



SELF GUIDED TOUR: INGLEWOOD'S ARCHITECTURE AND HISTORIC SITES



The story of Inglewood begins with the Centinela Springs located in Edward Vincent, Jr. Park. The naturally occurring water was what enabled the area to become an agricultural area specializing in barley, then eggs, and even chinchillas. One of the few original farmhouses is the Centinela Adobe which now houses a large collection of historical artifacts and a museum run by the Centinela Valley Historical Society.

From a historical perspective, the Inglewood Cemetery casts a wide net as 400,000 people are buried there, many originally from Inglewood, many from the LA Basin.

The single family house is often considered the iconic building type in Los Angeles. The City has been on the forefront of cutting edge house design since the turn of the century when Frank Lloyd Wright headed west to design the Hollyhock House. Rudolph Schindler came to LA from Vienna, initially to work with Wright. He built many houses throughout the city including three in Inglewood which though small, reflect some of the ideas percolating in the architectural community: the relationship between inside and outside, small spaces with low ceilings, total design by architects, simple materials such as plywood. One of the houses was renovated by Steven Ehrlich, a Culver City Architect whose firm won the AIA National Firm Award in 2015.

Another architect who built some of his major works in Los Angeles in Inglewood was Charles Luckman. He had an extraordinary impact on the city as the designer of the Forum which was just renovated and reopened in 2014 and the Civic Center.

Other architects of note who have designed innovative buildings in Inglewood include S. Charles Lee (Adademy and Fox Theaters), Martin Stern, Jr (Cafetales Restaurant), and Welton Becket (Centinela Valley Community Hospital). Another building, the Animo Leadership High School is slightly outside Inglewood's borders; however its architect Brooks + Scarpa won the Cooper Hewitt National Design Award in Architecture for 2014.



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NOTE:
Animo Leadership High School and
The Academy Theater are not on this map



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TOUR STOPS

1. *Aguaje de la Centinela: Centinela Springs* (1937)



700 Warren Lane

Rancho Aguaje de la Centinela was chosen by settlers for its ready source of fresh artesian water. The spring water made the Rancho Centinela attractive for farming crops and herds. Archibald Garner was commissioned to create the monumental water fountain to mark the spring at the center of what was originally Centinela Park. Garner constructed three basins from irregular granite boulders to quench human, horse, and canine thirsts. Although the drinking fountain is no longer operational, Centinela Springs still flow underground.

Garner's fountain bears three plaques. The inscriptions read:

"FROM TIME IMMEMORIAL GOD'S BLESSING OF SWEET WATER TO ALL HIS CREATURES"

MARKED BY CALIFORNIA HISTORY AND LANDMARKS CLUB

MARCH 2, 1939

AGUAJE DE LA CENTINELA (CENTINELA SPRINGS) ON THIS SITE BUBBLING SPRINGS ONCE FLOWED FROM THEIR SOURCE IN A DEEP WATER BASIN WHICH HAS EXISTED CONTINUOUSLY SINCE THE PLEISTOCENE ERA. PREHISTORIC ANIMALS, INDIANS, AND EARLY INGLEWOOD SETTLERS WERE ATTRACTED HERE BY THE PURE ARTESIAN WATER. THE SPRINGS AND VALLEY WERE NAMED AFTER SENTINELS GUARDING THE CATTLE IN THE AREA.

CALIFORNIA REGISTERED HISTORICAL LANDMARK NO. 363

PLAQUE PLACED BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION IN COOPERATION WITH THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF CENTINELA VALLEY

OCTOBER 9, 1976.

A second monument was created in 1970 for the re-dedication of the Centinela Springs.

