensberg is the founder and longtime organizer of the Architectural Foundation's Kids Draw Architecture (KDA) program, bringing elementary school children together with practicing architects to draw local buildings. Over the years KDA sketch sessions have taken place at a variety of architecturally significant local sites, including the Santa Barbara County Courthouse, the Santa Barbara Mission, the Santa Barbara Bowl, the Architectural Foundation's own Acheson House, and most recently in 2016 the Arlington Theater and Santa Barbara High School. She initiated the program by teaching her own son to draw local buildings, and one of his sketches adorns the Architectural Foundation's logo.

Ensberg has been on its Board of Directors for over twenty years, helping to build its Scholarship Program as well as the Built Environment Education Program (BEEP). The Scholarship Program helps pay the college tuition of Santa Barbara county residents pursuing an architecture or landscape architecture degree. "Some of the same children she introduced to the profession with Kids Draw Architecture," said Tom Jacobs, a fellow Director, "have returned to shake her hand as awardees in the Scholarship Program."

Jacobs understands and appreciates Ensberg's involvement with the Architectural Foundation perhaps more than most. It was at an Architectural Foundation lecture that he and Ensberg met. They soon married and now run Ensberg Jacobs Architecture as partners. He accompanied his wife to Philadelphia for the Investiture Ceremony earlier this year. When asked to characterize her achievement, he said, "for over twenty-eight years she has leveraged her passion into programs that have successfully transplanted curiosity and enthusiasm for architecture in our local youth."

## New Garden at the Acheson House



*Jeremy White, Cathie Parre, Ricardo Castellanos, Cass Ensberg, Denise Woolery, and Lori Kari cut the ribbon to celebrate AFSB's drought tolerant garden.*

On August 11, 2016, AFSB celebrated the completion of the Acheson House Front Yard & Garden renovation project. Replacing the water thirsty lawn with a gravel gathering area surrounded by drought tolerant pollinator plantings and irrigated by a drip system, the new space is now a model of sustainability. The design team sought to create a space consistent with the Acheson House's Italianate style while adding usable outdoor space and eliminating a water wasting lawn and an old sprinkler system. The mature magnolia trees were kept and the variegated pittosporum, and star jasmine augmented. French lavenders create a formal border around the new gravel walks and gathering area surrounded by a more natural arrangement of yellow yarrow and purple and white iris. Small olive trees anchor the Victoria Street entry and a eastern redbud with dark red leaves play the burgundy trim colors of the Acheson House. The project was designed by Denise Woolery of Acanthus Design, with collaboration by Cassandra Ensberg, FAIA and Lori Kari, AIA, all of whom donated their time and expertise to the project.

Keeping the design simple was more than an aesthetic choice, it was also motivated by funding challenges. The team had to secure donations from a variety of sources to augment AFSB's modest budget, and they are grateful for the generous sponsorship of Santa Barbara Beautiful and the City of Santa Barbara. City water resource specialist, Cathie Paré, was also instrumental in the project, as she advised an inexpensive mulching process to eliminate the lawn chemical free. The team's collective work resulted in a beautiful new garden that is a functional outdoor space and a showpiece for the community at the corner of Garden and Victoria Streets.

# Art Gallery News

After fifteen years as chair of the Art Gallery Committee, Nance Cole stepped down to focus on her own art. Cole was honored for her service at the Acheson House in May, handing the reigns over to two co-chairs, Bay Hallowell and Elyse Gonzales. They have been hard at work filling AFSB's exhibition calendar through 2018.

## Saturday Hours

In order to make its exhibitions more accessible to the public, AFSB's Art Gallery at the Acheson House will be open on Saturday afternoons, from 1:00 to 4:00. During the week visitors will continue to view the art, by appointment. It is hoped these new hours will better serve both the artist and the public.

## Art Gallery Intern

AFSB's newest intern is Bailey Tripp, an art studio major at Westmont College. After assisting the Executive Director for several months this year, he is now working closely with the Art Gallery Committee. This internship is intended to expose Tripp to the curatorial side of the art world, complimenting his studies at Westmont.

# Gonzales Joins the Board



Elyse Gonzales became AFSB's newest director this year. She was recently the Acting Director of the Art, Design & Architecture Museum at UC Santa

Barbara, and is now Curator of Exhibitions. While at the Museum she has organized several exhibitions related to its collections, Her curatorial activities are balanced by essay contributions and a book related to artists and selected exhibitions she has curated. In February 2015 she was named a Santa Barbara County Arts Commissioner for District 1. Gonzales received an MA from Williams College in 2000 and a BA from the University of New Mexico in 1996.

# President's Message

The year 2016 has been a busy time at AFSB. We restarted the annual High School Design Competition, inaugurated a summer camp, reimagined our front garden, instituted a new Art Gallery Internship Program, and we hosted an exhibition of local graphic designers to inaugurate our new annual "President's Show," an initiative intended to feature an important aspect of Santa Barbara's art and design community. We are expanding our community footprint by engaging with social media, updating our Facebook account regularly, and initiating an Instagram account this year. Next year we will focus on expanding some of these programs, and will begin the discussion about how to make use of the Acheson House's garage to accommodate an after school program.

I am grateful to AFSB's Board of Directors, a group of worker bees dedicated to furthering this non-profit's mission. I also feel gratitude towards our community of volunteers who make the programs here run. They donate time and expertise, and their presence and energy help make AFSB a warm and exciting place to be. We are always looking for more volunteers. If you would like to give a little time to one of our programs, and work with like minded volunteers, please contact us. If you have a new idea for us, and know how to implimnt it, we would love to work with you.

I am also grateful for your membership. With Allison Marcillac's leadership, our new Executive Director, we are striving to make AFSB membership a rewarding cultural experience. We expanded our membership levels this year to bring them in line with other non-profits in Santa Barbara, and we hope you will renew your membership with us for 2017. Your commitment to our programs sustain the Architectural Foundation of Santa Barbara.

Jeremy White

# HOURS

## GALLERY:

Saturdays 1-4pm  
or by appointment

## OFFICE:

Tuesday – Thursday,  
10am – 2pm

The Architectural Foundation of Santa Barbara (AFSB) is a 501-c3 not for profit public corporation.

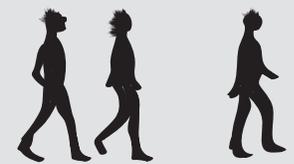
This newsletter is a glimpse of the activities and people that make up the Architectural Foundation of Santa Barbara, whose efforts help keep alive the connection between our community and the art of its environment. We invite you to be inspired, take a tour, visit the Gallery, sketch a building, and become a member of the group celebrating and supporting our city's architectural excellence.

Editors

Jeremy White  
Cass Ensberg

Graphic Design  
Rich Ayling

Printed on Recycled Paper



## ARCHITECTURAL WALKING TOURS

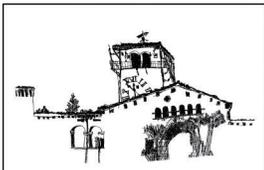
Saturdays: 10 AM

Meet at the City Hall steps in De la Guerra Plaza.

Sundays: 10 AM

Meet at the Main Public Library entrance on Anapamu Street.

Contribution \$10



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# Kids Draw Architecture 2017

**Join us!** The 2017 Calendars will be available for purchase.

To see a list of events at AFSB, go to the Architectural Foundation's website, at [www.AFSB.org](http://www.AFSB.org)