

concrete evidence

The application of concrete reverts back to ancient times, but it wasn’t until the middle of the 19th century that the addition of iron reinforcement was used to greatly improve concrete’s strength as a structural material.



Irving J. Gill became aware of the Aiken System early on and believed it offered a superior method to building in Southern California, especially of the style he was evolving.

EXHIBIT

THE SAN DIEGO HISTORY CENTER and its collaborators are honored to premiere Irving J. Gill: New Architecture for a Great Country. This extraordinary new exhibition raises the bar for the legacy of Irving J. Gill by celebrating his life, work and architectural influence.

Gill – a San Diego architect by way of Chicago in the late 19th and early 20th centuries – found inspiration in the coast, canyons, sunlight and shadows, and through this inspiration, he created a new design language: what we now call modern architecture. The simplicity, clean lines and efficiency of his work provided a breath of fresh air compared to the mainstream Faux-Victorian and Spanish Colonial architecture styles.

Through his curiosity and experimentation, Gill developed innovative ways of building in Southern California, including pioneering “thin wall” wall construction, stud and stucco construction, and concrete tilt-slab construction, which is now common in Southern California. Once sought after by many San Diego elites, Gill’s legacy was largely overlooked after his death.

San Diego History Center
1649 El Prado #3, San Diego, CA
sandieghistory.org

Exhibition Presents: September 24th, 2016 through March 31st, 2017



This substantial house was built for Walter Luther Dodge, a Midwesterner retiring to Southern California, in West Hollywood on a very large lot. Gill designed this house and the property’s landscape as one unified architectural experience, taking one first through stands of trees that would then reveal these solid architectural forms in the midst of a garden. This is a perfect example of what Gill referred to as his architecture that was “like a stone in the meadow.” Unfortunately, the house was demolished in the early 1970s to make room for apartments – a tragic loss of great American architecture.



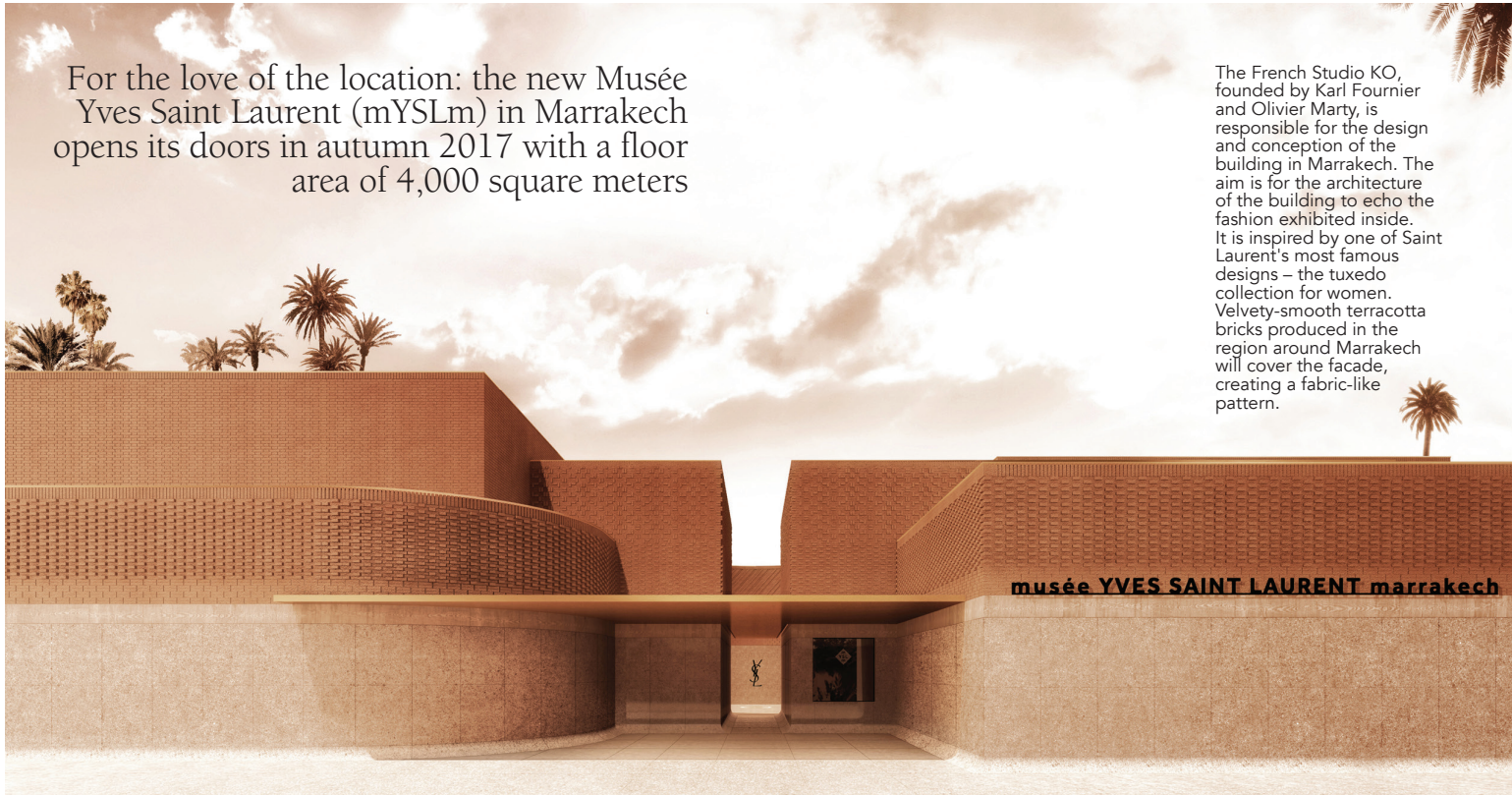
Gill helped build the home of noted philanthropist Ellen Browning Scripps on the bluffs in La Jolla with views up and down the Pacific coastline. He went so far as to show up one day near the end of the construction process to hand polish the concrete floors to get the right finish. The facade of this wonderful house still stands as a part of the Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego.

1900 Architects and engineers experiment greatly with concrete.

1907 Robert Aiken, an engineer from Illinois, invented a way to form and build reinforced cement walls on rotating tables that could then tilt the wall into place.

1912 Robert Aiken patented the Aiken System.

Gill acquired the West Coast rights to the Aiken System a few years prior to building these **1916** homes (shown above). He then applied his own modifications to Aiken’s method to make the system even more appropriate to Southern California. Constructed by his refined tilt-wall method of construction, these homes show Gill at his best. Gill’s clients liked this new style of building, as it clearly expressed his new modern aesthetic and provided comfortable fire-proof homes that sat nicely in the California landscape.



For the love of the location: the new Musée Yves Saint Laurent (mYSLm) in Marrakech opens its doors in autumn 2017 with a floor area of 4,000 square meters

The French Studio KO, founded by Karl Fournier and Olivier Marty, is responsible for the design and conception of the building in Marrakech. The aim is for the architecture of the building to echo the fashion exhibited inside. It is inspired by one of Saint Laurent’s most famous designs – the tuxedo collection for women. Velvety-smooth terracotta bricks produced in the region around Marrakech will cover the facade, creating a fabric-like pattern.



Duravit's Darling New series by sieger design

The sanitary facilities will have the wall-mounted toilets from designer-bathroom manufacturer Duravit's Darling New series by sieger design. A harmonious circular form and delicate edges are the hallmark of this design classic within the Duravit product offering. Thanks to their closed sides, the models are particularly elegant and have no visible fastenings to interrupt the harmonious look.