Archibald Garner

Archibald Garner was born in Onida, South Dakota in 1904. Garner was a pupil of San Francisco artists Ralph Stackpole and Ruth Cravath in the 1930s. Moving to Los Angeles, he studied at the Chouinard Art School. Garner was one of the many artists who worked on the *Astronomer's Monument* at the Griffith Observato-



700 Warren Lane



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ry in Griffith Park in Los Angeles. His bas reliefs in other post offices including *Transportation of the Mail* in the San Diego post office and *Justice* in a post office in Fresno. *Law*, Garner's limestone statue, depicts a young woman with a tablet stands in the lobby of the Federal Courthouse in Los Angeles. In addition to his commissions for TRAP, Garner worked for 20th Century Fox, the film company, as a sculptor. Archibald Garner died in 1969.

2. Edward Vincent Park (1934)



700 Warren Lane

Edward Vincent Park, the largest park in Inglewood at 55 acres, is integral to the history of Inglewood. Originally called the Centinela Park, it was developed to protect the land and watershed around Centinela Springs.

Today, recreational amenities include a pool complex with an Olympic regulation-sized pool, training pool, wading and bathhouse. There are full basketball courts, softball and soccer fields, eight tennis courts and three parking lots.

Buildings for gatherings and events include the 1934 Veterans' Memorial Building, 1934; a black box theater/community playhouse with room for 60; and an outdoor amphitheater seating 1000. It is a cultural landmark and crown jewel of the Inglewood Parks, Recreation and Library Services department.

The park was rechristened Edward Vincent Park to honor the much loved former Inglewood politician, Edward Vincent, Jr. A tireless Inglewood booster, Vincent had a hand in much of Inglewood's development in the 1960s.



7635 Midfield Avenue

3. Centinela Adobe (1834)

The Centinela Valley Adobe is the birthplace of Inglewood. The Adobe was built in 1834 by Ignacio Machado as his ranch house. The oldest standing building in the Centinela Valley, it is the core of a historical museum.

The Centinela Adobe Complex consists of the Adobe, the Daniel Freeman Land Office built in 1887 and the Centinela Valley Heritage and Research Center. Over 10,000 photographs, books and other memorabilia chronicling the evolution of Centinela Valley are housed in the facility, largely mementos from Daniel Freeman's mansion built in 1888.

The Freeman Land Office is an important role in early Inglewood. The Land Office was founded in 1818 as an independent agency of the United States



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government. When California joined the union in 1850, much of its lands were under land grants from Spanish royalty and their agents working in Baja and Alta California. The Land Office was an important cultural and literal landmark in the Centinela Valley.

Today the Freeman Land Office displays unusual and diverse materials from the region's history. Display highlights include the area's first poultry colony, first domesticated chinchilla farm, Freeman's brick manufacturers, the birthplace of aerospace defense and exploration and other South Bay businesses.

The Walter Haskell Research Center, also known as the Heritage Center, gathered remnants from Freeman's mansion after its 1972 demolition. Construction of Interstate 405 severed easy access to the Adobe from Inglewood. The property is owned by the City Inglewood though it has a Los Angeles mailing address. The Museum is managed by the Historical Society of the Centinela Valley and staffed by volunteers.

The Centinela Valley Adobe Complex was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1974.

4. Inglewood Park Cemetery (1905)

Inglewood Park Cemetery Association was formed in 1905 by a group of businessmen pooling their resources to address a pressing need. Cemetery land was provided by Archie Freeman, son of Inglewood's founder Daniel Freeman. The first interment occurred on July 20, 1906.

The Centinela Valley was a sparsely settled area of farms and small homes at that time. Funeral processions arrived on horse-drawn flat carts. When the trolley arrived, mourners and coffins went to the cemetery in specially designed funeral cars.

Affordable crypt entombment came to the Cemetery in 1913. Tombs were considered a privilege of the wealthy at the time. Inglewood Park Cemetery was noted for building California's first community mausoleum, and provided crypts at a reasonable price.

Many Centinela Valley and the South Bay region settlers are entombed in Inglewood Mausoleum, alongside veterans of the U.S. Civil War. Inglewood



720 East Florence Avenue



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Mausoleum was the first of many structures added to over the years. The new Sunset Mission Mausoleum, provides 30,000 interment spaces. It is the largest in the nation. The Cemetery continues to build for the future.

