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**L.A. CONSERVANCY CURATES THE CITY AS PART OF
PACIFIC STANDARD TIME PRESENTS: MODERN ARCHITECTURE IN L.A.**

Curating the City: Modern Architecture in L.A. treats Greater Los Angeles as a living museum through tours, programming, and an innovative new website

April 20 – July 27, 2013
laconservancy.org/modern



Downtown L.A.'s modern skyline features buildings from the 1960s through the 1990s, which relate to their older neighbors in fascinating ways and exemplify how cities evolve over time. Photo by Annie Laskey/L.A. Conservancy.

LOS ANGELES (April 8, 2013) — The Los Angeles Conservancy is pleased to announce the reprise of its popular **Curating the City** series in 2013 to showcase fifty years of modern architecture in Greater L.A., as part of the Getty initiative, Pacific Standard Time Presents: Modern Architecture in L.A.

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Funded by a grant from the Getty Foundation, [Curating the City: Modern Architecture in L.A.](#) will combine architectural tours, panel discussions, youth activities, a film screening, and a permanent online resource to highlight L.A. County's modern architectural heritage and the need to preserve it. The program will span from 1940 to 1990, venturing into the relatively new preservation territory of the 1970s and '80s.

Though the nonprofit Conservancy has worked to preserve significant modern architecture for most of its thirty-five-year history—its volunteer Modern Committee was formed in 1984—the Getty initiative presents a special opportunity. “We’ve never had the chance to step back and take such a broad view of L.A. modernism over five decades,” said Linda Dishman, the Conservancy’s executive director. “What happened here in terms of architectural experimentation, technical innovation, suburban development, and master planning had an immeasurable impact not only in Southern California, but also across the nation and the globe.”

Curating the City: Modern Architecture in L.A. will treat Greater Los Angeles as a living museum, using public programming to interpret the story of L.A. modernism in different ways. Launched originally in 2005 as Curating the City: Wilshire Boulevard ([curatingthecity.org](#)), this broad-based educational approach encourages the ongoing exploration and appreciation of L.A.’s unique built environment.

Specific programming for **Curating the City: Modern Architecture in L.A.** will include targeted events for youth in the Westlake neighborhood and people who work in modern skyscrapers on downtown’s Bunker Hill. A range of programming open to the public is outlined below (all programs subject to change). Throughout the series, the Conservancy will hold a **Curating the City Instagram Contest**, an open invitation to participants to capture and curate their own vision of fifty years of architecture through their camera lens. Complete details on the Instagram Contest and all programs can be found at [laconservancy.org/modern](#).



Tour

Venice Eclectic: Modern Architecture from the 1970s and '80s

Saturday, April 20, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Various sites in Venice

\$35 general public, \$30 L.A. Conservancy members, \$15 students, \$10 children 12 and under. Tickets at [laconservancy.org/modern](#)

This one-day-only architectural tour will explore how affordable land, a culture of creativity, and an open-minded community made Venice of the

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1970s and '80s the right place and time for experimental young architects to cut their teeth on new designs using unorthodox materials in limited spaces. The result is an impressive collection of surprising, whimsical, and innovative modern structures, often in collaboration with artists, by architectural greats such as **Steven Ehrlich, Frederick Fisher, Frank Gehry, Frank Israel**, and many others. The day's activities and tour sites include (subject to change):

- **Architects' Panel**

Three of the architects featured on the tour will participate in a panel discussion. **Steven Ehrlich, Frederick Fisher, and Brian Murphy** will discuss the work they were doing during the '70s and '80s in Venice, in a conversation moderated by Daniel Paul, Senior Architectural Historian at ICF. Tourgoers are encouraged to attend this 45-minute panel discussion at the Westminster Avenue Elementary School Auditorium at 1:30 p.m., free with purchase of a tour ticket.

- **Indiana Avenue Houses (Arnoldi Triplex)**

(Frank O. Gehry and Associates, 1981) – Designed by Gehry on land purchased by his artist friends Chuck Arnoldi and Laddie John Dill, these three buildings were meant to be studio spaces for local Venice artists.

