

VOLUME 17, NUMBER ONE 2006
TRAVEL FOR THE CONNOISSEUR

ART *Express*

FRANCISCO SAN FRANCISCO

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ARTexpress© is published four times per year by ARTexpress Newsletter Inc., P.O. Box 10201, Newport Beach, CA 92660.

Email: artexnews@aol.com

Subscriptions: \$45.00 U.S. (\$57.00 foreign).

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Suzanne Paulson & Constance Glenn.

ARTexpress has been among the **Herzog & de Meuron** cheerleaders since 1991, when we traveled to **Laufen, Switzerland**, to see the **Ricola** (you know, cough drops) storage building (1986-87). More recent adventures have taken us to **Basel**, their home town, to look at all of the local projects — most especially the splendid **Schaulager** (2003) art warehouse — to Minneapolis on the occasion of the opening of the **Walker Art Center** (2005), and to **San Francisco** to share in the opening celebration of the new **de Young Museum** in October. It's been a banner year for **Jacques Herzog** and **Pierre de Meuron** in the finite world of American museums, where presently they're kings of the hill, with unqualified successes in Minneapolis and San Francisco. While the two buildings don't share visual similarities, they do share the architects' predilection for a magical "skin" that sets the tone, the texture, and luminosity scale for each of their projects. In Minneapolis, the Walker's skin is a crinkly aluminum mesh that reflects the light in curiously wonderful ways. San Francisco's de Young, however, is a copper-clad changeling, which sports a perforated design said to evoke the dappled light that filters through the canopy of the park's lush, tree-studded setting. Whatever the metaphor, Herzog & de Meuron's buildings are neither narrative nor image-based designs. They are organic in ways that make their final forms, colors, and textures seem inevitable.

In San Francisco, there has been much gnashing of teeth over the supposedly awkward 144-foot tower that houses the education department, but in truth, its torqued form shifts in the most beguiling ways, offering, at last, a viewing platform that provides dazzling vistas over the Bay Area. **Golden Gate Park** is hallowed ground to every local, and each had an opinion when it came to replacing the 1919 Spanish Plateresque-style building. For the most part, the opinions turned — so to speak — on the suitability of the tower, which many thought rose in a menacing fashion at complete odds with the sentimentally remembered Spanish tower of 1921. Because the current version mutates with every angle of perception, and because the top is truncated at the observation floor rather than a pointed beacon, it has taken the superb design qualities and integration with the main structure to win over the doubters — which it has indeed.

When you visit, don't fail to notice that the art begins at the street — that is with **Andy Goldsworthy's** fabled "crack" titled **Drawn Stone**, that meanders from the edge of the **Music Concourse** roadway in front of the museum, up the main walkway, into the exterior courtyard, where it breaks large boulders into seating stones, and then continues right up to the main entrance. Since we can't forget an earthquake precipitated this gorgeous new building, why not flaunt it? Once past the entry ticket booth and into the great hall — a stunning space and most successful traffic director — the seamless integration and interweaving of the

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galleries and passageways, punctuated by vistas and apertures leading the way to each new destination or level, is mindful of the **Schaulager** design, although unique to this space. Ask any visitor and you'll be told that the great success here is the way the ebb and flow of the traffic is guided through the spatial plan in the most harmonious fashion, utilizing both indoor and outdoor visual experiences.

Beyond the Goldsworthy commission, four other artists were invited to create special installations for the new building, so don't miss **Ed Ruscha's** giant triptych at the entrance to the 20th-21st-century galleries; **Jim Turrell's** skyroom, titled *Three Gems*, built into a hill within the garden; **Kiki Smith's** *Near*, in gilt and copper leaf, so beautifully sited in the **Saxe Gallery**; and **Gerhard Richter's** monumental digital photo mural, in black and white geometrics, which subtly dominates the grand **Wilsey Court**. Site-specific installations are seldom so perfectly integrated, or so pleasurable to encounter.

Highlights of the collection include the noteworthy Pre-Columbian Works; the **Rockefeller Collection of American Painting**, with works by **John Singleton Copley**, **Thomas Hart Benton**, **Winslow Homer**, **Mary Cassatt**, **Edward Hopper**, **Georgia O'Keeffe** and more; and the 6,000-strong assemblage of American decorative arts, crowned by the **Saxe Collection**. New acquisitions in honor of the opening, such as works by **David Smith**, **Richard Diebenkorn**, **Willem de Kooning**, **Claes Oldenburg**, **Barbara Hepworth**, **Robert Motherwell** and **Mark Rothko**, plus a rare Maya stela and an extraordinarily well-preserved Dogon sculpture from West Africa, also show a new maturity in the collections.

Opening exhibitions you still have time to add to your travel calendar are the exquisite *Hatshepsut: From Queen to Pharaoh*, through February 5, 2006; *Re-Classifying History: Catherine Wagner*, by the noted Bay-area photographer, through February 12, 2006; along with *Personal Perspectives: Aspects of American Photography*, and *Jasper Johns: 45 Years of Master Prints*, through February 12, 2006. Highlights of the **Textiles Permanent Collection** will extend until May 28, 2006. New exhibits to watch for in the forthcoming year — in a very busy **Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco** schedule, indeed — include photographer **Mark Klett's** recreations of the historic photographs of the 1906 earthquake titled *After the Ruins, 1906 and 2006: Rephotographing the San Francisco Earthquake and Fire* at the Legion of Honor through June 4; *International Arts and Crafts*, the first truly international examination of the movement in this great exhibit organized by the **Victoria and Albert Museum**, at the de Young, March 18-June 18, 2006; *Monet in Normandy* at the Legion of Honor, June 17-September 17, 2006; and *Chicano Vision: The Cheech Marin Collection*, plus *Chicano Now/Chicano Encounters*, at the de Young this summer (July 22-October 22, 2006), which will

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HOTELS

Hotel Vitale, 8 Mission Street, Tel. 415-278-3700, www.hotelvitale.com. Across the street from the Ferry Building on the Embarcadero, the Vitale has 191 rooms and 8 suites. Its specialty is serenity and its elegant lobby features white limestone, marble floors and a genuine Art Deco ambiance. Parking is unreasonable at \$47 a night!