Inglewood Park Cemetery has a resident stained glass artist, and maintains publicly accessible artworks above ground and in underground mausoleum vaults.

About 400,000 people are currently interred in the Cemetery, including politicians, entertainers and athletes. The Cemetery Park is a cultural landmark and mediation on Inglewood history. 30,000 interment spaces which is the largest in the nation. The Cemetery also has a resident stained glass artist. There are currently about 400,000 people interred there.

5. The Forum (1965)

The Forum is the largest and most iconic building in Inglewood. Once home to the Los Angeles Lakers, LA Sparks and LA Kings sports teams, the Forum provides Inglewood with its 'City of Champions' nickname.

The Forum story begins with Jack Kent Cooke, a part owner of the Lakers with an outsized personality. Cooke wanted to bring a professional hockey team to Los Angeles' Memorial Sports Arena. Losing to a competing proposal, he decided in 1966 to construct a new, more spectacular arena in Inglewood. He promised a team and an arena by December 31, 1967. This extravagant claim landed a National Hockey League franchise though Cooke had neither site nor financing at the time.

Cooke chose architect Charles Luckman for the project based on his reputation as a man who could solve an impossible problem. Luckman has one month to design the fast track building. Construction started before design was completed. Common now, design/build was atypical at the time.

In his autobiography Luckman wrote of his inspiration: the Roman Coliseum. The architect worked with little client feedback as Cooke promised to leave the design team alone. When shown a rendering of the column-free circular building with seating for 17,000 resting on a podium with a sign calling it the Forum, Cooke declared it fabulous. The name stuck, and the Fabulous Forum was born.

Forum construction went around the clock. The signature sixty-foot tall Romanesque arches were made in an on-site factory, as they were too big



3900 Manchester Boulevard



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to be transported through the streets. Helicopters were used to place building mechanical on the rooftop. With frenetic drive, the building opened on schedule. Cooke hosted a spectacular New Year's Eve opening with a ribbon cutting ceremony and a cast of dignitaries to help.

In addition to professional sports the arena hosted the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics basketball tournament and team tennis. Musicians playing the Forum include Steppenwolf, Cream, the Jackson 5, Barbra Streisand, the Eagles, KISS, Fleetwood Mac, and Diana Ross, among many others. As professional sports began a push for new stadia, the Forum's popularity waned. It was sold in 2000 and transformed into the Faithful Central Bible Church, which held services for a decade.

In 2012 the Madison Square Garden Company bought the Forum. They renovated the seating, sound equipment, lighting, public art and landscaping, while preserving the exterior façade. The Forum reopened in January 2014 and earned its place on the National Register of Historic Places.

Charles Luckman, Architect

Charles Luckman was born in 1909 in Kansas City, Missouri, and studied architecture at the University of Illinois. He graduated in 1931 in the midst of the Depression. Professional jobs were rare, so he joined the advertising department of the Colgate Palmolive Peet Company. He soon became a sales manager with the Pepsodent Company and was credited with quadrupling profits. When Lever Brothers purchased Pepsodent the board named Charles Luckman the company president leading to his 1937 Time magazine cover at the age of 27.

As President of Lever Brothers, Luckman was personally involved in commissioning Skidmore Owings and Merrill to design Lever House, the first glass skyscraper on Park Avenue in New York City. After the building was completed, Luckman decided to return to architecture. Joining William Pereira in Los Angeles, they designed many buildings including the Theme Building at LAX and the Prudential Tower in Boston. Later leading his own practice, Luckman designed the Los Angeles Convention Center, New York's Madison Square Garden, and Inglewood's Civic Center. Luckman died in 1999.