- **Hopper House**

(Brian Murphy, 1989) – Former home of actor, art collector, and longtime Venice resident Dennis Hopper, this customized home reflects the lifestyle of its original owner.

- **Bay Cities Garage/Continuum**

(Franklin D. Israel Design Associates, 1990) – The working studio of Charles and Ray Eames for over 40 years, this building underwent a remodel by Frank Israel that created new spaces and utilized the concept of an interior “street.”

- **Windward Circle**

(Steven Ehrlich Architects, 1988-1989) – Three postmodern structures – Race through the Clouds, ACE Market Place, and the Windward Circle Arts Building – pay homage to Venice's early history while bringing new energy to the heart of the community.

- **Tasty Spuds (Arnoldi Studio)**

(original architect unknown, 1959) – Popular California artist and long-time friend of Frank Gehry, Chuck Arnoldi turned this former Tasty Spuds potato processing plant into his studio space in 1984.

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- **Ed Moses Studio**

(Steven Ehrlich Architects, 1987) – In a supreme example of the collaboration between art and architecture, Ed Moses and Steven Ehrlich worked together to transform a small garage into a light-filled and award-winning studio. This site will only be open from 2-4 p.m.

Tour – Modern Skyline Walking Tours

Every Saturday in May and June, 2 p.m.

Meet in Pershing Square, Downtown Los Angeles

\$10 general public, \$5 L.A. Conservancy members and children 12 and under

Reservations available at laconservancy.org/modern

One of the Conservancy's signature series of year-round walking tours, Modern Skyline highlights the skyscrapers, plazas, and public art that define downtown's Bunker Hill. Skilled volunteer docents share fascinating stories of the area's transformation and show how the city center mixes the new with the old as it changes over time.

Annual Meeting & Panel Discussion

Modern Renewal: Legacy of Lost and Found on Bunker Hill

Saturday, May 11, 10 a.m.

Westin Bonaventure Hotel and Suites, Downtown Los Angeles

Free; reservations required and available at

laconservancy.org/modern

The Conservancy's annual meeting will feature a panel of experts discussing the evolution of downtown's Bunker Hill from an upscale residential district at the turn of the twentieth century into the world-class commercial and cultural hub it is today. Held at the striking Bonaventure Hotel (John Portman & Associates, 1974-78), this free event will include a breakfast reception and optional tours of the hotel and surrounding area.



Panelists include **David Martin**, Design Principal and Co-Chairman at AC Martin Partners; **Don Spivack**, former Deputy Chief of Operations for the Community Redevelopment Agency of Los Angeles and adjunct instructor of planning at USC; and **Brian Tichenor**, Principal at Tichenor & Thorp Architects and lecturer at the USC School of Architecture. The program will include

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remarks by Conservancy Executive Director **Linda Dishman** and Director of Advocacy **Adrian Fine** about what redevelopment means for preservation.

Tour – Modern by Moonlight Tours

Thursday and Friday, May 23 and 24, 7 p.m.

Meet at Maguire Gardens at Central Library, Downtown Los Angeles

\$15 general public, \$10 L.A. Conservancy members

Reservations available March 20 at laconservancy.org/modern

A nighttime twist on the Modern Skyline walking tour, Modern by Moonlight will show the skyscrapers and plazas of Bunker Hill under the light of a full moon. The tour will end at the Bona Vista Lounge at the top of the Bonaventure Hotel for a cocktail and spectacular nighttime view. Guests will enjoy discounts on select cocktails.

Website – Curating the City: Modern Architecture in L.A.

Launching in June

The Conservancy's new website will launch with a dedicated section for **Curating the City: Modern Architecture in L.A.** From famous icons to hidden gems, the microsite will include a map of 300 modern buildings for visitors to explore firsthand or online, sharing their own stories along the way. The microsite will also include preservation success stories and challenges, an essay by renowned author Alan Hess on modernism in Greater L.A., information about upcoming events, and more. Designed as a permanent resource, the microsite will continue to expand after the Getty initiative ends.