Campton Place, 340 Stockton Street, Tel. 866-332-1670, 415-781-5555, www.camptonplace.com. A renowned luxury hotel on the edge of Union Square, Campton Place is typically rated in all the "Top 100" surveys. The 110 rooms are intimate and blessed with every amenity, including the famous namesake restaurant on the premises.

Pan Pacific San Francisco Hotel, 500 Post Street, Tel. 415-771-8600, Fax 415-398-0267, <http://sanfrancisco.panpacific.com>. Also in Union Square, this premiere hotel was entirely renovated in 2004 and is now a top destination. 338 rooms feature an East-meets-West décor with special touches like Bose sound, Herman Miller desk chairs, LCD TV, and stunning marble bathrooms.

W San Francisco, 181 3rd Street, Tel. 415-777-5300, Fax 415-817-7823, www.starwoodhotels.com. In the heart of SOMA (South of Market), the stylish W is adjacent to SFMOMA and directly across from the Moscone Center. Nearly all the rooms have wonderful views of the Bay Bridge and the skyline — ask for one. The rooms are sophisticated and comfort is top priority.

Mandarin Oriental San Francisco, 222 Sansome Street, Tel. 415-276-9888, www.mandarinoriental.com. Situated in the city's third tallest building, the Mandarin features superb views, Asian-themed rooms, Frette linens, and impeccable service.

St. Regis Hotel, San Francisco, 125 3rd Street, Tel. 415-284-4000, Fax 415-284-4100, www.stregis.com. Another Starwood property (like the W), the St. Regis is an architectural landmark directly next door to SFMOMA and it boasts the signature restaurant Ame. From the 42" plasma TV to the deluxe soaking tub, you can hardly go wrong.

Hotel Drisco, 2901 Pacific Avenue, Tel. 800-634-7277, 415-346-2880, Fax 415-567-5537, www.jdvhospitality.com. This quiet hideaway in a 1903 Edwardian mansion is a romantic retreat in one of San Francisco's most beautiful residential neighborhoods — Pacific

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Heights. It's out of the way, but there is free limo service downtown. The 29 rooms and 19 suites are charming and prices are modest. Warning: no air conditioning, no smoking. Continental breakfast is included.

RESTAURANTS

Ame Restaurant, St. Regis Hotel, 689 Mission Street, Tel. 415-284-4040. Hiro Sone and Lissa Doumani have brought their inimitable style and talents to Ame. The L-shaped dining room has rich mesquite wood floors accented by a stunning red-lacquered wall. The menu is seasonal New American cuisine — plus a custom-designed sashimi bar offers select raw delicacies.

Zuppa, 564 Fourth Street, Tel. 415-777-5900. Southern Italian cuisine — in enormous portions — is served in this trendy industrial space accented with dark wood and silver lamps. Both pasta and pizza are tops.

COCO500, 500 Brannan Street, Tel. 415-543-2222. "Many will be pleased that some items made popular at Bizou have made their way to the new menu at COCO500, which features seasonal, local and organic vegetables, plus seafood, poultry and steaks prepared "a la plancha" for maximum flavor and texture. For dessert, try a single ounce of chocolate from the Venezuelan producer El Rey — a pure taste of luxury.

oolo Restaurant & Bar, 860 Folsom Street, Tel. 415-995-2061. A *Bon Appétit* "Hot Spot," this classic American bistro is a winner.

Canteen, 817 Sutter Street, Tel. 415-928-8870. This cubbyhole on Sutter, hidden just off the lobby of the Commodore Hotel used to be a coffee shop, and still shows some of the signs, but it's newly hip with Dennis Leary behind the counter. After six years at Rubicon, he's striking out on his own with Canteen — which he calls a French diner. Reviews have described it as "the most refreshing local restaurant in recent memory." Because the space is so limited and Leary's food a huge hit, dining requires patience. It's easy, knowing the reward.

Bocadillos, 710 Montgomery Street, Tel. 415-982-2622. Just the place for yummy small plates — even breakfast. Try baked eggs with chorizo and Manchego for a wake-up. You can sit down for tapas any time of day.

Gary Danko, 800 North Point Street, Tel. 415-749-2060. A long-time star, this is still a place for serious cuisine combining French, Californian and Mediterranean vision. Never doubt its stratospheric ranking!

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be presented as part of a 15-city tour being organized by the Fine Arts Museums.

However fabulous the art encounters, don't think of leaving without a visit to the terrific cafe overlooking the **Osher Sculpture Garden** (no admission fee required if you simply want to drop in to enjoy the artisanal food from local farmers), and the elegant shop with special-for-the-de Young-only treasures. As you leave the building, turn and look once more at the pixelated copper (yes, the perforated copper pattern was derived from the blurred pixels of a digital photograph) skin of this extraordinary structure as it blends into the green surround. When you return, that golden copper glow will already be settling, perhaps perceptibly, into the delicious blue-green of its future on the land.

