

National Committee for the History of Art  
Society of Architectural Historians/Southern California Chapter

## From Origins to Invention: Three California Historic Places San Simeon to Montecito

Sunday, April 9 to Monday, April 10, 2006

A private tour conceived and led by Stephen Harby  
on the occasion of  
A Conference Organized by the  
National Committee for the History of Art  
PAST PERFECTED: Antiquity and its Reinventions



Mission La Purisima



Hearst Castle



Casa del Herrero

Continuing the themes of historic re-invention and re-incarnation, a two-day trip to Hearst Castle, San Simeon will be offered following the conference. During this traveling seminar participants will have an opportunity to continue the investigations and discourse of the meeting in settings that are redolent of a range of California's "histories" both actual and invented. We will experience places and landscapes that are seemingly intact and unchanged ranging from the time of Spanish rule to those which recreate from whole cloth those legendary times to those which create an invented historical fabric of their own.

Three principal monuments and settings will be the focus of this investigation:

- Mission La Purisima Concepcion de Maria Santisima, Lompoc (established 1787, present structure, 1813, restored, 1941)
- Hearst Castle, San Simeon, (Julia Morgan, architect, 1919-1947)
- Casa del Herrero, Montecito, (George Washington Smith and Lutah Maria Riggs, Ralph Stevens, Gardens, 1923-25)

# Tour Itinerary

## Sunday April 9, 2006

8:00 am departure from Standard Hotel downtown Los Angeles.

Mid-morning stop at Mission La Purissima in Lompoc to get the flavor of California in the days of the Missions (the time and place that the Hearsts were seeking out and hoping to emulate at San Simeon)

*Mision La Purisima seems to exist in a time capsule in a time when California was Spain. Its setting, state of preservation and ambience all speak of the early nineteenth century. This first stop of our itinerary will give us a chance to unwind and stretch our legs a few hours out of Los Angeles and will take us back to the foundation inspiration for much of what we will be seeing over these two days. Nevertheless we will soon learn that even this seemingly "authentic" place is the result of both restoration and invention that is ongoing.*

We will have a rest-stop with snacks and a brief tour of the mission which uniquely has remained much as it was in Spanish colonial days. Following our visit we will rejoin the main highway after driving through some of the most unspoiled landscape in California.

Early afternoon arrival in San Simeon, Box lunches on the pier beside the warehouse where much of the artifacts to be used in Hearst Castle were first off loaded. We will travel a short distance to the base of the mountain top perch for a private tour with Hearst Castle curators.

*Hearst Castle, also known as "Camp Hill" was the creation over almost 30 years of William Randolph Hearst and Julia Morgan from 1919 to 1947. Created both with the same degree of passion and equal parts invention and faithful historical recall as the Getty Villa (here Pompeian villas have given way to California Missions), the result transcends its myriad sources and inspirations. The setting is unequalled, and the state of preservation superb.*

Evening check into ocean-view hotel and group dinner, followed by lecture discussion on what we have seen during the day.

## Monday, April 10, 2006

Following a breakfast at our hotel, 9:00 am departure for Santa Barbara

Enroute rest stop at San Luis Obispo Mission

Early afternoon arrival for lunch and tour at Casa del Herrero in Montecito.

*The Casa del Herrero (House of the Blacksmith) was built by St. Louis industrialist, George Fox Steedman and was completed on the day in 1925 the a major earthquake destroyed much of Santa Barbara (but not this house) The house and gardens represent one of the many instances of a Spanish Colonial Heritage invented and fashioned to cater to a burgeoning influx of seasonal visitors from the American industrial heartland. Inspiration came as much from Andalucia in Spain as from Mexico. Here, gardens and furnishings have remained intact, as this house has remained perfectly preserved by the family that built and inhabited it until 1985.*

Later in the afternoon we will return to Los Angeles with projected early evening arrival with drop off directly at Los Angeles International Airport.

**Cost: \$350 per-person double occupancy or \$400 per-person single occupancy.**

**For registration information and downloadable form: <http://www.nchart.org/tours/>**