6. Inglewood City Hall (1973)

Inglewood's Civic Center complex is anchored by its nine-story City Hall by Charles Luckman Associates architects. The building's high rise design resulted from his desire to create a civic icon for Inglewood which would be a recognizable landmark in the low Los Angeles skyline. Luckman was also inspired by his collaboration on Skidmore Owings and Merrills' Lever House in Manhattan



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1 West Manchester Boulevard

completed in 1952 as well as by Kallmann and McKinnell's Boston City Hall which opened in 1969. He framed Inglewood's Civic Center by setting it back from Manchester Boulevard and La Brea Street with Robert Herrick Carter's landscaping. The only signpost marking the La Brea Avenue entry is Tony DeLap's Skedans sculpture. Cars are discretely guided to parking structures below the facility or adjacent to City Hall.

City Hall has many of the hallmarks of the International Style. Even though the building is organized with a ring of offices around each floor plate, each facade is treated differently to respond to its orientation. The building incorporates a bevy of technical features then considered state-of-the-art: it is constructed of poured-in-place concrete, the windows are set back with concrete 'bris soleil' or sunscreens, tinted glass, and (typical of the time) it was fully air conditioned throughout.

Robert Herrick Carter's role on the project was a true collaboration. His landscaping of the plaza thoughtfully manages to knit the multi-level complex together and provide a green carpet of vegetation for the concrete buildings. Carter took full advantage of Inglewood's microclimate and even included flowering coral trees in his design. In the half century since the complex was completed, the trees have grown and the plants in the gardens today look like a mature version of the original design.

Charles Luckman, Architect

Robert Herrick Carter, Landscape Architect

Robert Carter was born in Los Angeles in 1919 and studied architecture at USC. His father was a horticulturist, and Carter became very interested in commercial landscape in the forties. Landscape architecture was not really considered a profession at the time. Planting around new buildings was rarely an intentional part of the overall design scheme. Carter was the first to plant flowering trees in Los Angeles's commercial buildings, and one of the first to add palm trees to gardens and landscapes for non residential buildings. He is responsible for introducing species like jacaranda to public spaces. His local projects include the airport, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Century Plaza Hotel, Caltech, ARCO headquarters for Atlantic Richfield Company, and the Zoo, among many others

In the 1960s, he began greening deserts by using native plants; he also designed projects in Saudi Arabia. He won many landscaping and design awards before his death in 1989.



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7. Inglewood Public Library (1975)



101 West Manchester Boulevard

Inglewood's Public Library lies adjacent to City Hall on the 29 acre Civic Center campus. Charles Luckman Associates added unusual features of this building including its orientation, organization and circulation flow. A building's front façade at the time, typically faced the property's main street. Luckman's innovation was to flip the Library to face the Civic Center's central plaza. Pedestrian and auto traffic were taken on a journey around the site.

Luckman embraced the International Style in the building's orientation. The entry ramp is dramatically moved away from the façade. The functional Lecture Hall is a separate building accessed from the second story plaza. A three-story stairwell is encased in a bumped-out column on Manchester Boulevard.

The Library is made of poured-in-place reinforced concrete, a technique that requires precise wooden molds made on site. The material of choice for many significant public buildings of the era, it allows the creation of precise sculptural facades. Using it allowed artist Tom Van Sant to create *The Written Word* artwork poured in place in specialized molds made for three different Library walls. The technique is not used as widely today, likely due to the expense and level of craftsmanship it requires.

Charles Luckman, Architect
Robert Herrick Carter, Landscape Architect



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8. Three Speculative Houses (1973)

One of the many desirable residential streets in Inglewood, is West Ellis Avenue. Much of the Avenue's charm comes from the three modernist houses designed by Rudolph Schindler.



423, 429, 433 West Ellis Avenue

Schindler believed that the inside and outside of structures should blend into each other, and that gardens and natural light should be incorporated into residential designs. Schindler was very interested in building affordable housing. He looked for creative ways to use inexpensive materials. He adapted wood frame construction into what is now called 'Schindler Frame' construction. He frequently used the same materials inside and outside. For instance, plywood was used for outside walls and built-in furniture inside many of his homes. For the three speculative houses, built without a prospective buyer, Richard Lind acted as the project architect for Schindler.

