



The Whisper Restaurant and Lounge
Picture Collection

L.A. Skies

Photographs by Jim McHugh

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“LA Skies”

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This series of photographs of Los Angeles by photographer Jim McHugh began in the early 1990s as an homage to Hollywood’s Golden Era, to Raymond Chandler’s noir, and to the newest landmarks of the city.

The images span nine decades, beginning with The Orpheum Theatre, built for the vaudeville stage in 1923, and concluding with the dynamically contemporary 8500 Burton Way, which was completed in 2012.

Jim McHugh has garnered many awards for his photography and is included in prominent collections such as The Museum of Modern Art, The Walker Center, and the National Portrait Gallery in London. Jim attended the master’s program at the UCLA Film School. He has since been one of the original contributing photographers to *People* magazine, official photographer for the Grammy Awards, and a contributing photographer to *Architectural Digest*. Jim is renowned for his large format Polaroid images of Los Angeles and his series of artist portraits.

The City of Los Angeles recently chose Jim McHugh as one of five artists to commemorate the 75th anniversary of Union Station. McHugh’s contribution, “High Hopes” is a series of six translucent Duratrans panels, each a 3’ x 5’ image of downtown Los Angeles. The work, a permanent installation, will be unveiled for public view in May of 2014.

Currently, Jim is working on a personal project titled “Rick Caruso: Case Studies, New Landmarks On The Los Angeles Landscape.” Three of those images appear in this series: “8500 Burton Way - Blue Wedge,” “The Spirit Of American Youth Rising From The Waves - Color #1” and “The Grove - Looking West #1.”

All of the images are captured on 4x5 Polaroid film, a medium that no is longer manufactured, or Fuji Instant 4x5 film, which is no longer available in the United States. Each 23½” x 19” image is printed in an edition of 25 on INNOVA Digital Fine Art Paper. The work of Jim McHugh is available through Timothy Yarger Fine Art - Beverly Hills.

The Orpheum Theatre
842 South Broadway, Downtown Los Angeles



The Orpheum was originally built in 1926 as a vaudeville theater. Since its opening, the Orpheum has played host to some of the most venerable names in show business – from burlesque queen Sally Rand, a young Judy Garland and comedian Jack Benny, to jazz greats like Lena Horne, Ella Fitzgerald and Duke Ellington. The 1960s brought a completely new dimension to the theater – “rock and roll” – with performers such as Little Richard, Aretha Franklin and Little Stevie Wonder.

The Grove – Looking West #1
189 The Grove Drive



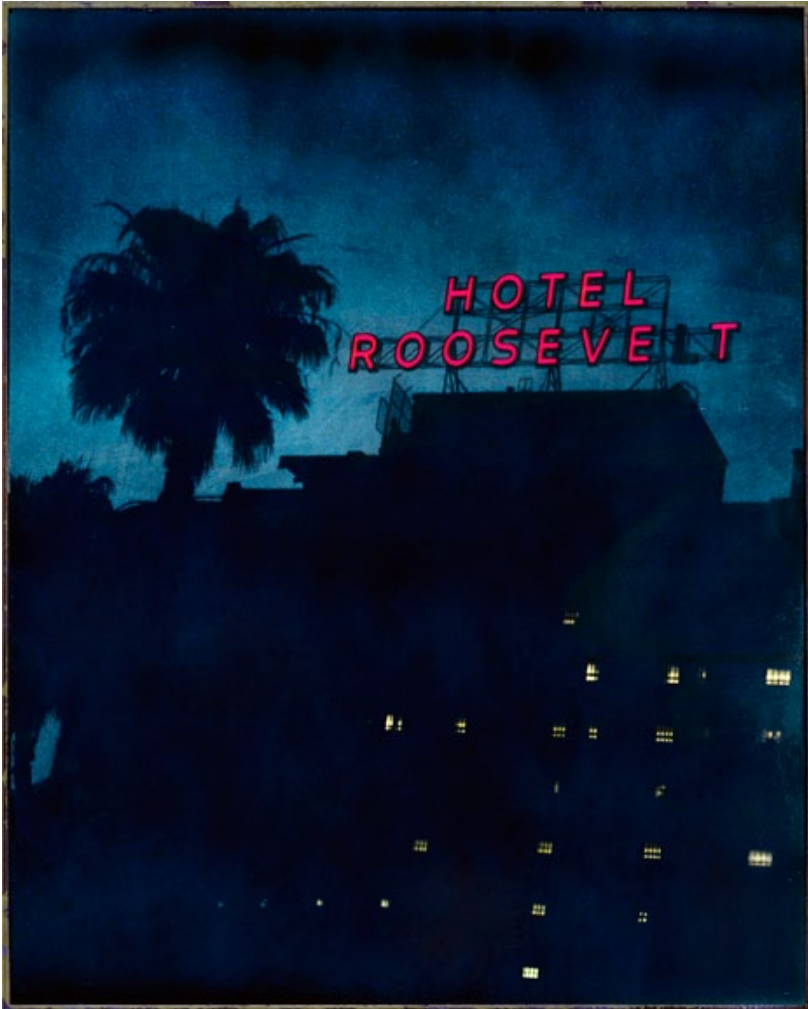
From the 1920s through the 1950s, the area now occupied by The Grove was a popular destination. Home to the Hollywood All-Stars, it sported its own baseball stadium. The area adjacent to the Farmers Market shook with the roar of a racetrack for both cars and motorcycles. Lucky teenage fans might spot a brooding James Dean under the hood of his favorite sports car on a Saturday afternoon. The inspiration of contemporary developer Rick Caruso, The Grove opened in 2002, restoring the area once again into one of the city's most glamorous destinations. The walls on 3rd Street are designed like a movie studio, with billboards filled with the latest fashions rather than the newest movies or TV shows. The Grove's centerpiece, a towering theater marquee, harkens back to the great cinema palaces of the 20s, 30s and 40s.

