

RUTH SHELLHORN: Midcentury Landscape Design in Southern California

A film by the Library of American Landscape History
and Florentine Films/Hott Productions

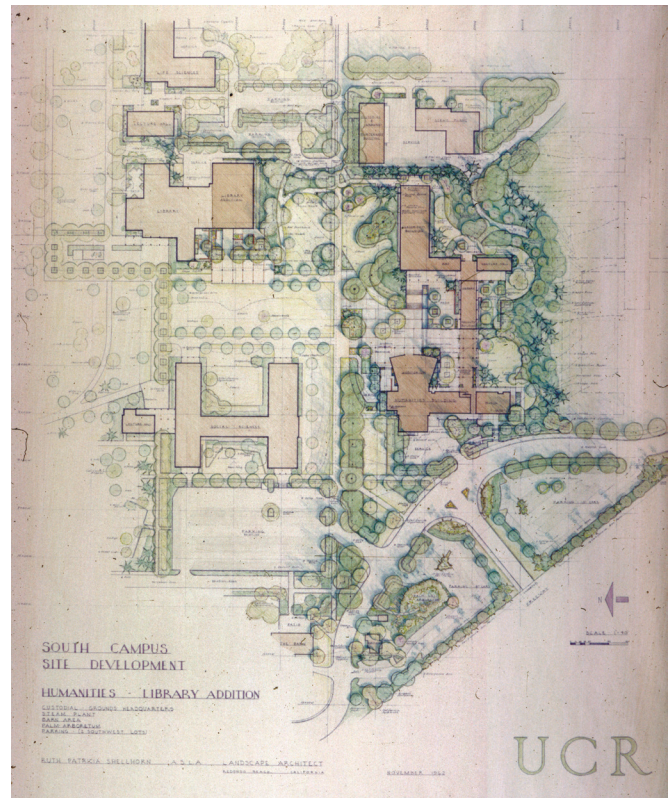
Ruth Shellhorn, a twelve-minute documentary film in the LALH North America by Design series.

Over the course of her nearly sixty-year career, modernist landscape architect Ruth Shellhorn (1909–2006) created close to four hundred landscape designs and collaborated with some of the most celebrated architects in Southern California. Inspired to enter the profession by her Pasadena neighbor Florence Yoch, Shellhorn received formal training at Oregon State and Cornell before opening her own practice in Los Angeles.

Today she is best remembered for her Bullock's department store designs—lush gardens and fountain-filled courtyards that lured shoppers with the promise of the “Southern California experience.” But Shellhorn she also worked to preserve the region's coastline and native landscape. In 1955 she helped lay out Disneyland, conferring with Disney on circulation and plantings for the various “lands.” A year later, she became supervising landscape architect for the University of California at Riverside. Shellhorn's many private gardens in Los Angeles and Pasadena were elegant, exotic, and among the most horticulturally distinctive of their day.



University of California, Riverside South Campus development plan, 1964. Courtesy Ruth Patricia Shellhorn Papers, UC Berkeley.



University of California, Riverside, administration building, north patio, 1976. Photograph by Ruth Shellhorn. Courtesy Ruth Patricia Shellhorn Papers, UC Berkeley.

FLORENTINE FILMS/HOTT PRODUCTIONS

Since 1981, Hott Productions has produced nearly two dozen films for national broadcast as well as for web and educational distribution. Their numerous awards include an Emmy and two Academy Award nominations. Additional information can be found at www.florentinefilms.org.

ABOUT THE LIBRARY FOR AMERICAN LANDSCAPE HISTORY

LALH is a unique non-profit organization, based in Amherst, Massachusetts, dedicated to fostering appreciation of the heritage of North America's designed landscapes through LALH books, films, exhibitions, and *VIEW*.

LALH books and other resources support the preservation of North American parks, historical gardens, and other designed landscapes.

LALH AND HOTT PRODUCTIONS—

Winners of the 2015 Society of Architectural Historians Film Award!



Clockwise from top left: Kelly Comras, author of *Ruth Shellhorn*; Ruth Shellhorn and Walt Disney at Western Railway station, Disneyland, two weeks before opening day, 1955; Hixon garden, 1978. Photograph by Ruth Shellhorn. Courtesy Ruth Patricia Shellhorn Papers, UC Berkeley.



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