Architect Stephen Ehrlich bought one of the West Ellis Avenue houses in 2009. Ehrlich oversaw a complete restoration of the building. The house is now owned by Ehrlich's daughter, Onna Ehrlich-Bell, and her husband, Joel Bell. The adjacent house, purchased by Kali Nikitas and Richard Shelton, uses the same landscape architect, Stefan Hammerschmidt, as the Ehrlich-Bell home. He removed existing plantings and created a more natural desert-type landscape.

Schindler also designed several iconic area houses, including the Lovell Beach House in Newport Beach, California.

Rudolph Schindler

Rudolph Schindler was born in Vienna, Austria in 1887. Studying architecture there, he was influenced by the architects Otto Wagner, and Adolf Loos. His teachers believed in modernity, using modern materials and methods, not historical styles, as the source of contemporary architectural form. In 1911, Schindler discovered American architect Frank Lloyd Wright's Wasmuth portfolio, which had been published in 1910. This two-volume folio of 100 lithographs of Wright's work showed Schindler, an architecture of space more advanced than that of his teachers. Schindler decamped for Chicago in 1914, hoping to work for Wright

In 1918 Schindler was hired by Wright's firm as they started the Imperial Hotel commission in Tokyo. Wright, relying on Schindler, left the younger architect in charge of the Chicago office during his travels to Japan. Two years later, Wright sent Schindler to Los Angeles to supervise construction



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of his most important American commission of the time, the Hollyhock house for oil heiress Aline Barnsdall.

For Schindler, theory and practice were intimately connected. He wrote, "The twentieth century is the first to abandon construction as a source for architectural form." Advances in materials and methods enabled architects to design space; Schindler wrote that in the future the architect would control "space, climate, light, mood," creating what he called a 'Space Architecture'.

Schindler built his own home on Kings Road in Los Angeles. His 1922 concrete and redwood structure combined radical integration of interior and exterior spaces with an equally radical social program of four adults living as equals. Now known as the Schindler House, it holds the MAK Center for Art and Architecture.

Schindler never returned to Vienna, concentrating on his architectural practice in LA. He designed around 500 projects. Nearly 150 residences, mainly single family houses, were built. Rudolph Schindler died in 1953. Starting with his own Kings Road house, a concrete and redwood structure completed in 1922 which combined a site plan showing a radical integration of interior and exterior spaces with an equally radical social program of four adults living as equals, Schindler built up an architectural practice in LA. He designed around 500 projects in all; about 150 mainly single family houses were built.

Steven Ehrlich

Steven Ehrlich started his architectural practice in Culver City following six years in the Peace Corps in Morocco. His noted buildings in southern California include the Stoneview Nature Center in Baldwin Hills and the Westwood Branch Library. Other significant works include the John Roll Federal Courthouse in Arizona, and the competition winning entry for the Parliament Building Complex in Kuwait for the Federal National Council. Ehrlich has lectured and taught widely at schools including the University of Southern California, the Southern California Institute of Architecture (SCI-Arc), and Yale University. Ehrlich's firm won the 2015 National AIA Firm Award.

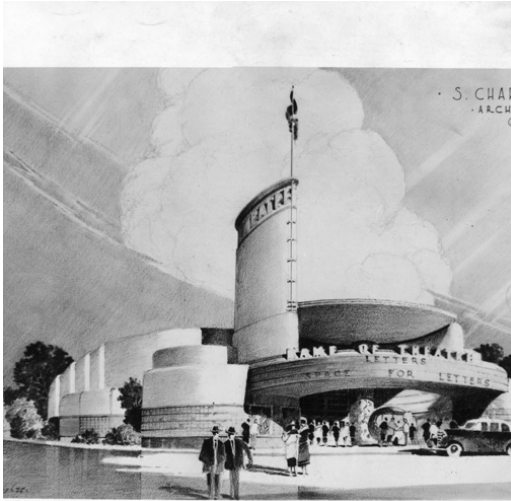
Stefan Hammerschmidt

Stefan Hammerschmidt is a landscape architect based in Venice, California. His practice is primarily residential, with an emphasis on sustainability.



