

Getty Center: Home

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General Information

The Getty Museum is located at

1200 Getty Center Drive
Los Angeles, California
90049

(310) 440-7300

Email

visitorservices@getty.edu

[Hours, Directions, and
Parking](#)

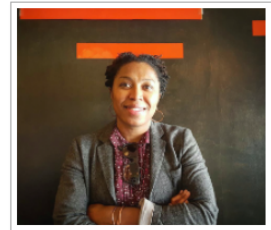
Introduction

The **J. Paul Getty Museum** is one of Los Angeles' most important museums, housing European paintings, drawings, sculpture, illuminated manuscripts, decorative arts, and photography from its beginnings to the present, gathered internationally. Special exhibitions are held regularly.

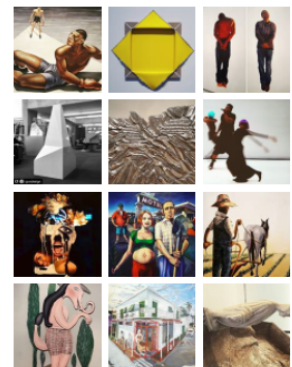
The Center is also home to the **Getty Research Institute Library** which is comprised of over one million books, periodicals, study photographs, and auction catalogs as well as extensive special collections of rare and unique materials. Focusing on art history, architecture, and related fields, they begin with the archaeology of prehistory and extend to the contemporary moment. It includes an **exhibition gallery** as well.

The Center hosts a **variety** of performances, lectures, classes, and films, some of which are free (most require a ticket). Several **free tours** offered throughout the day.

Subject Guide



Stacy Williams

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Architecture & Fine Arts
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Subjects:

Architecture, Art & Design,
History


Bird's Eye View



About This Guide

This guide was originally created for **Visions and Voices**.

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The J. Paul Getty Center (including the J. Paul Getty Museum) was designed by Pritzker Prize winning architect Richard Meier and opened to the public on 16 December 1997. More than 1.3 million visitors tour the museum annually.

Research guides

1. Artist: Giuseppe Arcimboldo
2. Location: Skokloster Castle, Sweden
3. Created: 1570

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General Information

Watch a 12 minute [video](#) introduction on the history of the Villa.

Collections

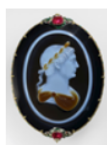
The **Permanent Collection** of the Getty Villa is comprised of approximately 44,000 Greek, Roman, and Etruscan antiquities; more than 1,200 items are on exhibit in 23 galleries. There is also a small collection of Cycladic objects, dating from 3000-2200 BCE.

Many of the **galleries** are arranged by themes, including Women and Children in Antiquity, Stories of the Trojan War, Monsters and Minor Deities, and Wine in Antiquity.

Please see Further Reading at the **Find Books** tab for a brief list of books about the Getty.

Exhibitions

Current Exhibitions



Cameo of Emperor Trajan, Roman, about A.D. 100

Ancient Luxury and the Roman Silver Treasure from Berthouville
Through 17 August 2015



Funerary Vessel (detail), South

Italian, from Apulia, about 350 B.C.

Dangerous Perfection: Funerary Vases from Southern Italy
Through 11 May 2015



Relief with Antiochos and Herakles

Through May 4, 2015

This stele honoring Prokleides, a military officer in the Athenian army, is on loan from the National Archaeological Museum in Athens. Carved in relief above a public decree are figures of Antiochos, the mythical founder of the tribe Antiochis, and his father, the Greek hero Herakles.



Molten Color: Glassmaking in Antiquity

Ongoing

Over 180 ancient glass objects made in Mesopotamia, Egypt, the Greek world, and the Roman Empire. The exhibit spans the entire period of ancient glass production, from its origins in Mesopotamia in about 2500 B.C. to Byzantine and Islamic glass of the eleventh century A.D.

