

The Getty Villa

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
2010

THE GETTY VILLA FACT SHEET

Site

The Getty Villa is located on a 64-acre site in Malibu, California. Originally opened in 1974, the Villa is modeled after the Villa dei Papiri, a Roman country house in Herculaneum that was buried by the eruption of Mt. Vesuvius in A.D. 79. The lush and scenic site occupies a small canyon that is defined by the coastal mountains to the north and the Pacific Ocean to the south. The 11,000-acre Topanga State Park lies immediately adjacent.

Description

Following a major renovation, this cultural landmark re-opened in 2006 as an educational center and museum dedicated to the study of the arts and cultures of ancient Greece, Rome, and Etruria. The Getty Villa serves a varied audience through the permanent collection, changing exhibitions, conservation, scholarship, research, and public programs. The Villa houses an antiquities collection of about 44,000 objects, of which more than 1,200 are on view.

Mission

The Getty Villa's mission is:

To introduce the public to the arts and cultures of antiquity;

- Foster the study of the classical world and its relation to later cultures;
- Expose a wide audience to great works of art;
- Engage in the conservation of antiquities and train young conservators to care for artifacts and sites around the world;
- Pursue scholarly research in related areas.

VILLA OVERVIEW

Entry Pavilion/ Path to Museum

Total area: 2,500 sf

The Entry Pavilion provides a distinct point of arrival for all visitors, offering orientation information, audio guides distribution, parcel storage, and restrooms, as well as wheelchairs, strollers, and umbrellas. From the entry pavilion, a pathway leads to the Barbara and Lawrence Fleischman Theater, providing a dramatic overall view of the site along the way.

***Barbara and Lawrence
Fleischman Theater***

Total area: 13,011 sf

The 450-seat Barbara and Lawrence Fleischman Theater is based on ancient prototypes. Audiences can experience classical drama and concerts as they were originally staged, in the open air. The stairs of this outdoor theater lead visitors down to the main entrance of the J. Paul Getty Museum.

***The J. Paul Getty
Museum***

Total area: 105,500 sf

23 galleries dedicated to the antiquities collection

6 galleries dedicated to changing exhibitions

Total gallery space: 48,000 sf

After descending the stairs of the Barbara and Lawrence Fleischman Theater, visitors enter the J. Paul Getty Museum through two large bronze doors.

- The Museum features a suite of galleries, public facilities and educational spaces.
- The galleries were built to safely install and display works of art. The floors accommodate structural and technical support for exhibition cases and pedestals. Wall finishes conceal a dense network of heavy steel art supports designed to hold objects up to several thousand pounds in safety. Custom bronze anodized aluminum and glass exhibit cases provide seismic isolation, internal environmental control, fiber optic lighting, and non-reflective, low iron security glass.
- 58 windows and three skylights infuse the galleries with natural light. The skylight in the Atrium stays open to the sky during good weather.
- Colors for the walls and floors are based on the palette of colors used in the ancient world.
- Decorative elements such as the floor mosaic patterns and wall panel detailing were inspired by various classical influences, and include architectural designs from ancient Roman houses in the towns of Pompeii, Stabiae, and Herculaneum.

Gardens

Total area: 55,000 sf

More than 300 flowering plants can be found in four gardens, planted with species known from the ancient Mediterranean.

- Outer Peristyle is the largest, dominated by a 225-foot-long reflecting pool, with replicas of ancient statuary found in the Villa dei Papiri.
- Inner Peristyle is located in the heart of the J. Paul Getty Museum. It features a smaller reflecting pool with bronze statues at its edges.
- East Garden features two fountains, including a replica from the House of the Large Fountain in Pompeii.
- Herb Garden recreates an ancient Roman kitchen garden. It is planted with fruit trees, flowering shrubs, and herbs that were used in cooking and for medicine.

Landscape

The landscape of the Getty Villa comprises four distinct types of plant communities: historically accurate varieties found in the areas closest to the Museum building; a natural mix of Mediterranean and native California species; local plants of the Santa Monica mountains; and examples from other parts of the world that grow in climates similar to that of Southern California.

Auditorium

Total area: 10,000 sf

The 250-seat indoor auditorium is used for lectures, concerts, seminars, conferences, dramatic performances, and other events.

Cafe and Museum Store

Total area: 15,500 sf

Cafe and Founders Room: 12,500 sf

Museum Store: 3,000 sf

- The Cafe offers casual, self-service Mediterranean fare with indoor and outdoor seating for up to 375 people.
- The Founders Room, an upstairs private dining room with scenic ocean views, overlooks the Barbara and Lawrence Fleischman Theater.
- The Museum Store offers a comprehensive selection of publications on classical antiquity and merchandise inspired by and reproduced from the J. Paul Getty Museum's collection.

