

**HAMMER**

**BETWEEN EARTH AND HEAVEN**  
**THE ARCHITECTURE OF JOHN LAUTNER**  
JULY 13 – OCTOBER 12, 2008

**For Immediate Use:**

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The Malin Residence, 1960, also known as the "Chemosphere."  
Photo by Joshua White, 2008.

**THE HAMMER MUSEUM PRESENTS THE FIRST MAJOR EXHIBITION ON VISIONARY  
MODERNIST ARCHITECT JOHN LAUTNER**

*Exhibition, Guided Tours, Film Screenings, Lectures and Symposia  
Examine Lautner's Creative Legacy and Cultural Impact*

**Los Angeles, CA** John Lautner (1911-94), one of the most important and influential architects of the twentieth century, had a remarkable career spanning nearly six decades. Residing and working in Los Angeles during much of that time, his designs are known for their radical innovation with specific attention to materiality, space and a consciousness of the natural environment.

While Lautner has attained a cult-like status in the world of architecture and design, until now his achievement remains little known and often misunderstood by the public at large – from his infamous coffee-shop "Googie" style at the start of his career; the misperception of his poetic experiments with form as Space Age or dystopic; to the dismissal of his later, perhaps most meditative houses, as Hollywood showcase.

The Hammer Museum brings John Lautner's legacy and creative process to a wider audience by presenting the first major exhibition survey of his work: *Between Earth and Heaven: The Architecture of John Lautner*, on view in Los Angeles from July 13 through October 12, 2008.

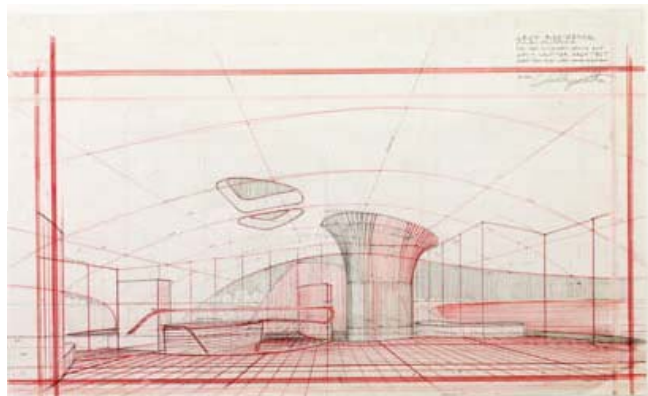
An aesthetic, philosophical and social visionary, Lautner made buildings that continue to amaze architects and patrons alike with their formal variety and freedom, their structural originality and their sculptural force. Lautner's work has come to represent some of the most important examples of architecture in Southern California including private residences such as Elrod Residence (1968) in Palm Springs and Malin Residence (1960) in Los Angeles – also known as the “Chemosphere,” which hovers high over a canyon balanced on a single support – all iconic examples of his work and vision.

Lautner is often referred to as an architect's architect and many renowned practitioners, such as Frank Gehry, have cited him as an abiding influence. One can see the influence and legacy of his vision time and again in the work of architects that have followed him.

“This exhibition is long overdue as it recognizes one of architecture's greatest visionaries,” says Ann Philbin, Director of the Hammer Museum. “We hope it will encourage wider recognition of Lautner's work and working methods which have contributed so greatly to Southern California's art and design history.”

Curated by historian Nicholas Olsberg and architect Frank Escher, *Between Earth and Heaven* will feature an exhibition design that is as visceral an experience as Lautner's buildings themselves. Newly crafted large-scale models will give a sense of the internal spaces and scale of key projects and will reveal Lautner's construction processes. Short color films by prize-winning documentarian Murray Grigor will convey the sensation of movement through these buildings and their sites, helping the visitor to feel the “vitality within repose” that Lautner sought to create. Surrounding this dramatic core will be a wealth of archival materials, including never-before-seen drawings, architectural renderings, study models and construction photographs which will offer visitors insight into how the structures and spaces unfolded in Lautner's mind and emerged physically in their settings.

John Lautner. Study; perspective; interior, Malibu Cliff House, graphite, red pencil on paper. The John Lautner Archive, Research Library, The Getty Research Institute, Los Angeles.  
© The John Lautner Foundation



"Lautner's dwellings took on dramatically new and varied shapes, as he moved toward the central theme of his career – how to use architecture to sublimate the domestic, and to domesticate the sublime," states Nicholas Olsberg. "As we follow him from his early work with Frank Lloyd Wright to the emergence of his own practice in the 1940s in rapidly expanding, automobile-based Los Angeles, we see how he responded to a changing society and the natural environment by developing an extraordinarily sensuous, thoughtful and innovative architecture, poised between feeling and reason, stillness and motion, vista and shelter."