Of course, a visit to the City by the Bay isn't a one-museum outing. Start by choosing a great place to stay. Currently, the buzz suggests **The Hotel Vitale** on the **Embarcadero**. It's a boutique hotel by **Chip Conley**, which opened last March and is still getting good reviews. The atmosphere is Zen-peaceful, all turned out in pale earth tones with nice touches like fluffy bathrobes, flat-screen TVs, twice-a-day maid service, massages and soaking tubs on the rooftop (for a fee), plus free yoga sessions, and stunning views if you request the right room. Other impeccable standards like **Campton Place**, **Pan Pacific San Francisco**, the **Mandarin Oriental**, and **W Hotel** should make you happy as well. All are downtown and reasonably close to the Embarcadero, the **Ferry Building**, **SFMOMA**, good galleries and fine shopping.

At the **San Francisco Museum of Modern Art**, you can continue the search for your favorite museum/architecture combo. SFMOMA is by the distinguished Swiss architect **Mario Botta**, now from **Lugano**. The building was completed in 1994 and has been a hugely popular SOMA meeting place ever since. The great hall is visual jazz with dancing patterns and zebra stripes of gray and black granite; and there are always of-the-moment exhibits to draw you into the core below the great, sliced, cylindrical tower. Fortunately, until February 28th, the main attraction is *Chuck Close: Self-Portraits 1967-2005*. On January 21, 2006 (through April 25), add *Richard Long: The Path is the Place in the Line and 1906 Earthquake: A Disaster in Pictures*, and the great winter/spring destination will be jumping. And don't even think of heading for the door until you've visited what may well be America's most popular museum shop.

Art/architecture destination number three is **Gae Aulenti's** adaptive-reuse design of the city's former 1917 **Main Library** located on **Civic Plaza**. The \$160.5-million facility — the **Asian Art Museum** — has at last given this San Francisco treasure a proper home, while the renowned collection shines in Aulenti's interiors. March 24-May 21, 2006, more than 90 works by 54 artists — the largest survey ever to come to North America — will occupy the changing exhibit galleries in *From the Fire: Contemporary Korean Ceramics*. Be there!

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On December 3, 2005, a new art venue joined these must-see destinations. The **Museum of African Diaspora (MOAD)** is located in a three-story space in the newly-built **St. Regis Hotel** and extends into the adjacent **Williams Building** in downtown's **Yerba Buena Gardens Arts District**. "The façade of the 20,000-square-foot museum features a stunning, three-story-high image of an African child's face composed of over 2,100 individual photos of Africans throughout the world." Inaugural exhibits include *Selections from the Eileen Harris Norton and Peter Norton Contemporary Art Collections*, with works by **Albert Chong**, **Kara Walker**, **Wangechi Mutu**, and more; plus *Dispersed: African Legacy/New World Reality*, composed of three installations by **Maria Magdalena Campos-Pons**, **Marepe**, and **Mildred Howard**. The architects of the new museum were **The Freelon Group** and the director, **V. Denise Bradley**, comes to San Francisco from London's **South Bank Centre Africa Remix** project. Welcome all!

While you still have on your art-stalking sneakers, head on over to the **California College of the Arts Wattis Institute**, directed by the much-honored **Ralph Rugoff**, who received the inaugural **Ordway Prize** of \$100,000 for a curator/writer this month. Two important exhibitions will be on view through February 21: *A Brief History of Invisible Art*, which brings together **Yves Klein's** plans for an "architecture of air" and **Michael Asher's** *Column of Air*, with works by such seminal conceptual artists as **James Lee Byars**, **Maurizio Cattelan**, **Art & Language**, **Glenn Ligon** and **Andy Warhol**; and *Capp Street Project: Jeanne Dunning*, featuring a series of large-scale photographs.

At San Francisco's other major academic venue, **San Francisco Art Institute**, **William Kentridge** will give the prestigious McBean lecture on January 25, 2006 at 7:30 PM in the **SFAI Lecture Hall** in conjunction with an exhibition of Kentridges' films on view in the **McBean Galleries**, January 25-March 25. While across the bay, at the **Berkeley Art Museum**, January 25-April 2, there is a full-scale **Jeanne Dunning** exhibit — *Study After Untitled* — that should attract visitors who have discovered her in-town Capp Street project.

After so much art, nothing will do but an immediate infusion of fabulous S.F. cuisine. Let's hope you thought to make reservations long in advance. At the top of the list is **Michael Mina's** elegant, new crown jewel set on its own private dais in the baroque lobby of the **St. Francis Hotel** on **Union Square**. Everything about the restaurant, in contrast, is minimalist, stylish, and beautifully restrained. Mina's creative, new American cuisine is at its best here — try the potato-crusting Dover sole with caviar garnish. For small plates, nothing is better than **Gerald Hirigoyen's** **Bocadillos** — a super tapas bar in the financial district. The atmosphere is casual brick and wood and it's a special favorite, so you'll have better seating at off-hours. The newly restored, historic **Ferry Building** is foodie heaven with myriad enticing markets and a

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Michael Mina, Westin St. Francis, 335 Powell Street, Tel. 415-397-9222. Despite the fact that the opening was delayed by the hotel workers' strike, much to everyone's frustration, everything is now on an even keel and Mina has made a triumphal return to San Francisco. Signature dishes stand alongside new creations and creativity is the watchword here. Reserve far in advance.

The Slanted Door, 1 Ferry Plaza, Tel. 415-861-8032. In a vast steel and glass pavilion, Charles Phan's blend of Asian standards with California home-grown is perfectly at home. Book way ahead or hope for one of the 50 walk-in spots.

Quince, 1701 Octavia Street, Tel. 415-775-8500. A Pacific Heights mansion is the hiding place for this tiny, top-ranked restaurant. Michael and Lindsay Tusk create magic here and the 45 seats are treasured. The cuisine is French/Italian and local farms provide the freshest ingredients.