Film Series – *My Fair Lady* at Last Remaining Seats

Wednesday, June 12, 8 p.m.

The Music Center's Dorothy Chandler Pavilion



\$16 L.A. Conservancy members (on sale March 27), \$20 general public (on sale April 10)

Tickets at laconservancy.org/modern

The ever-popular Last Remaining Seats series of classic films in historic theatres will visit **The Music Center's Dorothy Chandler Pavilion** (1964) for the first time, screening the classic musical, *My Fair Lady*. The film

opened the same year as this elegant venue, designed by Welton Becket and Associates for The Music Center of Los Angeles County.

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Panel Discussion – Preserving Sprawl: The Suburbs Become Historic and “Landmark This!” Workshop

Saturday, July 27, 10 a.m. (panel) and 1 p.m. (workshop)

location, price TBA

This panel discussion will re-examine suburbanization and sprawl as a key chapter in the story of post-World War II Los Angeles. Looking at two centers of suburbanization, the San Fernando Valley and Lakewood, will offer insight into the history of their development and what they mean to the people who live there. Today, many of the neighborhoods and communities that once defined the new growth of L.A. are threatened with redevelopment, renovation, and sometimes complete demolition.

Panelists include **Robert Bruegmann**, Professor Emeritus of Art History, Architecture and Urban Planning at the University of Illinois at Chicago and author of *Sprawl: A Compact History*; **Kevin Roderick**, author of *The San Fernando Valley: America’s Suburb*; and **D. J. Waldie**, author of *Holy Land: A Suburban Memoir* about the development of Lakewood. The panel will be moderated by author and architecture critic, **Alan Hess**. Immediately following the panel and in partnership with the Office of Historic Resources, we will offer a workshop called Landmark This! on how to help protect modern and culturally significant resources through landmark designation.

Photos:

The former Ace Market (Steven Ehrlich, 1989) in Venice, featured on our April 20 tour. Photo by Annie Laskey/L.A. Conservancy.

Futuristic interior of the Westin Bonaventure Hotel and Suites (John C. Portman and Associates, 1974-78). Photo by Annie Laskey/L.A. Conservancy.

Howard Ahmanson, Dorothy Chandler, and Mr. and Mrs. Mark Taper next to a model of The Music Center of Los Angeles County. Photo courtesy The Music Center of Los Angeles County.

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The **Los Angeles Conservancy** is a nonprofit membership organization that works through education and advocacy to recognize, preserve, and revitalize the historic architectural and cultural resources of Los Angeles County. What began as a volunteer group in 1978 now has over 6,000 members, making the Conservancy the largest local organization of its kind in the U.S. For more information, visit laconservancy.org.

Pacific Standard Time Presents: Modern Architecture in L.A. celebrates the city’s modern architectural heritage through thematic exhibitions at nine venues in and around the city. Supported by grants from the Getty Foundation, Modern Architecture in L.A. provides a wide-

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ranging look at the region's postwar built environment and the contributions of Los Angeles architects to the field. By examining a range of building types, from iconic modernist homes to the vast freeway network that has shaped this unique megalopolis, the exhibitions promise new insight into the city's planning, development and global impact. The initiative includes a diverse group of practitioners, from internationally known figures such as Richard Neutra and Frank Gehry, to others who have been critical to shaping Southern California's distinctive profile, such as A. Quincy Jones and Eric Owen Moss. Related lectures, films, tours and discussions organized by the exhibition venues and other participating organizations from April–July 2013 will explore the history of L.A.'s development as well as its future. Designed to continue the momentum and collaborative spirit of Pacific Standard Time: Art in L.A. 1945–1980, Modern Architecture in L.A. is the first of the smaller-scale Pacific Standard Time Presents offerings. For more information, visit pacificstandardtimepresents.org.

Major support for Curating City: Modern Architecture in L.A. has been provided by the Getty Foundation.