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9. Academy Theater (1939)



3141 Manchester Boulevard

Inglewood's Academy Theater, originally designed to host the Academy Awards, never did. Architect S. Charles Lee designed the Academy, and later Inglewood's Fox Theater, for the Fox West Coast Theatre chain. Lee developed theater design standards over the course of his career, building over 300 palaces for movie patrons. His dramatic forms and luxurious designs framed patrons' entertainment, allowing them momentary escape during the challenging Great Depression and Cold War years.

The Academy Theater is noted for a streamlined aesthetic, circular forms and glass block. The exterior naming spire, is circled by a helical light illuminating the 'Academy' name. The Academy served as a location for film premieres through the 1970s. In 1976 the Academy Theatre became a church.

Maggie Valentine writes in her classic history of the genre, *The Show Starts on the Sidewalk: An Architectural History of the Movie Theater*, Starring S. Charles Lee 1994, "Initially viewing the design of movie palaces akin to a cathedral to film where patrons were treated like royalty for 25 cents, the Depression caused him to abandon that belief. He came to see cinemas as machines for entertainment and profit, developing a formula in which he combined entertainment and visibility."

S. Charles Lee

Simeon Charles Levi was born in Chicago in 1899. After World War I service, he studied at Chicago's Armour Institute of Technology at the Art Institute of Chicago. His first professional job was with Henry Newhouse, an architect specializing in theater design.

Levi changed his last name to Lee and moved to Los Angeles in 1922. He found architectural work with the early Hollywood studios then planning theater chains for film distribution. Lee's first major movie palace was the 1927 Tower Theater in downtown Los Angeles. It launched his career and resulted in over 300 Lee-designed theaters. Many of Lee's theaters are in California, and can also be found across the US and in Latin America.

Lee also designed the Municipal Light, Water and Power Building in Los Angeles. In 1948 he formed a partnership with Sam Hayden. Together they developed the LAX airport industrial district. S. Charles Lee died in 1990.



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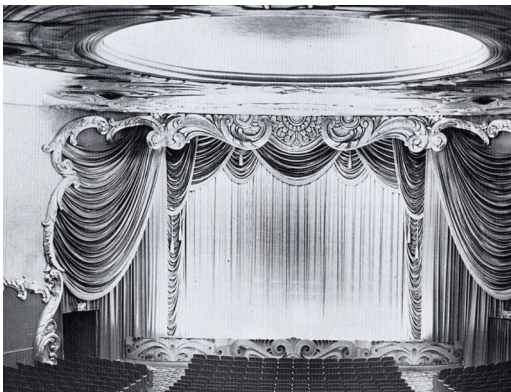
S. Charles Lee

Simeon Charles Levi was born in Chicago in 1899. His first job was with Henry Newhouse, an architect specializing in theater design. He served in World War I and returned to Chicago to study at the Armour Institute of Technology at the Art Institute of Chicago.

He changed his name to Lee and moved to Los Angeles in 1922 to find work for the early Hollywood studios which were in the midst of building theater chains for film distribution. His first major movie palace was the Tower Theater in downtown LA in 1927. Its success launched his career in theater building which spanned two decades and resulted in Lee designing over 300 theaters mostly in California, but also in other cities across the US as well as Latin America.

His other commissions too including the Municipal Light, Water and Power Buildings in LA. He formed a partnership with Sam Hayden in 1948. They went on to develop the industrial district near LAX. He died in 1990.

10. Fox Theater



115 N Market Street

Inglewood's Fox Theater has a long and proud history. The first theater at 115 N. Market Street, the Granada, opened in 1924. Designed in the Spanish Colonial Revival style by architect Leonard Jones it was built by the General Construction Company of Glendale. Destroyed in a fire in 1945, the theater shell was purchased by the Fox West Coast Theater Company to build a new theater. They teamed veteran theater architect S. Charles Lee with Fox Theatres in-house designer Carl G. Moeller to create a movie palace showcasing Hollywood glamour and luxury and seating 1008 in unsurpassed comfort.