Mijita, Cocina Mexicana, 1 Ferry Building, No. 44, Tel. 415-399-0814. Chef Traci des Jardins offers a sentimental tip of the hat to her Mexican-born grandmother, but, of course, with a local flavor and seasonal ingredients. "Mijita" means "little one" and Traci is showing off what she learned in Grandma's kitchen — while remaining chef/owner of Jardiniere and consulting chef at Acme Chophouse.

Boulette's Larder, 1 Ferry Building Marketplace, Tel. 415-399-1155. Check the carry-out menu on line at www.bouletteslarder.com or reserve dinner at the chef's table, which can accommodate up to 20 (\$150 per person plus tax and service); call ahead.

And then, of course, our old favorites: **Acme Chophouse**, 24 Willie Mays Plaza, Tel. 415-644-0240.

Asia de Cuba, 495 Geary Street, Tel. 415-929-2300.

Acquerello, 1722 Sacramento Street, Tel. 415-567-6432.

Bacar Restaurant and Wine Salon, 448 Brannan Street, Tel. 415-904-4100.

Masa's Restaurant, 648 Bush Street, Tel. 415-989-7154.

Jardiniere, 300 Grove Street, Tel. 415-861-5555.

Rubicon, 558 Sacramento Street, Tel. 415-434-4100.

Farallon, 450 Post Street, Tel. 415-956-6969.

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MUSEUMS AND GALLERIES

San Francisco Museum of Modern Art (SFMOMA), 151 3rd Street, Tel. 415-357-4000, [ww.sfmoma.org](http://www.sfmoma.org). Hours: 11 AM-5:45 PM Fri.-Tues.; 11 AM-8:45 PM Thurs. (in summer from 10 AM); closed Wednesday and holidays.

Asian Art Museum, 200 Larkin Street, Tel. 415-581-3500, www.asianart.org. Hours: 10 AM-5 PM Tues.-Sun., open until 9 PM Thursday, closed Monday.

de Young Museum, Golden Gate Park, 50 Hagiwara Tea Garden Drive, Tel. 415-750-3600, www.thinker.org. Hours: Tues.-Sun. 9:30 AM-5 PM; Friday until 8:45 PM, closed Monday.

Legion of Honor, Lincoln Park, 34th Avenue & Clement Street, Tel. 415-750-3600, www.thinker.org. Hours: Tues.-Sun. 9:30 AM-5 PM, closed Monday.

San Francisco Art Institute – Walter and McBean Galleries, 800 Chestnut Street, Tel. 415-749-4563. Hours: Tues.-Sat. 11 AM-6 PM.

California College of the Arts, Wattis Institute, 1111 Eighth Street, Tel. 415-551-9210. Hours: Tues. and Thurs. 11 AM-7 PM; Wed., Fri. and Sat. 11 AM-6 PM; closed Sunday and Monday.

Berkeley Art Museum & Pacific Film Archive, 2626 Bancroft Way, Berkeley, Tel. 510-642-0808, www.bampfa.berkeley.edu. Hours: Wed.-Sun. 11 AM-5 PM; Thurs. 11 AM-7 PM, closed Monday and Tuesday.

Museum of African Diaspora, 685 Mission Street, Tel. 415-358-7200, www.moadsf.org. Hours: Mon., Wed., Fri., Sat. 10 AM-6 PM; Thursday to 9 PM; Sun. 12-5 PM, closed Tuesday.

The Contemporary Jewish Museum, 121 Stuart Street, Tel. 415-344-8800 (in a temporary location awaiting a Daniel Libeskind design).

PERFORMING ARTS

San Francisco Symphony at the Louise M. Davies Symphony Hall, 210 Van Ness Avenue, Tel. 415-864-6000.

San Francisco Opera at the War Memorial Opera House, 301 Van Ness Avenue, Tel. 415-861-4008 (gen. info.).

San Francisco Ballet at the War Memorial Opera House, Tel. 415-864-3330 (tickets).

American Conservatory Theatre, 415 Geary, Tel. 415-749-2228.

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handful of seriously good food stands, take-outs and restaurants. **The Slanted Door**, featuring **Charles Phan's** superb Vietnamese cuisine, is a top selection, and **Taylor's Automatic Refresher** (an offshoot of the legendary St. Helena spot) is said to have the best burger in California. **Boulette's Larder**, another star choice, is half take-out, half restaurant, all delicious; then there is **Mijita** by **Traci des Jardins of Jardiniere** — and more. The Ferry Building is a trip in itself!

More recommendations from our connoisseurs include **Dennis Leary's Canteen** (he made his name at **Rubicon**); the Southern Italian delight **Zuppa**; **COCO500** from **Loretta Keller**; **oola Restaurant Bar**, dubbed one of the top 50 "Hot Spots" by *Bon Appétit*; and **Ame Restaurant** in the **St. Regis Hotel** — chef **Hiro Sone** is a **James Beard** award winner and his wife is the acclaimed pastry chef **Lissa Doumani**. Their restaurant **Terra** in **St. Helena** is a familiar showcase for new American cuisine; you can bet **Ame** will set new standards, too. Finally, **Quince** is always a treat. **Michael** and **Lindsay Tusk**, who met at **Chez Panisse**, have created a tiny one-room jewel in a Pacific Heights mansion, noted for its seasonal French and Italian cooking. It's been said that it's "devoted to the perfect."

