

Panama-California Exposition, Balboa Park, 1915

THE COMMITTEE OF ONE HUNDRED

Working to preserve Balboa Park's historic architecture, gardens, and public spaces since 1967

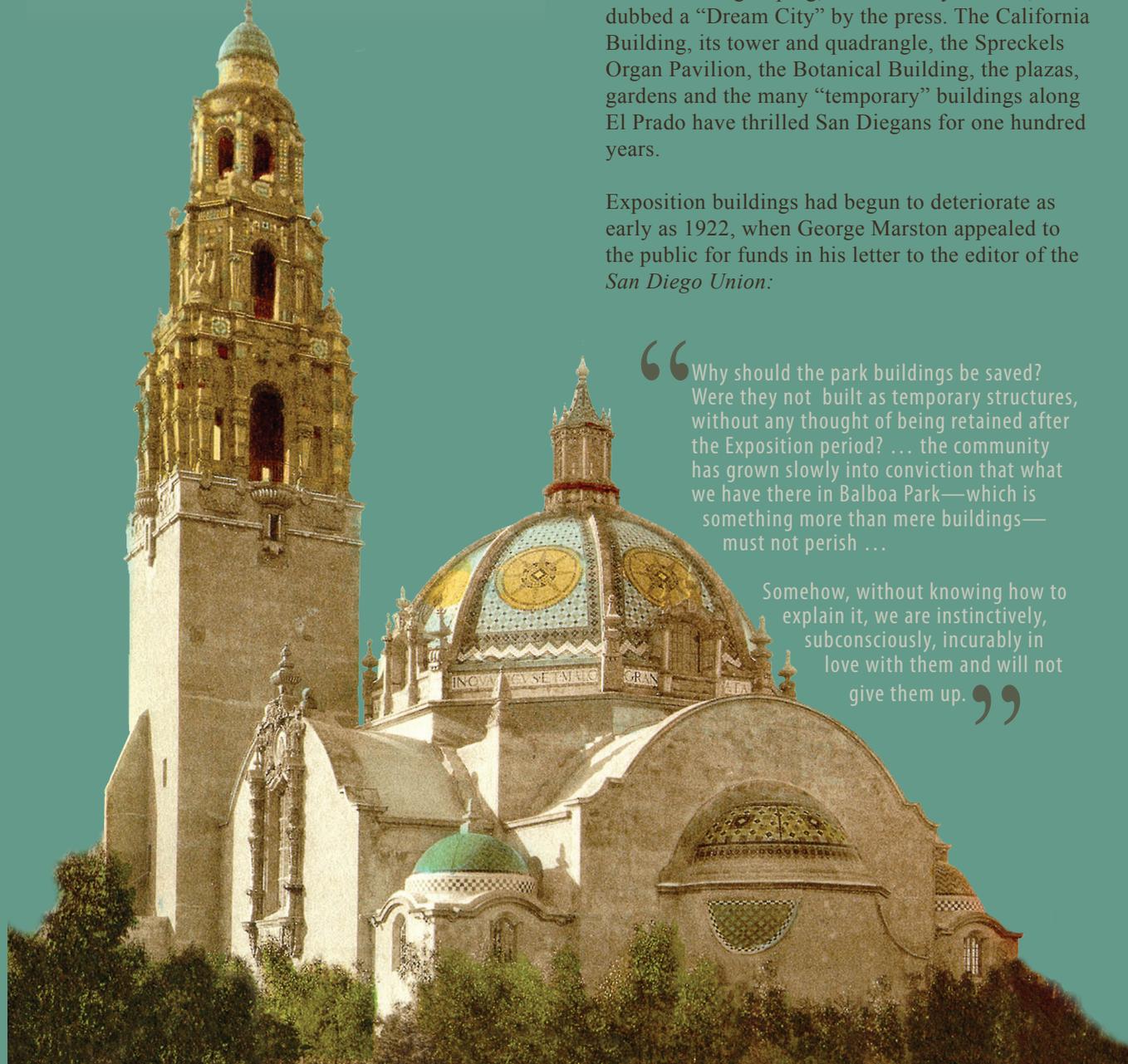
1915-1916

The Panama-California Exposition, held in Balboa Park during 1915-1916, introduced Spanish Colonial Revival architecture to Southern California and to millions of visitors. The El Prado grouping, connected by arcades, was dubbed a “Dream City” by the press. The California Building, its tower and quadrangle, the Spreckels Organ Pavilion, the Botanical Building, the plazas, gardens and the many “temporary” buildings along El Prado have thrilled San Diegans for one hundred years.

Exposition buildings had begun to deteriorate as early as 1922, when George Marston appealed to the public for funds in his letter to the editor of the *San Diego Union*:

“Why should the park buildings be saved? Were they not built as temporary structures, without any thought of being retained after the Exposition period? ... the community has grown slowly into conviction that what we have there in Balboa Park—which is something more than mere buildings—must not perish ...

Somehow, without knowing how to explain it, we are instinctively, subconsciously, incurably in love with them and will not give them up.”