The Fox opened on March 31, 1949 after construction delays due to post-war materials rationing. Legendary actors Shirley Temple and Clifton Webb were at the opening premiere of their movie Mr. Belvedere Goes to College.

The Fox was the first theater in Inglewood to have air conditioning. It also featured automatic lobby doors, CinemaScope widescreen projections, assistance for the hearing impaired and a soundproof for mothers with crying children. Inglewood's luxurious Fox was often used for Fox Picture's full premieres and sneak previews. The theater remained in operation for over 40 years under diverse owners, but tastes and times changed. It finally closed in 1988.



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The Fox Inglewood was often used for 'Sneak Previews' to gauge audience reactions to new Fox pictures as well as for full premieres. Although it would change ownership several times, the theater would remain in operation for over 40 years, finally closing its doors in 1988.

The 1990s brought a major civic effort to rehabilitate downtown Inglewood and specifically Market Street. Historical buildings were surveyed and street improvements were made. The shuttered Fox Theater became central to redevelopment proposals by the local Community Redevelopment Agency.

To raise awareness about this cultural landmark, Inglewood residents recently founded the non-profit Inglewood Historic Preservation Alliance, aided by the Los Angeles Historic Theaters Foundation. The Fox Theater was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2014. 'cry room' for mothers with small children, automatic opening lobby doors, cinemascope and assistance for the hearing impaired.

S. Charles Lee Architect

Carl Moeller Interior

Little is known about Fox Theaters in-house designer Carl Moeller. He began to work for Fox just prior to World War II. One pre-war architectural design attributed to him was the Hawaii Theater on Hollywood Boulevard in Los Angeles. Moeller's interior design work is found in the majority of the 200 theaters built or renovated during the post-war entertainment construction boom. Charles and Spiros Skoras led a massive campaign for 20th Century Fox to expand and modernize the chain's theater group, known in the industry as the 'Skourasization' period

11. Randy's Donuts (1953)

Randy's Donuts is unquestionably the icon of Inglewood. Not just a giant donut, Randy's boasts THE giant donut, the most famous donut sculpture in America and perhaps the world.

Completed in 1953, the donut shop was reportedly designed by Henry J. Goodwin as the second of ten locations for Russell C. Wendell's now-defunct Big Donut Drive-In Chain. Structural engineer Richard



805 West Manchester Boulevard



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Bradshaw is said to have designed this and other giant donuts. Made of rolled steel bars covered with gunite, a specialized concrete applicator, Randy's donut has been on display for over 60 years.

The shop supporting the donut is a typical Mid-Century Modern drive-up restaurant. It has seen multiple owners since Wendell, including the one in the mid-1970s who named it Randy's. Since 1978 the donut stand has been owned by donut enthusiasts Ron and Larry Weintraub.

Randy's Donuts is one of Inglewood's most iconic landmarks, representing postwar optimism and whimsy. It was featured in the films *Earth Girls Are Easy*, *Into the Night*, *Breathless*, *Californication*, *Iron Man 2*, *Get Shorty*, *Crocodile Dundee in Los Angeles*, *Escape from Petropolis*, and *Love Letters*. They are also noted for serving fresh donuts.

Architect

Henry J. Goodwin

Structural Engineer

Richard Bradshaw

12. Centinela Valley Community Hospital (1968)

Centinela Valley Community Hospital was established in 1924 as the Centinela Valley Medical Center. The earlier name still is prominent on the cornice.

In 1960 the hospital commissioned Welton Becket and Associates to create a 60-bed addition. The firm was known for innovative design. A medical and design discussion centered on whether patient privacy could promote faster recovery and diminish hospital-acquired infections. At the time hospitals typically had shared rooms. State health codes were written to reflect this standard. Part of the discussion was that single-patient rooms increased hospital and patient costs.