Although it may seem so, San Francisco isn't by any means all rave cuisine and major art (don't forget we haven't even touted all the great commercial galleries). **The San Francisco Opera** is a renowned company with a devoted audience, and the 2005-2006 season is fabulous, as always. November saw the end of the 2005 productions, and the season will resume May 27 with *Madama Butterfly*, followed by **Tchaikovsky's Joan of Arc (Maid of Orleans)**, and *The Marriage of Figaro*. If your visit can't wait until May, you'll find equal pleasure in the **San Francisco Symphony**, which is celebrating the 25th anniversary of the opening of the **Louise M. Davies Symphony Hall** during the 2005-2006 season. Music Director **Michael Tilson Thomas**, the recipient of many honors during this anniversary year, has created a program of stellar events, any of which would highlight a San Francisco adventure. Check www.sfsymphony.org for the calendar. And, of course, remember to see what's playing at the prestigious **ACT** (American Conservatory Theater), which makes its home in the gorgeous, gilded **Geary Theatre** at 445 Geary Street just off Union Square.

It's simply not possible to say *fini* to a San Francisco pleasure spree. We love **Bernard Maybeck's** romantic **Palace of Fine Arts**; visiting **Frank Lloyd Wright's** miniature **Guggenheim** (now **Xanandu Gallery** — built as **V.C. Morris Gift Shop** in 1948) on Maiden Lane; shopping in Chinatown; spending a few moments inside the medievalesque **Grace Cathedral**; checking out the shows at **Berggruen**, **Rena Bransten**, **Paule Anglim**, **Tod Hofelt**, **Fraenkel**, **Paul Thiebaud**, **Wirtz**, **Meier**, and more than we could ever name; or, at the end of the day, finding a tranquil oasis to celebrate the fading sunlight over the magical hills and the dark, mysterious bay. It must be time to break out the **Tony Bennett!**

ART AROUND THE WORLD

News

The **Getty Villa**, the newly revamped J.Paul Getty classical fantasy in Malibu, is finally opening on January 28th and a visit to this \$275-million project is a great excuse to be in **Los Angeles**. Formerly the Getty's all-purpose museum, before the Getty Center opened in Brentwood in 1997, the Roman-style complex is devoted to the arts and cultures of ancient Greece, Rome and Etruria, displaying 1,200 of its 44,000-piece collection of antiquities. Visitors approach through a new entry pavilion, including a walkway with a view of the entire site that leads to a 450-seat outdoor theater. The core of the original villa, patterned after the Villa dei Papiri, a 1st-century Roman country house buried in 79 AD in Herculaneum, has been maintained by the architects **Rodolfo Machado** and **Jorge Silvetti** of Boston, but many changes have been made to improve the exhibition spaces and lighting, plus the gardens, designed by the late **Denis Kurutz**, have been made more accessible. In addition to the twenty-three galleries devoted to the permanent collection, five galleries have been added for temporary exhibitions. The opening exhibitions are: *Antiquity and Photography: Early Views of Ancient Mediterranean Sites*; *Molten Color: Glassmaking in Antiquity*; and *The Getty Villa Reimagined*. Admission is free, but advance, timed tickets are required and can be obtained online (www.getty.edu/visit/) or by calling 310-440-7300, plus there will be a parking fee of \$7 per car. Groups of nine or more must make reservations by phone.

Speaking of Los Angeles, the **Centre Pompidou** in **Paris** is getting ready to open the exhibition *Los Angeles — Paris* (March 8 through June 26), celebrating Los Angeles's impact on the arts in the second half of the 20th century and recognizing the city as a world center for the arts. The exhibition will encompass a broad selection of paintings, sculptures, installations, photographs, films and videos and it will trace aspects of the history of the emergence of Los Angeles as an important center of art. Among the 60 artists represented in the exhibition are **John Baldessari, Lari Pittman, Charles Ray, James Welling, Chris Burden, Paul McCarthy, Nancy Rubins, Vija Celmins, Judy Chicago, John Divola, Robert Heineken, Craig Kauffman, Michael McMillen, Ed Moses, Betye Saar, and Peter Shelton** — a great California cast of artists! When visiting the Pompidou, be sure to have lunch or dinner at **Restaurant Georges**, a very contemporary space located on the 6th floor of the centre, with spectacular views of Paris.

ARTexpress chose to stay at the **Pavillon de la Reine** located in the Place Vosges — the rooms are really tiny, but the location is so much fun and only a short walk from the Pompidou and in the heart of the Marais District. We loved **Chez Janou**, a small, lively Provençal bistro around the corner from the hotel. Book ahead for a table at **La Table de Joël Robuchon** for a terrific meal — they serve small plates as well as the regular portions and the ambience is sophisticated chic. For a stunning dining experience, try the **Cristal Room Baccarat**, with its interior space designed by

Great Addresses

IN LOS ANGELES

Sunset Tower Hotel, 8358 Sunset Boulevard, West Hollywood, Tel. 323-654-7100, 800-225-2637. Formerly the Argyle Hotel, this 1929 Art Deco landmark has recently been remodeled and, with its panoramic views of the city, is considered a crown jewel on Hollywood's Sunset Strip.

Wilshire Restaurant, 2454 Wilshire Boulevard, Santa Monica, Tel. 310-586-1707. A new chic oasis for organic, market-fresh cuisine has opened to rave reviews. The ambience was created by Thomas Schoos — the real attraction is the outdoor space in back with its garden terrace filled with leafy trees.

Jar, 8225 Beverly Boulevard, Los Angeles, Tel. 323-655-6566. Chef Suzanne Tracht and Philip and Monica Rosenthal have opened a modern day chophouse with a clubby and retro-era flavor.

