

OVERDRIVE

L.A. CONSTRUCTS THE FUTURE
1940-1990

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**A FASCINATING STUDY OF ARCHITECTURAL INNOVATION IN LOS ANGELES PRESENTS
AN EXTENDED INVESTIGATION OF NEW URBAN HISTORY**

Overdrive: L. A. Constructs the Future, 1940-1990

LOS ANGELES—From 1940 to 1990, Los Angeles rapidly evolved into one of the most populous and influential industrial, economic, and creative capitals in the world. During this era, the region was transformed into a laboratory for cutting-edge architecture. *Overdrive: L. A. Constructs the Future, 1940-1990* (Getty Publications, \$59.95, Hardcover) examines these experiments and their impact on modern design, reframes the perceptions of Los Angeles's dynamic built environment, and amplifies the exploration of the city's vibrant architectural legacy.



The drawings, models, and images highlighted in the *Overdrive* exhibition and catalogue reveal the complex and often underappreciated facets of Los Angeles and illustrate how the metropolis became an internationally recognized destination with a unique design vocabulary, canonical landmarks, and a coveted lifestyle. This investigation builds upon the groundbreaking work of generations of historians, theorists, curators, critics, and activists who have researched and expounded upon the development of Los Angeles. In this volume, thought-provoking essays shed more light on the exhibition's narratives, including Los Angeles's physical

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landscape, the rise of modernism, the region's influential residential architecture, its buildings for commerce and transportation, and architects' pioneering uses of bold forms, advanced materials, and new technologies.

Los Angeles's ability to facilitate change, experiment, recalibrate, and forge ahead is one of its greatest strengths. Future generations are destined to harness the region's enviable resources to create new layers of architectural innovations. The related exhibition will be held at the J. Paul Getty Museum from April 9 to July 21, 2013.

About the Editors—Wim de Wit is an architectural historian and head of the Department of Architecture and Contemporary Art at the Getty Research Institute in Los Angeles. He has organized numerous exhibitions and contributed to catalogues about topics in the history of twentieth-century architecture, including *Lessons from Bernard Rudofsky: Life as a Voyage* (Birkhauser, 2007). **Christopher James Alexander** is assistant curator of architecture and design at the Getty Research Institute. He is the author of *Julius Shulman's Los Angeles* (Getty 2011).

Publication Information:

Overdrive

L. A. Constructs the Future, 1940–1990

Edited by Wim De Wit and Christopher James Alexander

Getty Research Institute

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