We are a 501(c)3 non-profit, all-volunteer organization. Support our mission to preserve Balboa Park's historic architecture, gardens, and public spaces. Donate securely on our website or mail a check to:

THE COMMITTEE OF ONE HUNDRED
 Balboa Park Administration Building
 2125 Park Boulevard
 San Diego, CA 92101-4753

www.C100.org
 email: president@C100.org

During the 1960s two Exposition buildings on the Plaza de Panama were demolished. The Science and Education Building was replaced by the modern west wing of the art museum; the Home Economy Building was replaced by the Timken. The four remaining “temporary” buildings on El Prado were destined to meet a similar fate when a group of people formed The Committee of One Hundred in 1967. Dedicated to preserving Balboa Park’s historic architecture, the group raised funds and garnered public support for financing reconstruction of the remaining temporary buildings, all four which have now been rebuilt along with connecting arcades.

THE COMMITTEE OF ONE HUNDRED *Accomplishments*

1972

The 1915 Varied Industries and Food Products Building, known as the Food and Beverage Building, was condemned in 1968. The Committee of One Hundred raised funds to remove the ornamentation to be replicated and to reconstruct the building’s El Prado loggia. Youth organizations, garden clubs, and others joined with The Committee of One Hundred to rally voters to approve a successful bond measure to finance a reconstructed building, renamed Casa del Prado when it opened in 1972.

1981

The Spreckels Organ Pavilion was built for the 1915 Exposition, a gift to the people of San Diego by John D. Spreckels and his brother Adolph. The organ pavilion had deteriorated and was threatened with destruction in the 1970s. The Committee of One Hundred led a lengthy campaign, raising \$591,000 toward restoration of the organ and pavilion.

1982

The 1915 Commerce and Industries Building, later known as the Electric Building, had become a crumbling firetrap when it was destroyed in 1978. The Committee of One Hundred raised funds to have nearly 300 pieces of ornamentation removed in anticipation of reconstructing the building. Two weeks later a fire burned the building to the ground, destroying much of the collection of the Aerospace Museum. The reconstructed building opened in 1982 and was renamed Casa de Balboa.

1992

The 1915 Home Economy Building on the Plaza de Panama was demolished in 1963 to make room for the Timken Museum of Art. The Committee of One Hundred raised \$565,000 for the 1992 reconstruction of the original building’s El Prado arcade.

1996

The 1915 Indian Arts Building became known as the House of Charm during the 1935 Exposition, and required many repairs to keep it standing for 80 years. The Committee of One Hundred funded a photo study of ornamentation before the building was demolished. The House of Charm was reconstructed in 1996 and is now home to the Mingei Museum and the San Diego Art Institute.

1997

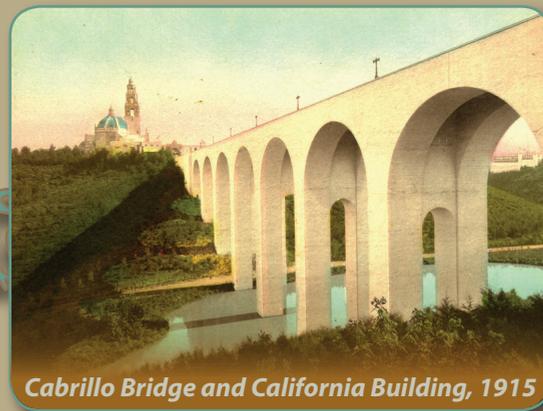
The 1915 Foreign Arts Building, remodeled as the House of Hospitality for the 1935 Exposition, was reconstructed in 1997. It is home to the Casa del Rey Moro Garden, where many San Diegans were married or celebrated special events. Architect Sam Hamill, one of the founders of the Committee of One Hundred, designed the interior of the building with courtyard, ballroom, and second level. The Committee of One Hundred, which had previously funded repairs of the original building, raised \$100,000 toward the 1997 reconstruction.

2005

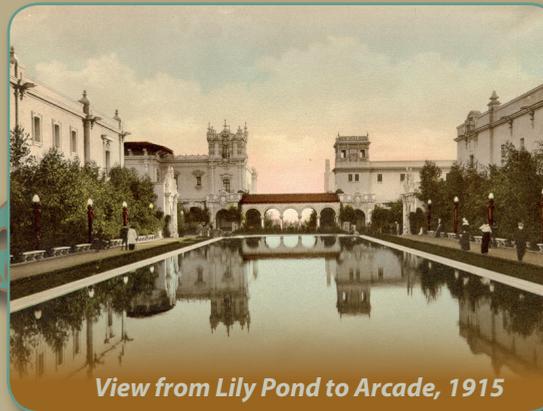
The 1915 Science and Education Building had been demolished in 1964 and was replaced by the modern west wing of the Fine Arts Gallery in 1966. The Committee of One Hundred campaigned for the reconstruction of the building’s 1915 El Prado arcade and raised more than \$180,000 toward its reconstruction in 2005.

2008

Ceramic tiles in the Alcazar Garden had become badly damaged, with many broken or missing tiles. The Committee of One Hundred raised \$60,000 for its 2008 restoration of the two fountains and eight tile benches and purchased extra tiles to facilitate future repairs. The Alcazar Garden is as beautiful today as it was during the 1935 Exposition.



Cabrillo Bridge and California Building, 1915



View from Lily Pond to Arcade, 1915



Fountain and Botanical Building, 1915