La Terza, 8384 W. 3rd Street, Los Angeles, Tel. 323-782-8384. Gino Angelini's first Italian restaurant, Angelini Osteria, has been so wildly popular it prompted him to open this larger spot on the premises of the Orlando Hotel. For Italian food, it can't be beat.

Providence, 5955 Melrose Avenue, Tel. 323-460-4170. Michael Cimarusti, the former chef of the Water Grill, has opened a new, French-influenced seafood restaurant in the original Patina location and returned the spot to its culinary glory days.

Paul Smith, 8221 Melrose Avenue, Tel. 323-951-4800. Paul Smith, of London fame, opened his first boutique in Los Angeles, where he specializes in exceedingly chic clothing for men and women and unique lifestyle items.

IN PARIS

Pavillon de la Reine, 28, Place des Vosges, Tel. 33 (0)1 40 29 19 19, Fax 33 (0)1 40 29 19 20. The hotel is housed in an 18th-century mansion in the Marais, in the heart of historic Paris. Although most of the rooms are small, the oak beams, luxurious fabrics, period furniture and great location make it the choice for your stay in Paris.

Restaurant Georges, Level 6 of the Centre Pompidou, Place Georges Pompidou, 19, rue Beaubourg, Tel. 33 (0)1 44 78 47 99, Fax: 33 (0)1 48 87 81 25. The reason you must dine here is for the modern, delightful ambience, plus the view of the city, but the Parisienne-Asian fusion cuisine is delicious as well.

Chez Janou, 2, rue Roger-Verlomme, Tel. 33(0)1 42 72 28 41. This is a bustling bistro located on one of the 17th-century streets behind Place des Vosges. The delicious Provençal food is like a visit to your French grandmother's kitchen.

La Table de Joël Robuchon, 16, Avenue Bugeaud, Tel. 33(0)1 56 28 16 16, Fax 33(0)1 56 28 16 78. A meal here is well worth a visit to experience the excellence of the guiding hand of one of France's greatest chefs. You may choose between regular and small portion dishes, and the ambience is stylish and chic.

ART AROUND THE WORLD

Great Addresses...more

Cristal Room Baccarat, 11, Place des Etats-Unis, Tel. 33(0)1 40 22 11 10. Where else can you dine in a stunningly beautiful restaurant, designed by Philippe Starck, with high ceilings, beautiful Baccarat chandeliers, elegant furniture and interiors that showcase dazzling Baccarat glassware? Chef Thierry Burlot changes his refined Gallic menu on a monthly basis and offers a selection of small plates. A sublime experience.

IN ATLANTA

Four Seasons Hotel, 75 14th Street, Tel. 404-881-9898 or 800-332-3442. This contemporary tower across from the High Museum of Art and Woodruff Art Center is the best location in Atlanta for art lovers.

South City Kitchen, 1144 Crescent Avenue, Tel. 404-873-7358. Situated within walking distance of the High Museum of Art, this is the perfect place to have Southern cuisine in a trendy, high-energy environment with an award winning wine list. Very popular, so book ahead especially at lunch.

Ritz-Carlton, Buckhead, 3434 Peachtree Road N.E., Tel. 404-237-22700 or 800-241-3333. A great choice if you want to be in the fashionable neighborhood of Buckhead.

Restaurant Eugene, 2277 Peachtree Road, Tel. 404-355-0321. Awarded the "Best New Restaurant" last year by Atlanta Cuisine, this intimate Buckhead restaurant is known for its grace, sophistication and delicious southern cooking.

Rathbun's, 112 Krog Street, Tel. 404-524-8280. This restaurant can be found in a former potbellied-stove factory located in an edgy location, and everyone is racing here for its lobster tacos and roasted green chilies, and mussels with golden chives on sourdough toast.

IN MEXICO CITY

Four Seasons Hotel, Paseo de la Reforma 500, Colonia Juarez, Tel. 52-(55) 5230-1818, Fax 52-(55) 5230-1808. This leading, luxury hotel is ideally situated near Chapultepec Park, the National Museum of Anthropology, and business, shopping and restaurants.

Sheraton Centro Histórico Hotel, Avenida Juarez 70, Colonia Centro, Tel. 52-(55) 51305300 or 800-325-3535, Fax 52-(55) 51305255. A state-of-the-art hotel with a unique location in front of Alameda Park at the entrance of Mexico City's historical downtown district. Its restaurant, El Cardenal, is a favorite for power lunches.

Jumex Collection, Km 19.5 Carretera libre Mexico-Pachuca, Mexico City, Tel. 52-55-5699-1961. The collection of bottled-juice heir Eugenio López, housed in the Jumex Juice Factory in Ecatepec, is the largest, Latin American, private-collection, contemporary exhibition space that is open to the public.

News...more

Philippe Starck and cuisine by Thierry Burlot.

Granted, the architectural team of the hour is Herzog & de Meuron, as attested by the last two issues of **ARTexpress**, but keep your eye on the new American museum architecture projects of Italian architect **Renzo Piano**. Besides working on a new design for the reconfiguration of the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (the first phase is to open in 2007), he and his firm are designing additions to the Whitney in New York, the Gardner in Boston, and the Art Institute in Chicago, and his new extension of the **High Museum of Art** in Atlanta has recently opened to raves in the art and architecture circles. One should plan a trip there just to see the \$100-million addition, which adds 177,000 square feet to **Richard Meier's** existing, pure-white and highly sculptural design of 1983. Piano has added three separate gallery wings connected to the Meier building and to one another by glass-enclosed walkways, leaving the High's original front façade untouched. It is hard to find another American museum where connected buildings by prominent architects get along so well — certainly not at LACMA, as it is today. The best location for art lovers to stay is the **Four Seasons Hotel** in midtown, but if the fashionable neighborhood of Buckhead is your choice, try the **Ritz-Carlton**. **ARTexpress** loves the **South City Kitchen**, located close to the museum, for lunch, but for a fancy feast try **Restaurant Eugene** in the Buckhead area.

