Soho's
Seventh Annual Train Tour

May 13, 1978
1. Biltmore Hotel (1922-23, 28)  
Fifth & Olive  
Schultze and Weaver, Architects  
Basically Beaux-Arts, with 16th century Italian detailing in the brickwork and terra-cotta. Until World War II, the Biltmore was the largest hotel west of Chicago (with 1500 rooms). The hotel was
owned by P. K. Wrigley (of chewing gum fame) until the depression years when the hotel fell into bankruptcy. In 1934, the hotel was bought by Baron Long (then owner of the U.S. Grant Hotel in San Diego). Long redecorated and rennovated the entire hotel. The elegance of the hotel was tastefully recaptured down to the minutest details. Long owned the hotel until the early 1960's, residing in the Presidential suite. Today, the hotel is under the ownership of a group of Los Angeles architects. The new owners have returned the Biltmore to its rightful place as an important Los Angeles landmark.

A Los Angeles Historical-Cultural monument.

   Three integrated structures built over a number of years. The Beaux-Arts lobby was restored in 1974.

3. Oviatt Building (1927-28) 617 S. Olive
   The top of this thirteen-story building, with its bell tower and clock faces, was inspired by the Italian Romanesque. Lali-que glass is used in the underside of the marquee, on the elevator doors, and elsewhere. Note the first floor store (now empty—but look in through the doors) and the elevator interiors.

4. Pershing Square (formerly Central Park) Between Olive, Hill, 5th & 6th
   Originally Pueblo land, this 5.02 acre park was renamed for General John Pershing after World War I. In 1950-51 the park was dug up and an underground garage added.

*5. William Fox Building (c. 1929) 608 S. Hill
Zigzag Moderne. In the black marble and gold lobby, note the relief panels and the wooden door at the rear.

*6. International Center (formerly Banker's Building) (1930) 629 S. Hill Green facade. The 1920's Moderne leaning toward the Gothic. At the right of the building is an elegant Moderne lobby--note relief elements.

7. International Church of Compassion (formerly Pantages Building) (1920) NW corner Hill & 7th Beaux-Arts building with Baroque domed corner tower.

*8. Garfield Building (1928-30) 408 W. 8th Moderne entrance lobby resplendent with dark marble walls and German silver and gold leaf detailing.


12. State Theater (1921) 703 Broadway Mildly Spanish theater building.

Continued
13. Palace Theater (formerly Orpheum Theater) (1911) 630 S. Broadway
   Baroque motion picture palace.

14. Schaubers' Cafeteria (1927)
   620 S. Broadway
   Spanish Colonial Revival

15. Los Angeles Theater (1931)
   615 S. Broadway
   Baroque building with Corinthian columns framing the central window.
   Pinnacles and sculptural forms provide varied skyscape.

16. Story Building (1916, 1934)
   SE corner Broadway & 6th
   The usual Beaux-Arts principle of stacking one horizontal volume on the
   other is successfully realized in this white terra-cotta building. Note arcaded
   openings, attic story, and heavy cornice.

*17. Finney's Cafeteria (formerly The Chocolate Shop) (1914)
   217 W. 6th
   Almost the entire interior is Craftsman Batchelder tile. Walls and ceilings
   are covered with warm brown tile and panels of relief tile showing scenes of
   traditional Dutch life. Ernest Batchelder (1875-1957), who was active in the Arts
   and Crafts movement in Southern California in the early part of the century, produced
   tile from 1909 through the 1930's.

18. Los Angeles Athletic Club Building
    (1911-1912)
    NE corner Olive & 7th
    Beaux-Arts architecture. An L.A.
    Historic-Cultural Monument.

* The lobbies of these buildings are open and well worth going in to see.
ITINERARY

7:00  Depart Santa Fe Station, San Diego

9:35  Arrive Los Angeles Station, board charter buses

10:00 Biltmore Hotel Tour with Biltmore staff guides

11:00 Walking tour of downtown Los Angeles (see map)

12:00 No host luncheon. Choice of Finney's Cafeteria, 217 West Sixth Street, or Blair's Cafeteria, 7th at Grand

1:00  Buses leave for Pasadena

2:00  Tour of Designers' Showcase in Pasadena

5:00  Buses arrive at Union Station area, where you may be let out at Chinatown, Olvera Street, or Little Tokyo for shopping and dining at your leisure.

8:00  Meet in waiting room of Union Station for return trip to San Diego.

11:05 Arrive Santa Fe Station, San Diego. (For those departing in Del Mar, train will arrive 30 min. earlier.)

TOUR COMMITTEE

Pat Minnich - Train Tour Conductor
Assisted by:
Cia Barron, Rae Berry, Joan Easly
Jamie Easly and Donna Regan