The Capitol Building
1750 Vine Street, Hollywood



Capitol Records marks the world's first circular office building and is one of Hollywood's great architectural icons. Dedicated in 1956, the blinking lights on its rooftop spell out H-O-L-L-Y-W-O-O-D in Morse code. Designed by architect Welton Becket, the building is located a block away from Hollywood and Vine. The wide curved awnings that extend over the windows and the tall spike emerging from the top of the building resemble a turntable with a phonograph needle and a stack of records. Frank Sinatra was the first artist to record an album in the new Capitol's Records tower, christening the renowned Studio A. Capitol Records also became known as "The House That Nat Built" due to the vast amount of recordings that entertainment legend Nat King Cole made there.

The Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel
7000 Hollywood Boulevard, Hollywood



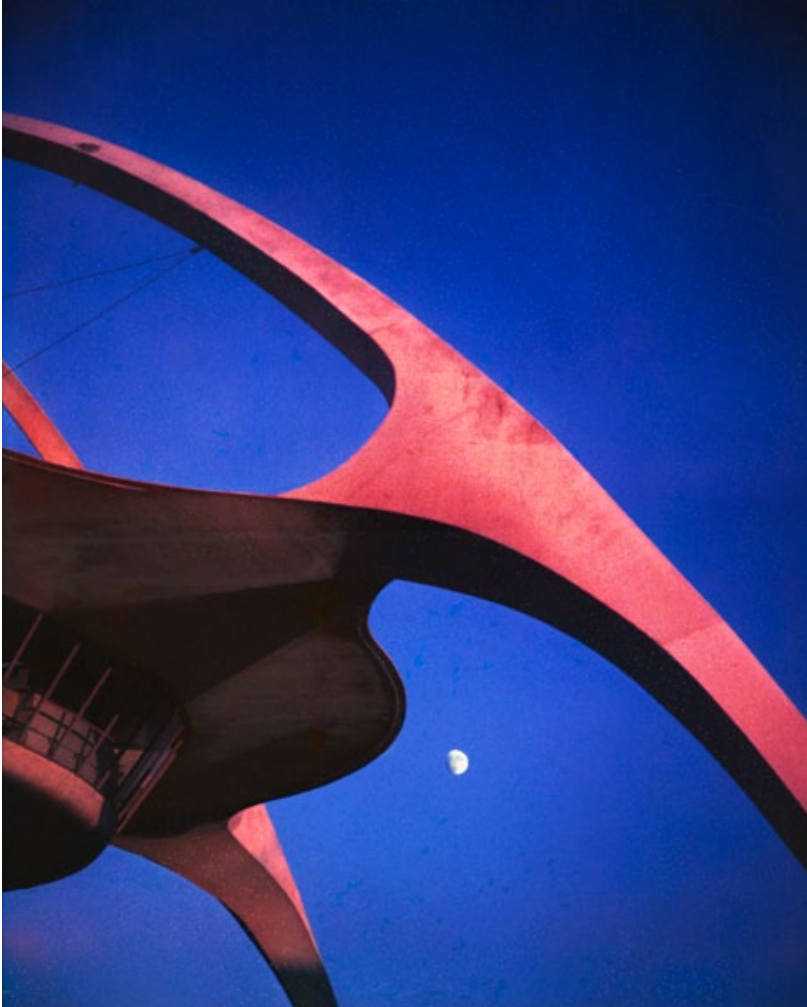
A group of wealthy Hollywood investors, led by Douglas Fairbanks, Mary Pickford, and Louis B. Mayer, built the Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel in 1927, naming it after Theodore Roosevelt. In 1929, the Academy Awards held its inaugural Hollywood ceremony in the Roosevelt's sophisticated Blossom Ballroom. During the mid-1950s, starlet Marilyn Monroe was a resident for two years as her soaring career took off. She modeled for her first magazine shoot on the diving board of the hotel's swimming pool. Later, British artist David Hockney painted the same pool, making it an art world destination.

