

L.A. firms also involved in

Getty Brentwood project

At least one person is less than pleased with published reports that no Los Angeles architects are among the seven chosen for consideration by the J. Paul Getty Trust to build the \$100 million-plus Fine Arts Center destined for Brentwood. James Sterling, director of business development and vice president of Welton Becket and Associates — which has been in business here for more than 50 years — said his firm is indeed among those being considered for the prestigious commission, announced by the Getty Monday.

Sterling explained that the Becket firm was

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working in partnership with architect Robert Venturi of Philadelphia, one of those named in the Getty announcement. "Venturi will have the initial design responsibility," he said of the proposed working relationship between the two firms, while the Welton

Becket office "will have primary responsibility for technical services."

As it turns out, however, Becket is not the only L.A. firm that has established a "joint-venture" relationship with one of the seven architects named by the trust. The San Francisco firm of Batey and Mack has teamed locally with Daniel Dworsky and Associates, according to a Getty spokesman.

Sterling added that his firm was among the initial 33 approached by the Getty in the first round of deliberations. "We felt that the teaming of a large firm such as ours with a smaller, quality firm such as Venturi would be advantageous," he said of the decision to collaborate, adding that it would be useful for an architect based in Philadelphia to have available a firm located in the city where the project would be built.

While the list of architects released by the Getty contained only the names of the possible principal designers of the Brentwood facility, Sterling emphasized, "this is a joint venture." Venturi's office confirmed the proposed working relationship.

Among the many announcements this week by the Getty was the appointment of Deborah A. Gribbon as the museum's assistant director for cultural affairs. In this newly created position, she'll participate in acquiring works of art, planning for the new museum in Brentwood, and installing exhibitions and works from the collection.

Gribbon has been a curator of the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum in Boston since 1976.