The hospital administrators and architects decided to explore creating a hospital with only single rooms, so state regulations had to be appealed and revised. Centinela Valley Medical Center became the first hospital to use only private rooms, a cutting edge model only now becoming the accepted practice.

Other signature Welton Becket features incorporated into the building are



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555 East Hardy St.

the vertical elements acting as both sunscreens and bay windows wrapping the facade, a variation on the horizontal ones circling Welton Becket's Capitol Records Building.

Welton Becket

Welton Becket was born in Seattle, Washington in 1902. He studied architecture at the University of Washington and a year at the École des Beaux Arts / Fountainbleu in Paris. Becket returned to the States to form his practice in Los Angeles in 1933.

The firm was noted for its embrace of total control of the design process from master planning to interiors, its technological innovation and use of unusual facade materials; it grew to become one of the most celebrated firms in the city.

Their noted buildings include Capitol Records Tower (1956) which was the world's first circular office building capped with a spire beaming Hollywood in Morse Code and the Santa Monica Civic Center (1958) with its raked floor that could be mechanically flattened for other uses. Their Los Angeles buildings are the Cinerama Dome (1962) the first concrete geodesic dome built in the world which housed which was then the world's largest movie screen, followed by the Music Center(1967). Becket, working with Charles Luckman and Paul Williams, also designed the Theme Building at LAX (1962).

Welton Becket died in 1969. His practice became one of the country's largest architectural firms. The company name changed over time from Wurdeman & Becket then Ellerbe Becket. Today it is a unit of AECOM, the architecture and engineering giant.

13. Cafetales Restaurant (1957)

The advent of the automobile in Los Angeles led to a space-age retro futuristic architectural style. Critic Douglas Haskell coined the term 'Googie' to describe it in 1952 after Googie's Coffee Shop, built in 1949 on the corner of Sunset Strip and Crescent Heights. Googie's was demolished in 1989, but the style was popular for small commercial buildings, coffee shops and car washes. Hallmarks of Googie architectural style include tapered columns, spires, and sweeping roofs shaped like flying saucers and spaceships. Often there were tropical landscapes. Buildings were rendered in futuristic colors - turquoise, avocado, and orange. The style inspired Disneyland's Tomorrowland and the Jetsons television cartoon.



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Inglewood embraced the Googie architectural aesthetic, sporting four Googie coffee shops, a bowling alley, drugstore, motel, and three car washes. Only one Googie coffee shop – Cafetales – and one Googie car wash - Jet Car Wash - remain intact.



115 South La Brea Avenue

The coffee shop, now known as Cafetales Restaurant, has been through several incarnations since the late 50's. Originally named Sherri's, this coffee shop was next called Farmer's Restaurant then rechristened GG's until it closed in 2008.

Cafetales' paint has dimmed, but its sign, design, and interior details, including rocks and space ship allusions, remain to remind of us of the Googie style.

Martin Stern, Jr.

Martin Stern, Jr. was born in New York in 1917. His family moved to Beverly Hills and he stayed in California to study architecture at the University of Southern California. After World War II, he set up a small Los Angeles practice. He pioneered Googie architecture with three designs for Ships coffee shops. The first opened in Culver City in 1956; the second in Westwood; the third on La Cienega. Stern's exuberant aesthetic proved perfect for Las Vegas. His Vegas hotels beginning with the Sahara (1959), ushered in the tall hotels that began populating the city. He designed the Sands Hotel in 1964; the Flamingo in 1967; and the Mint in 1968.

Stern designed the International Hotel next to the Las Vegas Convention Center in 1970. Stern created a new model for the urban resort hotel, transforming it with space-age design and theme restaurants. Stern's reshaping of Las Vegas was completed in 1973 with the MGM Grand, now Bally's Las Vegas. Martin Stern died in Los Angeles in 2001.