Mexico City has not only been home to several world-class exhibitions this winter season, but their version of "**Cow Parade**," is gracing Reforma Avenue, as well as Alameda Park, plus the Condesa, Santa Fe, and Polanco neighborhoods of the city and it is causing quite a stir. The streets of the Mexican capital have been invaded by a herd of roughly 250 life-sized fiberglass cows, each of them comprising a unique work of art, with several of Mexico's prominent artists contributing to the parade. Everyone's favorite is **Frida Cow-lo**, an homage to their famous Frida. The cows will remain until March 5, at which time they will be auctioned off for charity. Those visiting Mexico City should not miss a stop at the **National Museum of Art** to view *Goya: Prophet of Modernity* (through March 5), with major works by the Spanish master, plus *Medieval Spain and the Legacy of the West* at Mexico City's world-renowned **National Museum of Anthropology**. For the contemporary art aficionados, plan a visit to **The Jumex Collection**, the largest, Latin American, private, contemporary art exhibition open to the public and housed in the Jumex Juice Factory located in Ecatepec (45 minutes from Mexico City). Call ahead for an appointment, Tel. 52-55-5699-1961). Owner/ collector, Eugenio López Alonso, the zillionaire bottle-juice heir, plans to open a second huge gallery in Mexico City which will be ready by 2008 — stay tuned. **ARTexpress** has found the **Four Seasons Hotel** a good choice for luxury and convenience, but the new, sleekly modern **Sheraton Centro Histórico** has been receiving attention for its bird's-eye-view of Parque La Alameda and the Bellas Artes theater.

ART EXPRESS ART EXPRESS

Calendar

Through	Jan. 29	Metropolitan Museum, New York	<i>Fra Angelico</i>
Through	Jan. 29	SFMOMA, San Francisco	<i>Kiki Smith: A Gathering</i>
Through	Feb. 5	de Young Museum, San Francisco	<i>Hatshepsut: From Queen to Pharaoh</i>
Through	Feb. 5	Whitney Museum of American Art, New York	<i>Richard Tuttle</i>
Through	Feb. 6	Kunsthalle, Vienna	<i>Louise Bourgeois</i>
Through	Feb. 19	Cartier Fondation, Paris	<i>Ron Mueck</i>
Through	Feb. 20	MOCA, Los Angeles	<i>Ecstasy: In and About Altered States</i>
Through	Feb. 20	LACMA, Los Angeles	<i>Lee Mullican: An Abundant Harvest of Sun</i>
Through	Feb. 20	Centre Pompidou, Paris	<i>William Klein</i>
Through	Feb. 26	High Museum of Art, Atlanta	<i>Andrew Wyeth</i>
Through	Mar. 5	MAC Art Central, Miami	<i>William Kentridge</i>
Through	Mar. 5	National Museum of Art, Mexico City	<i>Goya: Prophet of Modernity</i>
Through	Mar. 12	MOCA & Hammer Museum, Los Angeles	<i>Masters of American Comics</i>
Through	Mar. 19	Schirn Kusthalle, Frankfurt	<i>James Ensor</i>
Through	Mar. 26	Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, San Francisco	<i>Peer Pleasure 1: Royal Art Lodge</i>
Through	Mar. 27	Centre Pompidou, Paris	<i>Big Bang, Destruction & Creation of 20th Century Art</i>
Through	Apr. 2	Metropolitan Museum, New York	<i>Robert Rauschenberg: Combines</i>
Through	Apr. 2	Dallas Museum of Art	<i>Robert Ryman</i>
Through	Apr. 10	Dia Beacon, New York	<i>Dia's Andy: Through the Lens of Patronage</i>
Through	Apr. 17	MOCA, Los Angeles	<i>Painting in Tongues</i>
Through	Jun. 4	Palace of the Legion of Honor, San Francisco	<i>After the Ruins, 1906 & 2006</i>
Through	Jun. 29	Whitney Museum of American Art, New York	<i>Course of Empire (Ed Ruscha)</i>
Jan. 10 -	Mar. 19	Jeu de Paume, Paris	<i>Christer Strömholm</i>
Jan. 14 -	Apr. 30	Palace of the Legion of Honor, San Francisco	<i>Politics & Wit: André Gill Photo LA (International Photographic Art Exposition), Los Angeles</i>
Jan. 20 -	Apr. 16	Museum of Contemporary Art, North Miami	<i>Malcolm Morley: Art of Painting</i>
Jan. 21 -	Apr. 18	Museum of Contemporary Art, La Jolla	<i>La Dolce Vita: the Gribin Collection</i>
Jan. 21 -	Apr. 25	SFMOMA, San Francisco	<i>Richard Long: The Path is the Place in the Line</i>
Jan. 26 -	Apr. 29	Art La (The New Los Angeles Art Fair for Contemporary Art)	
Jan. 27 -	Apr. 30	ARTE FIERA (International Exhibition of Contemporary Art), Bologna	
Jan. 28 -	May 1	J.P. Getty Museum, Getty Villa, Malibu	<i>Antiquity & Photography</i>
Jan. 31 -	Apr. 30	Jeu de Paume	<i>Ed Ruscha Photographer and Craigie Horsfield</i>
Feb. 3 -	Apr. 23	Menil Collection, Houston	<i>Eva Hesse: Drawings</i>
Feb. 3 -	May 14	Guggenheim Museum, New York	<i>David Smith: A Centennial</i>
Feb. 4 -	Apr. 23	Deutsche Guggenheim, Berlin	<i>Hanne Darboven: Homage to Picasso</i>
Feb. 8 -	May 14	Tate Modern, London	<i>Martin Kippenberger</i>
Feb. 9 -	Feb. 12		<i>The Photography Show, New York</i>
Feb. 9 -	Feb. 13		<i>ARCO (International Contemporary Art Fair), Madrid</i>
Feb. 9 -	May 7	Whitney Museum of American Art, New York	<i>Andrea Zittel</i>
Feb. 9 -	May 7	Centre Pompidou, Paris	<i>Los Angeles — Paris</i>
Feb. 10 -	May 28	Miami Art Museum	<i>Vic Muniz: Reflex</i>
Feb. 14 -	Jul. 30	MCA, Chicago	<i>Jim Isermann</i>
Feb. 19 -	May 8	MOMA, New York	<i>Edvard Munch: The Modern Life of the Soul</i>
Feb. 19 -	May 14	National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.	<i>Dada</i>
Feb. 22 -	May 21	National Gallery, London	<i>Americans in Paris 1860-1900</i>
Feb. 23 -	Feb. 27		<i>THE ART SHOW (Art Dealers Association of America Art Fair), New York</i>
Feb. 24 -	May 15	Louvre, Paris	<i>Jean-Auguste Dominique Ingres</i>
Feb. 26 -	May 7	Walker Art Center, Minneapolis	<i>Kiki Smith: A Gathering</i>
Feb. 26 -	May 14	Museum of Fine Arts, Boston	<i>David Hockney: Portraits</i>
Feb. 26 -	May 22	MOMA, New York	<i>Broken Borders</i>
Feb. 28 -	May 14	San Diego Museum of Art	<i>American Ceramics 1884-1972</i>
Feb. 28 -	May 28	Musée d'Orsay, Paris	<i>Cézanne and Pissarro</i>
Mar. 1 -	May 14	Tate Britain, London	<i>Tate Triennial 2006: New British Art</i>
Mar. 2 -	May 28	Whitney Museum of American Art, New York	<i>Whitney Biennial 2006: Day for Night</i>
Mar. 3 -	Jul. 9	Fondation Beyeler, Basel	<i>Henri Matisse: Figure, Color, Space</i>
Mar. 4 -	May 21	Cartier Fondation, Paris	<i>Yokoo Tadanori & Juergen Teller</i>
Mar. 9 -	Jun. 4	Tate Modern, London	<i>Albers & Moholy-Nagy: From Bauhaus to the New World</i>
Mar. 10 -	Feb. 13		<i>The Armory Show (International Fair of New Art), New York</i>
Mar. 15 -	Jun. 19	Grand Palais, Paris	<i>The Rousseau Customs Officer: Jungles in Paris</i>
Mar. 17 -	May 28	Brooklyn Museum, New York	<i>William Wegman: Funny Strange</i>
Mar. 18 -	Jun. 18	MCA, Chicago	<i>Andy Warhol/Super Nova</i>
Mar. 18 -	Jul. 2	Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, San Francisco	<i>Black Panther Rank & File</i>
Mar. 25 -	Jul. 18	High Museum of Art, Atlanta	<i>Chuck Close: Self Portraits 1967-2005</i>
Mar. 30 -	Apr. 2	MiArt 2006 (International Modern and Contemporary Art Fair), Milan	
Apr. 6 -	Jul. 3	Grand Palais, Paris	<i>The Italian Avant-gardes 1910-1950</i>