Ranch House

Total area: 11,000 sf

The Ranch House contains offices for the antiquities curatorial departments, visiting scholars and support staff, as well as a reading room, seminar rooms, and the 20,000-volume capacity Research Library. Conservation and analytical labs are also located here.

Conservation Training Laboratories

Total area: 10,000 sf

These laboratories and workrooms are utilized by students of the UCLA/Getty Master's Program in Archaeological and Ethnographic Conservation.

Antiquities Conservation

Total area: 14,000 sf

This two-story facility includes the antiquities conservation department, a radiography room, office space for conservators and support staff, and labs.

Office Building

Total area: 21,500 sf

This two-story office building features offices, meeting rooms, and a business center.

Parking

Total space: 228,631 sf, capacity: 560 vehicles

Three parking structures:

- South Parking Structure
89,695 sf, capacity: 248 visitor parking

- Central Parking Structure
39,936 sf, capacity: 112 staff and visitor parking
- North Parking Structure
99,000 sf, capacity: 200 staff and business parking

MATERIALS

General

The J. Paul Getty Museum building is plastered and painted reinforced concrete, with bronze doors and windows, terrazzo and mosaic flooring, and painted sheetrock and Venetian plaster walls and ceilings. The Ranch House is a largely stuccoed wood-frame construction, with a section of reinforced concrete. The Entry Pavilion, Barbara and Lawrence Fleischman Theater, Cafe, Museum Store, Auditorium, and laboratory facilities are constructed of concrete, stone, wood, and bronze.

East Stair

The East Stair, the grand staircase that connects the first and second floors of the J. Paul Getty Museum, is detailed in bronze and faced with Amarillo Triana, a warm, buttery-colored marble from southern Spain.

Strata Walls

Strata walls found throughout the site are composed of horizontal layers of board-formed concrete, bronze, thin red porphyry stone, and teak, with a foundation layer of travertine, the iconic material used at the Getty Center. The inclusion of travertine links the Getty Villa and the Getty Center in spirit. The strata walls provide a sense of continuity and unity between the grand design of the Museum building and the modern functionality of the new structures. They also suggest the layers of an archaeological dig.

Accessibility

The Getty Villa is ADA accessible to all visitors.

Key Dates

- | | |
|------|---|
| 1945 | The 64-acre site in Malibu is purchased by J. Paul Getty |
| 1954 | The J. Paul Getty Museum opens to the public in the Ranch House. |
| 1968 | The villa is conceived, based on a first-century Roman country house, the Villa dei Papiri. Planning begins for its construction. |
| 1970 | Ground is broken for the villa. |
| 1974 | The J. Paul Getty Museum opens to the public at the villa in Malibu. |
| 1997 | The villa closes for renovation prior to the opening of the Getty Center in Los Angeles. |
| 1999 | Preliminary site work begins. |
| 2000 | Main construction begins at the Getty Villa. |
| 2004 | Art installation begins at the Getty Villa. |
| 2006 | The renovated Getty Villa opens to the public on January 28. |

MEDIA CONTACT:

Getty Communications
310-440-7360
communications@getty.edu

The J. Paul Getty Trust is an international cultural and philanthropic institution that focuses on the visual arts in all their dimensions, recognizing their capacity to inspire and strengthen humanistic values. The Getty serves both the general public and a wide range of professional communities in Los Angeles and throughout the world. Through the work of the four Getty programs—the Museum, Research Institute, Conservation Institute, and Foundation—the Getty aims to further knowledge and nurture critical seeing through the growth and presentation of its collections and by advancing the understanding and preservation of the world's artistic heritage. The Getty pursues this mission with the conviction that cultural awareness, creativity, and aesthetic enjoyment are essential to a vital and civil society.

Visiting the Getty Villa

The Getty Villa is open Wednesday through Monday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. It is closed Tuesday and major holidays. Admission to the Getty Villa is always free. A ticket is required for admission. Tickets can be ordered in advance, or on the day of your visit, at www.getty.edu/visit or at (310) 440-7300. Parking is \$15 per car, but free after 5pm for evening events. Groups of 15 or more must make reservations by phone. For more information, call 310-440-7300 (English or Spanish); 310-440-7305 (TTY line for the deaf or hearing impaired). The Getty Villa is at 17985 Pacific Coast Highway, Pacific Palisades, California.

Additional information is available at *www.getty.edu*.

Sign up for **e-Getty** at www.getty.edu/subscribe to receive free monthly highlights of events at the Getty Center and the Getty Villa via e-mail, or visit www.getty.edu for a complete calendar of public programs.