

Samuel Eugene Lunden

Architect. Designed the Doheny building. Born in Chicago, July 14, 1897. Graduated from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1921. Was member of the American Students Reconstruction Unit in France, and studied the ruins of a church in Verdun for reconstruction. Started his professional career with Cram & Ferguson in Boston, and worked in Los Angeles and Southern California through most of his life. Designed the Pacific Coast Stock Exchange (1929), City Hall South (1954), Los Almas School for girls (now Dorothy Kirby Center), and many other buildings in Los Angeles and Southern California. Was commissioned by Mrs. Doheny to do interior design for the Church of St. Vincent de Paul in Los Angeles. Served as architect on several other USC projects, notably the Hancock Foundation building (1940), the Elizabeth Von KleinSmid International women's residence halls in 1951, renovation of Bovard Auditorium in 1979, and expansion of Doheny in the 1960s. Was president of the American Institute of Architects in 1965. Died June 16, 1995 in Los Angeles.

http://www.publicartinla.com/USCArt/Doheny/artist_bios.html



los angeles stock exchange architect samuel e lunden

<https://vickielester.com/2012/12/04/the-stock-exchange-los-angeles-aka-the-money/architectural-rendering/>

Personal service to the client oral history transcript, 1987 : Samuel E. Lunden

by [Lunden, Samuel E.](#), interviewee; [Valentine, Maggie, 1949-](#) interviewer; [University of California, Los Angeles. Oral History Program](#)

<https://archive.org/details/personalservicet00lund>

TAPE NUMBER: IV, SIDE ONE

JUNE 8, 1987

pp 105 - 107

VALENTINE: Mr. Lunden, last time we were talking about your activities in the AIA [American Institute of Architects] that led directly to some planning experiences for you. How did you first get involved in planning issues?

LUNDEN: Well, we had just built our residence at Manhattan Beach, California, and the community was just starting to develop a hospital. I was put on the hospital committee to help organize the needs of the hospital and then to assist in ways and means of raising funds for it. About the same time I was asked to become secretary of the South Bay Beach and Highway Association. A Mr. Willets of Palos Verdes was president. The purpose of this association was to try to return the beaches to public ownership and also to promote the highways for the South Bay area. In so doing, one of the first things we did while I was secretary was to bring the mayors of all of the South Bay cities onto our board. Then to supplement our work we held annual meetings, to which we invited all of the leaders in planning, including governmental, of the Los Angeles County area. We had some excellent meetings with most of the top people there, including the mayors of the surrounding cities and the planners. This committee accomplished quite a bit and encouraged some of the highways to be brought on down to Manhattan Beach and the city of Redondo [Beach] paralleling the Santa Fe Railroad, which came down through the centers. As a result, a number of highways were planned and put into operation.

At the same time during this period, I was asked to serve Manhattan Beach as a planning commissioner. At that time there were several important matters, but one that sort of stood out at the time was the fact that there was the beginning of many highway signs that were being installed, which interfered with the appearance of the neighborhood. Efforts were made to stop these, and later on, as we know, restrictions have been put on the building of signs on freeways. The planning commission, as I recall, met at one session where we came up with a resolution which would forbid any more signs to go up on the adjacent highways in our area. We brought the motion down to the city councilmen, who were still in session at

about 11:00 P.M. And there we found that the highway people had done some lobbying, and the council turned our resolution down.

VALENTINE: What year was this?

LUNDEN: This was in 1942 and 1943. As a planning commissioner, I became a member of the Southern California Planning Congress. At the time I was president of the Southern California chapter, AIA, in the forties, I was asked to give an address to the Planning Congress on the subject of postwar planning. Shortly thereafter, my firm was engaged by the Los Angeles City Community Redevelopment Agency to prepare a master plan for the Temple urban renewal project, the proposed site of which is located northeast of the Bunker Hill project and is larger. In inspecting the area, I found that it was one of the oldest areas of the city, and they had the original oil wells that were all pumping and had been hooked together with cable so they all operated in rhythm. However, the people had been there many years and liked their neighborhood and were very much opposed to replanning, in which case many of them would lose their homes. So they went to the city council and were able to stop the project, after we had prepared a master plan.

VALENTINE: Tell me about the proposed world's fair that you suggested for the city of Los Angeles after the war.

LUNDEN: It was a very interesting project which came to me. I was called by the [John Randolph and Dora] Haynes Foundation and asked if I would be willing to prepare a report on the proposed world's fair. It seems that Los Angeles County was opposed to a world's fair and that the [Southern California Area] Chamber of Commerce favored it.

TAPE NUMBER: VI, SIDE ONE

JUNE 11, 1987

pp. 173 - 175

LUNDEN: This was also in the year 1935. It was a national competition by the American Hospital Association. We won first prize for a small community hospital and medical center. It's interesting to note that at that time I had just commenced work at Good Samaritan Hospital [Hospital of the Good Samaritan] and had not yet had one year's experience, although I had done some alteration work for the Methodist Hospital. It was in order to get better acquainted with hospital design that we undertook this completion. It was surprising, then, that we did win it. I already have mentioned that we did not win the hospital part of this competition. There were two competitions, one for the small community hospital-- We did the hospital first, on which we did not get an award. But we had about a week left when I took our preliminary designs for that home, and that night I decided that it would be interesting to see if we could do the other competition, which was for a hospital and medical center. We did that by turning the plan at right angles and filling

in one wing. I've covered this before, haven't I? The third one was a second prize for a brick house put on by the Simons Brick Company. The fourth prize was for the Fort Moore Memorial in the Los Angeles Civic Center area. The architect winning first prize was commissioned to design the memorial which was built. As consulting architect to Lyon Associates [Inc.], I participated in developing the competition for a people mover for Los Angeles. For this award the firm placed second with a \$10,000 award. I think we did well to win in about one half of those we entered.

VALENTINE: How do you decide which ones to enter?

LUNDEN: Well, I generally consult with my top people, and we discuss whether we have time. And if we don't have time, are we willing to work overtime on our own to forward our chances? And if we all agree we should do it, then usually two or three of the top people will pitch in between our regular projects and do outside time if necessary. We all work together, and it becomes quite an interesting event in the office and, I think, is a great asset. We have covered at least ten projects in our effort. I think it's amazing when I look at the total, because of all the work that we've had to do. And I doubt if there are many offices that could say they have been in as many.

I want to add that there's still one other type of competition that I was in, which I think is quite unique. In 1935, right after the Long Beach earthquake, I was designing the Hermosa [Beach] Elementary School buildings which had been destroyed partially. We renovated the classroom building, which adjoined the auditorium, but we had to tear the old auditorium down. Before I was authorized to start the auditorium building, there was a fellow architect who asked the board to have an opportunity to win this commission. So I was asked by the Hermosa Beach school board to participate in a competition in which they wanted to check our technical knowledge. So one evening the board met in a building at the Hermosa Beach pier, where we stood up in front of the board and for one hour asked each other technical questions about materials, methods of construction, and design. I won the competition and got the commission to design the auditorium. This was the most unique type of competition, probably the first and the last.

VALENTINE: The jury probably didn't know the right answers anyway.

LUNDEN: I would say one wouldn't expect any school board member to know all the technical answers.

VALENTINE: Did you break even financially with these competitions? I know they can be very expensive to an office. Did you win enough to make it worth it?

LUNDEN: No, not moneywise. I think you win enough in experience and the esprit of the office.