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Email: afa@usc.edu
Campus map code: WAH

Amphitheatre



Further Reading

Most of the following are available in the Helen Topping
Architecture and Fine Arts Library (AFA).Bowe, Patrick. *Gardens and plants of the Getty Villa*. 2011
AFA: SB466.U7G482 2011Gaston, Theodora Getty. *Alone together : my life with J. Paul
Getty*. 2013**Doheny:** HD9570.G4 A3 2013Hackman, William R. *Inside the Getty*. 2008**AFA:** N582.M25I57 2008Getty, J. Paul. *As I See It: The Autobiography of J. Paul Getty*.
Rev. ed., 2003**AFA and Grand:** HD9570.G4A26 2003J. Paul Getty Museum. *Guide to the Getty Villa*. 2005**AFA and Leavey:** N582.M25A87 2005*J. Paul Getty Museum handbook of the antiquities collection*. 2010**AFA:** N5603.M36J25 20102002 ed. in **AFA:** N5603.M36J25 2002J. Paul Getty Museum. *Handbook of the Collections*. 7th ed.,
2007**AFA Reference:** N582.M25A627 2007

Previous editions in AFA and Grand; check Homer

Ross, Richard. *Seeing the Getty Villa*. 2005**AFA and Leavey:** N582.M25R68 2005Spier, Jeffrey. *Ancient Gems and Finger Rings: Catalogue of the
Collection*. 1992**AFA:** NK5565.S68 1992True, Marion. *The Getty Villa*. 2005**AFA and Leavey:** N582.M25T78 2005

For additional books, search Homer.

Currently on Exhibit

Lapatin, Kenneth D. S., ed. *The Berthouville Silver Treasure and
Roman Luxury*. 2014**AFA:** NK7107.3.B47 2014

Molten Color: Glassmaking in Antiquity

Related book:

Glass Throughout Time. 2003.**AFA:** NK5106.G5413 2003x

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East Garden



The East Garden at the reimagined Getty Villa in Malibu, CA. Getty Villa Photo

Architecture

A Roman Villa Recreated

The Getty Villa is modeled after a first-century Roman country house, the Villa dei Papiri in Herculaneum, Italy.

The J. Paul Getty Museum building was constructed in the early 1970s by the architectural firm of Langdon and Wilson. Architectural consultant Norman Neuerburg worked closely with J. Paul Getty to develop the interior and exterior details.

The Villa dei Papiri was buried by the eruption of Mt. Vesuvius in A.D. 79, and much of it remains unexcavated. Therefore, Neuerburg based many of the Museum's architectural and landscaping details on elements from other ancient Roman houses in the towns of Pompeii, Herculaneum, and Stabiae—from bronze lanterns like those carried along the streets of Pompeii to herbs and shrubs grown by the Romans for food and ceremony.

The Getty Villa Reimagined

Boston-based architects Rodolfo Machado and Jorge Silvetti began renovating the Getty Villa site in 1997.

Visitors now start their visit in a spectacular open-air Entry Pavilion, then progress along a scenic pathway to the heart of the site, a 450-seat outdoor classical theater, based on ancient prototypes.

<http://getty.edu/visit/villa/architecture.html>

Gardens

Gardens are integral to the setting of the Getty Villa, as they were in the ancient Roman home. Open spaces around the site feature bronze sculptures, fountains, and lush plantings of trees, herbs, and flowers used by the Romans.

Inner Peristyle

The Inner Peristyle provides an intimate resting spot at the center of the J. Paul Getty Museum.

Around a narrow reflecting pool sit replicas of finds from the Villa dei Papiri in Herculaneum, including square marble basins and bronze statues depicting women who have come to draw water from a stream.

Herb Garden

Outside the Museum entrance lies the Herb Garden, a mosaic of fruit trees and fragrant and colorful annuals and perennials used by the ancient Romans in cooking, ceremony, and medicine.

A small pool of water lilies forms the centerpiece of this quiet spot for strolling and birdwatching.

Outer Peristyle

The Museum's south doors open onto the Outer Peristyle, the largest garden at the Getty Villa. It is adorned with hedge-lined pathways and circular stone benches. Plants favored by the

ancient Romans, such as bay laurel, boxwood, myrtle, ivy, and oleander, are planted around a spectacular 220-foot-long reflecting pool. Bronze sculptures, replicas of statues found at the Villa dei Papiri, are placed in their ancient findspots. A peristyle, or covered walkway, surrounds the formal garden and leads visitors past illusionistic wall paintings to spectacular views of the Pacific Ocean.

East Garden

Beyond the East stair in the Museum lies the East Garden, one of the most tranquil spaces at the Villa. This walled sanctuary is shaded by sycamore and laurel trees and animated by splashing water from two sculptural fountains. Theatrical masks adorn the mosaic-and-shell fountain on the east wall, while sculpted bronze civet heads spout playful streams from the fountain at the center of the space.

Plants

About 300 varieties of plant material are used in the landscaping of the Getty Villa.

For more details, see <http://getty.edu/visit/villa/gardens.html>

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