Travel Bookshelf: San Francisco

Guides

- Marlene Goldman, et al. *Art/Shop/Eat San Francisco*, Blue Guides Ltd, 2005.
- San Francisco, *Eyewitness Travel Guides*. Richard Sterling, Tom Downs. *Lonely Planet San Francisco*.
- Erika Lenkert. *Frommer's San Francisco 2005*.
- Fodor's *San Francisco 2005*.

History

- Mick Sinclair. *San Francisco: A Cultural and Literary History*, 2003.
- Dan Kurzman. *Disaster: The Great San Francisco Earthquake and Fire of 1906*.
- Misha Berson. *San Francisco Stage: From Gold Rush to Golden Spike 1846-1869*.
- Kevin Starr. *San Francisco*.

Art

- Sidra Stich. *Art-Sites San Francisco: The Indispensable Guide to Art-Architecture-Design*.
- Gary Garrels. *San Francisco Museum of Modern Art*, 2001.
- The American Canvas: Paintings from the Collection of the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco*.
- The Asian Art Museum of San Francisco: Selected Works*.
- Mark Johnstone, Leslie Holzman. *Epicenter: San Francisco Bay Area Art Now*, 2003.

Architecture

- Diana Ketcham, et al. *The de Young in the 21st Century: A Museum by Herzog & de Meuron*, 2005.
- Margherita Petranzan. *Gae Aulenti* (Universe Architecture Series).
- Giuliano Gresleri. *Mario Botta: Light and Gravity: Architecture 1993-2003*.

Fiction

- John Miller (ed.) *San Francisco Stories: Great Writers on the City* (Alice B. Toklas, Amy Tan, Hunter Thompson, Jack Kerouac, Rudyard Kipling, Jack London and many more).
- Lawrence Ferlinghetti. *City Lights Pocket Poets Anthology*.

- George Rathmell. *Realms of Gold: The Colorful Writers of San Francisco 1850-1950* (choose your favorites from this fabulous roster — from Mark Twain to John Steinbeck).

And... strictly for fun

Art Mysteries

- Marcia Muller. *The Cavalier in White, Dark Star, and There Hangs the Knife*.