The Hammer Museum further examines Lautner's creativity legacy and cultural impact by presenting a comprehensive schedule of exhibition related programs – curator walkthroughs, film screenings, panel discussions and symposia. Public programming begins on July 13 as exhibition curators Nicholas Olsberg and Frank Escher provide two guided tours of the exhibition. Panel discussions *Building Character: Modernist Architecture in Film* (July 15) and *Architecture and Seduction: Bachelor Pads and Sex Machines* (September 23) and Hammer Screenings of *Diamonds are Forever* (July 18); *Less than Zero* and *The Big Lebowski* (July 19); and *Body Double* (July 20) analyze Lautner works as cinematic muse. Other highlights include a screening of *Infinite Space: The Architecture of John Lautner*, a new documentary feature film by renowned architectural filmmaker Murray Grigor (September 18) followed by a symposium with panels and presentations by architects, engineers and architectural historians entitled *Against Reason: John Lautner and Postwar Architecture* (September 19-20).

An international tour for *Between Earth and Heaven: The Architecture of John Lautner* will include The Lighthouse, Centre for Architecture, Design and the City Glasgow, Scotland, March 19 – July 26, 2009; the Wolfsonian – Florida International University in Miami Beach, Fla. October 15, 2009 - January 17, 2010; and the Palm Springs Art Museum in Palm Springs, Ca. February 20 - May 23, 2010. A richly illustrated and comprehensive full-color catalogue published by Rizzoli International Publications, Inc accompanies the exhibition and is now available for \$60.

This exhibition is made possible through major gifts from the Dunard Fund USA, the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency, and Frank and Berta Gehry.

Generous support has also been provided by the Lloyd E. Rigler—Lawrence E. Deutsch Foundation and Helen and Sam Zell.

It has also been made possible, in part, by the 1011 Foundation, Inc., Bobby Kotick; the Harriett and Richard Gold/Gold Family Foundation; Ronnie and Vidal Sassoon; the City of Los Angeles, Department of Cultural Affairs; The Fran and Ray Stark Foundation; the Graham Foundation for Advanced Studies in the Fine Arts as well as Michael W. LaFetra, Trina Turk and Jonathan Skow, and Adele Yellin. The catalogue is published with the assistance of The Brotman Foundation of California and The Getty Foundation. *Los Angeles* magazine is the official media sponsor of the exhibition.

This exhibition was organized in cooperation with The John Lautner Foundation and The Getty Research Institute, Los Angeles.

## ABOUT THE HAMMER MUSEUM

The Hammer Museum, a public arts unit of the University of California, Los Angeles, is dedicated to exploring the diversity of artistic expression through the ages. Its collections, exhibitions, and programs span the classic to the cutting-edge in art, architecture, and design, recognizing that artists play a crucial role in all aspects of culture and society.

Founded by Dr. Armand Hammer in 1990, the museum houses the Armand Hammer Collection of Old Master, Impressionist, and Post-Impressionist paintings and the Armand Hammer Daumier and Contemporaries Collection. Associated UCLA collections include the Grunwald Center for the Graphic Arts, comprising more than 45,000 prints, drawings, photographs, and artists' books from the Renaissance to the present; and the Franklin D. Murphy Sculpture Garden on the UCLA campus. The Hammer's newest collection, the Hammer Contemporary Collection, is led by works on paper, particularly drawings and photographs from 1960 to the present.

The Hammer presents major single-artist and thematic exhibitions of historical and contemporary art. It also presents approximately ten Hammer Projects exhibitions each year, providing international and local artists with a laboratory-like environment to create new work or to present existing work in a new context.

As a cultural center, the Hammer offers a diverse range of free public programs throughout the year, including lectures, readings, symposia, film screenings, and music performances. The Hammer's Billy Wilder Theater houses these widely acclaimed public programs and is the new home of the UCLA Film & Television Archive's renowned cinematheque.

## HAMMER MUSEUM INFORMATION

For current program and exhibition information call **310-443-7000** or visit **[www.hammer.ucla.edu](http://www.hammer.ucla.edu)**.

**Hours:** Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, 11am – 7pm; Thursday, 11am – 9 pm; Sunday, 11am – 5 pm; closed Mondays, July 4, Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day.

**Admission:** \$7 for adults; \$5 for seniors (65+) and UCLA Alumni Association members; free for Museum members, students with identification, UCLA faculty/staff and visitors 17 and under. The Museum is free for everyone on Thursdays.

**Location/Parking:** The Hammer is located at 10899 Wilshire Boulevard, at Westwood Boulevard. Parking is available under the Museum. Rate is \$3 for three hours with Museum validation.