

Architectural symposium at UCSD features internationally acclaimed architects

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UCSD SYMPOSIUM FEATURES INTERNATIONALLY ACCLAIMED ARCHITECTS

Talks by four internationally distinguished architects will highlight a free, one-day symposium "Architecture/ Shaping the Future: Legorreta, Maki, Meier, Rogers," at the University of California, San Diego's Mandeville Auditorium, Saturday, February 4, 1989.

The symposium will celebrate the founding of the new School of Architecture at UCSD which was approved by the UC Board of Regents in September 1988.

The four architects scheduled to speak are: Ricardo Legorreta from Mexico; Fumihiko Maki from Japan; Richard Meier from the United States, and Richard Rogers from England.

From January 14 through February 26 the Mandeville Art Gallery at UCSD will also present an exhibition of selected projects by each of the architects.

The February 4 program will begin at 9 a.m. with each architect making a 45-minute presentation about his work. The four speakers will then participate in a two-hour discussion moderated by Allan Temko, architecture critic of the San Francisco Chronicle, which begins at 3 p.m.

"These four architects represent global overview," Temko said. "They are among the very top in the world. They demonstrate the potential range of the new school which should be a resource center for Southern California and Mexico. But, like all great schools, it is bound to have a role in the world at large, as well."

According to Harold Ticho, vice chancellor for academic affairs at UCSD and chief organizer of the event, the symposium will focus on the goals of architecture and the role of architects in educating the next generation of architectural students.

Legorreta, a native of Mexico City, has been called "Mexico's Mexican architect," for his revitalization of traditional Mexican architecture. This would include the use of courtyards, vibrant color, and landscaping.

He is best known for the series of Camino Real Hotels in Mexico City, Cabo San Lucas, Cancun, and Ixtapa, and has also done a wide range of other buildings in Mexico and the United States. Among those underway are the High-tech Museum of Silicon Valley in San Jose, CA., and the International Student Center at UCLA to be built in 1989.

Legorreta is a Distinguished Honorary Fellow of the Mexican Society of Architects, and an Honorary Fellow of the American Institute of Architects, as well as a member of the Pritzker Prize Jury.

The Tokyo-born Maki lists among his recent projects the Museum of Modern Art in Kyoto, the Fujisawa Gymnasium, and the Spiral in Tokyo.

Maki is as well known as a teacher and theoretician as he is for his brilliant use of advanced technology in his buildings. The buildings reflect Japanese values but are open to the future.

Maki won the Reynolds Award in 1987 for the Spiral and was awarded the Wolf Prize in Architecture in 1988. He is a professor of architecture at the Tokyo University School of Architecture, the most prestigious in Japan, and has taught at several American universities including Cranbrook, Harvard and UC Berkeley.

Meier is known for the pure forms of his houses, museums and other cultural buildings and he has been selected for the greatest cultural commission of modern times, the Getty Art Center in Los Angeles.

His commissions have also included such varied projects as the Museum of Modern Art in Florence, Italy, the Bronx Psychiatric Center in New York and the High Museum of Art in Atlanta, GA.

Meier was born in Newark, NJ, and graduated from Cornell University. In 1988, he won the gold medal from the Royal Institute of British Architects. He has won numerous awards for his housing designs, and in 1984, won the Pritzker Prize, one of architecture's most important awards. He was elected a Fellow of the American Institute of Architects in 1976, and a member of the International Academy of Architecture in 1986.

Rogers, the subject of a recent profile in the "New Yorker" magazine, is considered one of the most daring innovators in British architecture.

He is especially famous for using high technology in unexpected and inventive ways, and always with humanistic purpose. He has proposed remaking much of central London, including the south bank of the Thames, and Charing Cross Station.

Rogers is perhaps best known for his design of the Pompidou Center in Paris and the Lloyds Building in London. He has won numerous awards and is an Honorary Fellow of the American Institute of Architects and the Royal Academy of Art.

Rogers won the Royal Gold Medal for Architecture in 1985, and holds an honorary doctorate from the Royal College of Art.

Current plans call for UCSD's new architecture school to begin accepting bachelor's and professional master's degree students in fall 1991 and doctoral candidates in fall, 1992. The school plans for 100 students in the master's degree program, 10 doctoral students, and about 200 undergraduate majors in the Bachelor of Arts program. The school will also offer continuing education courses for professional architects.

"We would like the new school to focus on issues that are characteristic of this area," Ticho said. "Basically, this would be architecture in a coastal environment. Also, we would like to focus on issues having to do with new construction materials and methods and how structures behave during earthquakes. Social issues related to planning in communities with diverse populations are also likely to be stressed."

The school was first proposed in the fall of 1987, and has received support from other architecture programs in California, as well as the local architectural community.

The steering committee which helped design the original proposal for the school cited several reasons why a school of architecture was needed at UCSD.

Among them were the rapid growth and development of the San Diego region and the need for more research on building and environmental design problems as the area continues to grow.

Further information about the program may be obtained by calling (619) 534-3400.

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