8500 Burton Way - Blue Wedge
La Cienega Boulevard at San Vicente Boulevard



Like the classic 1967 Alfa Romeo 33 Stradale, considered one of the most beautiful cars of all time, 8500 Burton Way nods to the past with its classic curved neo-Modernist Italian architecture of the 1930s and 40s. Significantly anchoring the city borders of Beverly Hills and Los Angeles since 2012, the ultra-modern and luxurious 8500 Burton Way presides over the historically prominent Restaurant Row of La Cienega Boulevard.

LAX Theme Building
Los Angeles International Airport, Westchester



The futuristic Theme Building at Los Angeles International Airport is an example of Googie architecture, a mid-century school of modern design influenced by car culture, jets, the Space Age, and the Atomic Age. In 1961, a team of master architects and engineers, including Paul Williams, William Pereira, Charles Luckman, and Welton Becket, working together, designed the structure to resemble a landing spaceship. The restaurant on top of the Theme Building rotated slowly, offering visitors a 360-degree dining experience. It's no coincidence that the Theme Building seemed to echo Martian invaders, as Pereira's brother Hal designed the sets for the science fiction classic "War of the Worlds."

The Spirit Of American Youth Rising From The Waves
Color #1 – The Americana
889 Americana Way, Glendale



“The Spirit of American Youth Rising From The Waves” is the remarkable centerpiece of The Americana at Brand. Installed in 2008, the statue is a unique second casting of sculptor Donald de Lue’s WWII memorial to fallen American soldiers, which is located in Normandy, France. Like sculptor George Stanley’s commanding “Muse of Music” that welcomes visitors to the Hollywood Bowl, “The Spirit of American Youth Rising From The Waves” warmly receives all who sojourn at The Americana at Brand in Glendale.

The May Company Building
6067 Wilshire Boulevard, The Miracle Mile



Designed by Albert C. Martin in 1939, this gleaming example of Streamline Moderne architecture faced demolition in 1991. The Los Angeles Conservancy worked with community members and elected officials to save the building, which was adopted for use by the Los Angeles County Museum of Art. Considered the western gateway to the Miracle Mile by the Los Angeles Conservancy, in its day the May Company was one of the finest department stores in Los Angeles. Now appreciated as one of the great architectural landmarks of the city, the building will soon become the museum of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.

Beverly Hills City Hall & Union 76 Gas Station
Crescent and Little Santa Monica, Beverly Hills



These two landmarks are the perfect architectural bridge between a pre-WWII Chandleresque city and the post-War appetite for futuristic Modernism. The Beverly Hills City Hall, designed by architect William Gage in 1932, is a postcard example of the Spanish Renaissance style favoured in the city's early Golden Era. In contrast, the adjacent Union 76 filling station is a masterpiece of Mid-Century Modernism. Interestingly, architect Gin Wong originally designed the building to be located at Los Angeles International Airport as a modern complement to the futuristic Theme Building.

El Rey Theatre

5515 Wilshire Boulevard, The Miracle Mile



The El Rey Theatre was built in 1936 in the heart of the Miracle Mile, designed by celebrated architect Clifford Balch. It stands as a classic example of Deco-Moderne architecture and is a registered Historic-Cultural Monument. The El Rey was considered a typical neighborhood movie theater when it opened in '36, with massive chandeliers and red velvet curtains. After over 50 years as a first-run movie house, the El Rey was converted into a live music venue in 1994. Because of its unique heritage, this small 700-seat theater has become a special venue for stars like Mick Jagger, Jackson Browne and Bob Dylan.

Thank You