The 4th International Iconic Houses Conference is coming to the Getty Center, hosted by the Getty Conservation Institute and The Getty Foundation on Feb. 17-19 with an agenda that includes tours, speakers and networking activities focusing on Modern residential architecture. The event will celebrate California’s unique expression of Mid-Century Modern homes and is themed, “A California State of Mind: The Modern House Museum in Southern California.”

Attendees from around the world will tour the Gamble House, Hollyhock, the Schindler House, and Neutra VDL Studio and Residences in day one. Guest of honor, Architect Harry Gesner will speak following a visit to his home, the Sand Castle, and to the Wave House, both in Malibu.

At 90, “Gesner (who is still working) is the most charming man I’ve ever met. He is a womanizer still,” said Natascha Drabbe, founder of Iconic Houses. Gesner is also the architect of the Cahuenga Pass “Boat Houses,” designed in 1959 and crafted by Norwegian shipbuilders.

The conference will culminate in a final cocktail party at the triangular Sheats-Goldstein House, by John Lautner, on the edge of Beverly Hills. The party will be at the property’s new private nightclub, the Club James.

Owner James Goldstein purchased the residence in 1972 and spent two decades working with Lautner to transform the former Sheats family home into his fabulous bachelor pad. The private nightclub occupies a spectacular concrete-and-glass structure, and Goldstein will be joining the party to talk about it.

Toshiko Mori, FAIA and Wim de Wit, architectural historian, are also keynote speakers for the conference. Linda Dishman, president/CEO of the Los Angeles Conservancy, will also speak at the conference, which has been held previously in London (2013) and Barcelona (2014). Los Angeles has an impressive architectural treasure chest, though preservation has not historically been a priority. Dishman and the LA Conservancy are at the forefront of conservation efforts, and it is expected that her talk will address the Los Angeles penchant for demolition and Mansionization.

A smaller post-conference group will visit Palm Springs in a tour that will encompass an array of Mid-Century Modern opportunities throughout Rancho Mirage and Palm Springs, organized by The Annenberg Retreat at Sunnyland and the Palm Springs Art Museum.

“I’m only three and a half years, we have built a solid reputation as a unique platform for professional debate concerning the conservation, policy and management of modern house museums. . . Our members are empowered to collaborate with other houses. “The major aim of Iconic Houses is to study the most important houses of the 20th Century and to raise awareness of their significance and their need for protection. Iconic Houses therefore aims to become an important center for the study of the history of 20th

Limited conference tickets are still available; email info@iconichouses.org. For more information visit www.iconichouses.org.

City of Beverly Hills Recreation and Parks Commission Invites the Public

The public is invited to participate in the Los Angeles County Park and Recreation Needs Assessment by providing input about potential park project interests in the Beverly Hills community either at the Recreation and Parks Commission meeting or the County’s survey at https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LQSOYW27.

Where: Recreation and Parks Commission Meeting City Hall, 455 North Bedford Drive, Room 280-A
When: Tuesday, February 23, 2016 | 2 p.m.

Online Survey Link: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LQSOYW27

The City of Beverly Hills is participating in the Los Angeles Countywide Comprehensive Park & Recreation Needs Assessment. The public’s input gathered at this meeting as well as through online surveys will provide us with information to be submitted to L.A. County for inclusion in their assessment report. Questions and inquiries should be directed to sharris@beverlyhills.org or call 310-285-2531.