

Mandeville Gallery to feature work of four renowned architects

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UCSD's MANDEVILLE GALLERY TO FEATURE WORK OF FOUR GLOBALLY RECOGNIZED ARCHITECTS

Drawings and models by four international giants in contemporary architecture will be on exhibit January 14 to February 26 at the Mandeville Gallery at the University of California, San Diego.

The exhibition, "Architecture/Shaping the Future," will bring under one roof the vastly diverse un-built works of Mexican architect Ricardo Legorreta, Japanese Fumihiko Maki, American Richard Meier and Englishman Richard Rogers. Every one of these celebrated architects has won a host of the profession's most coveted awards and honors. An audio-visual presentation relating to their projects will be available for viewing during the exhibition.

The gallery showing and a symposium featuring illustrated talks by the four architects will mark the founding of UCSD's School of Architecture, which is expected to begin accepting students in fall 1991. The symposium will take place on Saturday, February 4, in the Mandeville Auditorium.

"This exhibition will bring together four individual views of architecture," Mandeville Gallery director Gerry McAllister said. "Each of these architects is renowned for his own philosophy of design. We wanted to show how they are shaping the future of architecture internationally."

Rogers will be represented in the exhibition by three projects: a provocative exhibit prepared for the Royal Academy, entitled "London As it Could Be;" Alcazar, a new clothing and textile center in Marseilles, France, and Doublement Amont du Pont d'Austerlitz, a suspension bridge over the Seine River in Paris. The exhibit also will include a videotape of a segment on Rogers from the recent BBC series, "Vision of Britain."

Rogers is one of the most daring innovators in British architecture. He is best known for designing (in collaboration with Renzo Piano) the Pompidou Center, the brightly colored Paris museum that delights some visitors and perplexes others with its exterior tangle of pipes and services, and the new headquarters of the worldwide network of Lloyd's in London.

His work is distinguished by his unexpected and inventive use of advanced technology and his pronounced commitment to social and environmental concerns; he insists that technology serve all levels of society.

The UCSD exhibition will contain two of Meier's current projects: the City Hall and Central Library in The Hague, Netherlands, a complex designed to mesh with the city's existing urban design and architectural scheme, and the redevelopment of the Madison Square Gardens site into a 4.4 million square-foot office building. Complementing the drawings will be a 58-minute video portrait of the architect in mid-career.

Meier's use of space, shape and light translates into houses, museums and commercial buildings marked by bare simplicity. He is known for his affinity for white surfaces, which stems from his desire to heighten the contrast between buildings and their natural surroundings.

Meier designed the acclaimed High Museum of Art in Atlanta, Georgia, and the Museum of Modern Art in Florence, Italy, and has captured one of the most highly prized cultural commissions of modern times, the Getty Art Center in Los Angeles. Current projects include the Corporate Headquarters of Hilversum in the Netherlands and the Alumni and Admissions Center of Cornell University in New York.

Maki will be represented by drawings and models of the Tokyo Science Museum, a flexible space for temporary and permanent exhibitions on advanced electronic and mechanical engineering and a video resource center, and the Tokyo Metropolitan Gymnasium, a "cloudlike" complex that has been called elusive and indefinable, consisting of two arenas and an indoor swimming pool.

The Tokyo-born architect is known as a teacher, a theoretician and a virtuoso of advanced technology. His work reflects a commitment to organic forms and a concern with the link between site and structure, the primacy of interior space and the synthesis of the parts with the whole. Maki's scope is international, but his Japanese heritage is apparent in his treatment of space and form.

He is noted for his designs of the Fujisawa Municipal Gymnasium in Fujisawa City; the Wacoal Media Center, known as the Spiral, in Tokyo; the National Museum of Modern Art in Kyoto, and Makuhari Messe, the new exhibition and convention center in Chiba.

Works by Legoretta selected for the UCSD show are the Solana IBM Office Building and the Solana Village Center, both in Dallas; the Phoenix Municipal Center, and the Greenberg House, under construction in Los Angeles.

Legoretta has been called "Mexico's Mexican architect" for his revitalization of traditional Mexican architecture. Using earth tones and vibrant colors characteristic of Mexican art and culture, he brings a rich regional feel to his contemporary structures.

Legoretta's Camino Real Hotels throughout Mexico have won him wide acclaim and a reputation for designing "palaces for everyone," instead of "monuments to the vanity of the rich." He currently is working on the design of the International Student Center at UCLA. Two projects under construction are the Conrad International Hotel and Condominiums in Cancun, Mexico, and the Children's Discovery Museum in San Jose.

The Mandeville Gallery is open from noon to 5 p.m. Tuesdays through Sundays and closed on Mondays and holidays. There is no admission charge.

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