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SPACES Update

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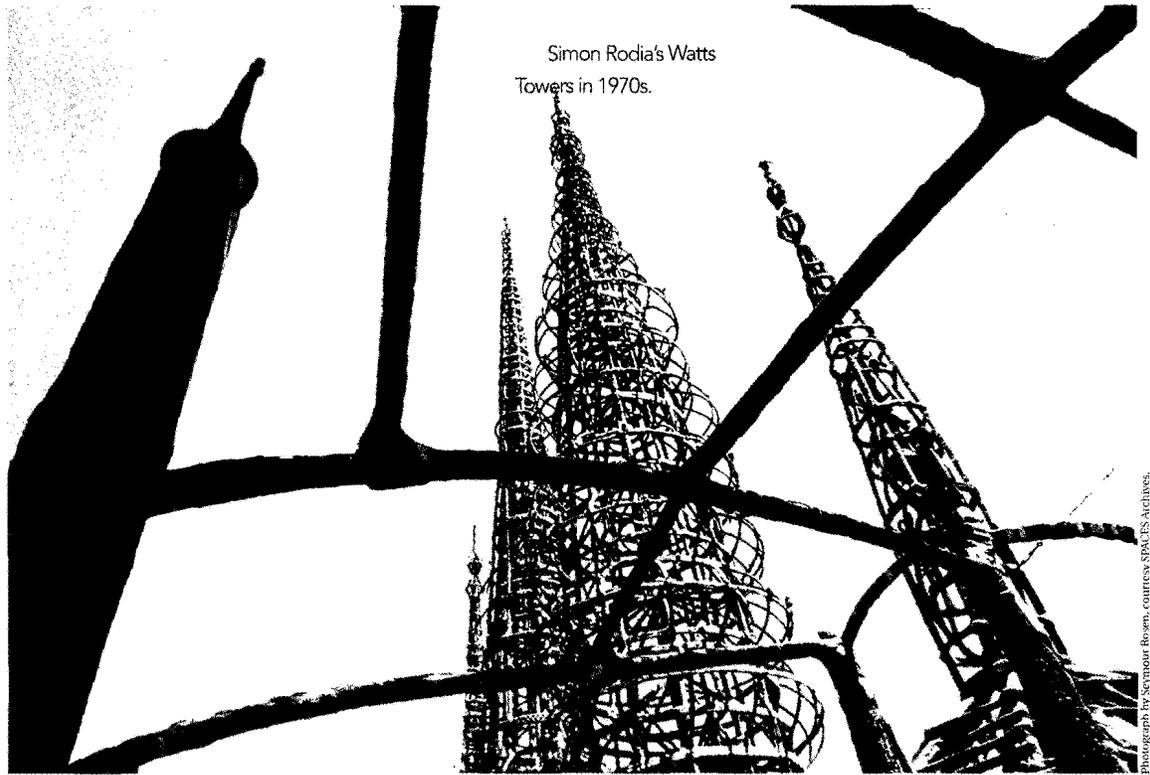
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SPACES UPDATE



Simon Rodia's Watts
Towers in 1970s.

Photograph by Seymour Rosen, courtesy SPACES Archives.

BY JO FARB HERNANDEZ

In the 18 months since founder Seymour Rosen's death, the nonprofit organization, SPACES (Saving and Preserving Arts and Cultural Environments), has moved to new offices in Aptos, in central California, and has re-organized and re-energized the organizational infrastructure. With a new board of trustees, SPACES is expanding its regular programming and making ambitious plans for the future.

We are in the midst of organizing thousands of clippings, books, journals and audiovisual materials in the collection, in order to make the archival resources available to a broader public. In so

readers please take note), we have also initiated a project to collect oral history reminiscences from longtime supporters of this field.

The first such oral history is being undertaken by Jay Platt, formerly of the L.A. Conservancy and now with the City of Glendale's Historic Preservation Office. Platt has been interviewing Bud Goldstone, one of the original members of the Committee to Save Simon Rodia's Towers in Watts. He is the aeronautical engineer who designed the stress test that ultimately led to saving Watts Towers. Capturing Goldstone's reminiscences on videotape will fill in many of the gaps that the numerous citations recounting his achievements have left. This

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doing, numerous treasures have been discovered: scrapbooks compiled by artists, such as the California environment creators, Art Beal and John Ehn; correspondence with now-deceased collectors, museum directors and scholars; and examples of artwork from sites that have long since been dismantled.

We continue to actively solicit new materials from researchers in the field. In the last year alone, we have received hundreds of contributions of photographs, videos, dissertations, articles and books from supporters worldwide.

One of our other objectives, based on a project envisioned by Rosen, is to compile a complete history of those who have been involved in the documentation and preservation of art environments internationally. Beside encouraging researchers to send us details of the sites they have visited (*Folk Art Messenger*

project will continue with other historical supporters as well.

We are enthusiastic about the possibilities for programming and preservation initiated by the reorganization of SPACES, but we are acutely aware of the challenges we face. We feel that this endeavor will pay appropriate homage to the significant efforts and prescient labors of Founding Director Seymour Rosen.

SPACES's offices are open by appointment only. We may be contacted at: Jo Farb Hernandez, Director of SPACES, 9053 Soquel Drive, Suite 205, Aptos, CA 95003, Tel: 831-662-2907; Fax: 831-662-2918 e-mail address: info@spacesarchives.org; web site: www.spacesarchives.org ☐

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