

Project Fact Sheet



PROJECT: Renovation of historic residence built for Henry E. Huntington and his wife, Arabella, and new installation of European art collection

LOCATION: The Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens, San Marino, Los Angeles County, Calif.

PROJECT LAUNCH: January 2006

REOPENING DATE: May 28, 2008

PROJECT COST: \$20 million

FUNDING: The project was fully funded through private sources, led by a \$10 million grant from the Los Angeles-based Rose Hills Foundation, as well as a major gift from Geneva and Charles B. Thornton Jr. of San Marino, Calif. to restore the Thornton Portrait Gallery.

PROJECT TEAM:

- Earl Corp., Irwindale, Calif., Bert England (lead architect and general contractor)
- Architectural Resources Group, San Francisco, Stephen Farneth (preservation architect)
- Stephen Saitas Designs, New York, Stephen Saitas (exhibition designer)
- John Murdoch, Hannah and Russel Kully Director of Art Collections
- Laurie Sowd, associate vice president for operations (project manager)

ORIGINAL ARCHITECTS: Myron Hunt of the firm Hunt and Grey (Portrait Gallery addition by Hunt and Harold C. Chambers)

ORIGINAL BUILDING DATES: 1909–11 (Portrait Gallery addition, 1934)

BUILDING SIZE: 54,569 square feet

ARCHITECTURAL STYLE: Beaux-Arts interpretation of Italian Renaissance villa

PROJECT ELEMENTS:

- Seismic retrofit
- Replacement of structure's mechanical, electrical, and plumbing systems
- Expansion of the fire suppression system from the basement to include the entire structure
- Restoration of historic architectural features
- Expansion of gallery space
- Unification of The Huntington's European art collections in one building
- New exhibition design
- New interpretive materials and technologies
- Improved circulation plan and disabled access

FACILITIES BEFORE RENOVATION: 26,126 square feet of public space
900 works of art on display

FACILITIES AFTER RENOVATION: 31,431 square feet of public space (5,305 additional)
1,200 works of art on display

SITE DESCRIPTION: The Huntington Art Gallery, originally the residence of Henry E. Huntington and his wife, Arabella, is located near the center of the 207-acre property of The Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens in San Marino, Calif. The site features 120 acres of botanical gardens.

The residence is one of many notable structures on the Huntington grounds: the Library (1919, Hunt and Grey); the Huntington Mausoleum (1929, John Russell Pope); the Visitor Entrance Pavilion (1980, Whitney R. Smith); the Virginia Steele Scott Gallery of American Art (1984, Paul Gray); the MaryLou and George Boone Gallery (1999, Brenda Levin; adaptive reuse and historic restoration of Hunt and Grey garage, 1911); the Botanical Center (2000–2004, Bob Ray Offenhauser and Jim Fry); the Munger Research Center (2004, Earl Corp.); and the Lois and Robert F. Erburu Gallery (2005, Frederick Fisher).

San Marino is a small community known for its immaculately preserved homes, most of which were built between 1920 and 1950. Georgian and faux antebellum mansions resemble those on the East Coast.

The Huntington is part of the rich cultural scene of the Pasadena area, which is home to the Norton Simon Museum, the Pacific Asia Museum, the Pasadena Playhouse, and several other arts and culture venues. It's proximity to the city of Los Angeles (12 miles from downtown) places The Huntington a short drive from any of the city's other cultural attractions.

ABOUT THE HUNTINGTON: The Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens is a collections-based research and educational institution serving scholars and the general public. More information about The Huntington can be found online at www.huntington.org.

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