The book combines lofty principles and mundane, if no less fascinating, logistics. The introduction by Los Angeles neon restorers Dydia DeLyser and Paul Greenstein address the principles inherent in neon restoration. Not only do they distinguish among restoration, which returns something to its original state; preservation, which retains evidence of age and wear; and adaptive reuse, which puts a restored sign in a new context: their introduction also declares restoration as the best practice for outdoor neon signs—keeping them in their original place and returning them to their original condition. Manifesto thus established, the rest of Saving Neon covers the logistics. The authors handle much of that in a helpful FAQ format, answering a pair of related questions covering such topics as paint color, tube bending, wiring & transformers, and metal cabinets & pigeons (pigeon detritus is, with elegance and understatement, referred to as a “common accelerant” of rust and rot here). If you’ve ever wondered how putting any of the five noble gases in a glass tube can create colored light, that information is here, too. Several illustrative photos always accompany the responses to these questions, allowing Saving Neon to show readers how things are done, not just tell them. Such how-to basics also hold to principles similar to those espoused in the introduction. Despite the inroads that LED tubing has made as a replacement for neon, Saving Neon makes another declaration by proclaiming that such a substitution is “just, well, wrong” for several reasons (though replacing neon-accompanying, energy-intensive incandescent bulbs with more efficient LED bulbs is OK). Once again, we have a blend of the practical and the idealistic here. Not surprisingly, Saving Neon highlights a handful of successful restorations in a section called “Success Stories.” Less expected, and just as instructional, is another section called “Lessons Learned” that offers another handful of restorations, most of these poorly conceived, usually involving the removal of both neon and the artistic flair of original lettering. All in all, this is impressive work by experts, writing for a non-expert readership.