

HISTORIC ECHO PARK HOME TOUR

HILLSIDES & HIDEAWAYS

NOVEMBER 14, 2004





Serving
Echo Park
and its
surrounding
communities



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WELCOME!

Thank you for participating in the 2nd annual Historic Echo Park Home Tour, a collection of bungalows and cottages that recall our neighborhood's earliest days. This year's tour showcases our "Hillsides and Hideaways," homes on some of our steepest streets and highest altitudes.

Built between 1908 and 1931, these homes range from tiny pre-Craftsman cottages to a Spanish Colonial compound. Some are almost invisible from the street -- obscured by trees, fences and secret pathways -- while others are clearly perched above valleys and canyons.

A word of warning: Echo Park is not the easiest neighborhood to navigate. The streets are narrow. The elevation can be unnerving. Parking is far from plentiful, making patience and courtesy a treasured commodity.

But the payoff comes in the unusual and frequently beautiful settings, from rugged hillsides to well-tended gardens. Then there are the dramatic views to the north, south, east and west, from downtown Los Angeles to the San Gabriel Mountains.

So check your brakes and put on your comfortable walking shoes. Whether you're heading up or downhill, this tour offers a rare look at our neighborhood's past and present.

Mary-Austin Klein
Chairwoman, Historic Echo Park Home Tour

ABOUT EPHS

The **Echo Park Historical Society** was founded in 1995 to promote interest in Echo Park's heritage, to preserve and protect our neighborhood's natural sites and historically significant buildings, to document the rich and eclectic history of our neighborhood, and to chronicle the lives of our past and present residents.

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ECHO PARK HISTORY

Echo Park is one of the oldest neighborhoods in Los Angeles, developing at the end of the 19th century and seeing its greatest surge in growth between 1905 and 1935. Located northwest of downtown Los Angeles, its rolling hills and steep bluffs became a prime spot for clapboard cottages, Spanish-style bungalows and a sprinkling of postwar and Modern homes.

Echo Park was built around the city's elaborate rail system, with no less than four trolley lines running through the community. Because its hills were so steep, Echo Park was given a network of public staircases that allowed commuters to hop off a streetcar and walk uphill to their homes.

Over the course of a century, Echo Park attracted waves of immigrants – Italians, Jews, Filipinos, Mexicans, Central-Americans and Cambodians, to name a few. Echo Park received everyone from Communist organizers to Evangelical Christians, from labor activists to aspiring actors.

Many have been drawn to Echo Park's unique public spaces – Echo Park Lake and the sprawling Elysian Park. Many stay because of the neighborhood's unique scale and architectural character, from cliffside homes to tiny bungalow courts.

The neighborhood's few mansions can be found in Angelino Heights, which offers the city's greatest concentration of Victorian and Queen Anne homes. Far more typical are the modest houses found from Historic Filipinotown south of the Hollywood (101) Freeway north to Elysian Heights. Yet no matter how small the home, Echo Park's historic houses, duplexes and apartments have qualities that almost seem quaint in a time of massive subdivisions and four-car garages.

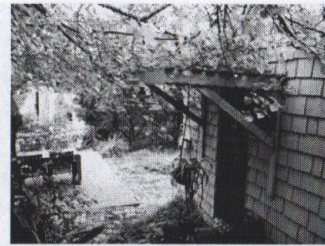
Echo Park is a mix of the rural and urban, a place where the occasional rooster can crow yards away from a three-story apartment building. It has the winding walking trails of Elysian Park and busy street vendors on Sunset Boulevard. Those contradictions and combinations are what makes Echo Park a fascinating place to visit for a day or stay for good.

No. 3.

Beverage and bake sale stop

How tiny are the homes of Echo Park? This shingled 1911 cottage -- a classic example of "Echo Park shack" -- was originally built to occupy 360 square feet! Whatever its size, the house has an enviable spot in Fellowship Park, where residents live in a communal setting with canyon views and a soothing fountain.

Hidden away: A public staircase leading to one of Echo Park's earliest artist enclaves



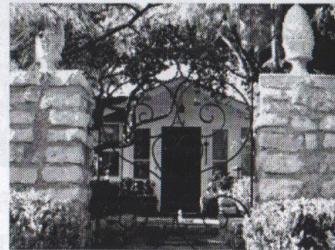
2314 Lemoyne St.

No. 4.

Platt House, 1616 Cerro Gordo St.

Nestled in the Elysian Terrace Tract, this 1908 house is another modest cottage in an ideal garden setting. With south-facing views of downtown Los Angeles and the Echo Park hills, this one-bedroom sits on one of the steepest blocks in the city. Check your brakes!

Hillside views: Downtown Los Angeles and an urban canyon



No. 5.

Kellogg House, 2312 Echo Park Ave.

By far the most elaborate -- and intact -- Arts and Crafts house on this year's tour, this four-bedroom bungalow is a showcase for built-in cabinetry, leaded glass, original light fixtures and sliding pocket doors. Built in 1913, the house also offers the comforts of a wraparound porch and two balconies.

Hillside views: Bungalows dotting the surrounding neighborhood



No. 6.

Canyon House, 2427 Avon St.

Connected to the street by a narrow walkway, this hidden 1915 bungalow is a testament to the Arts and Crafts style. Though many of its original features were dismantled in the 1960s and 1970s, its current owners re-established its Craftsman identity by incorporating woodwork, stained glass and tile salvaged from demolished churches, a razed Victorian, even the fire-damaged home of Boris Karloff.

Hidden away: A Craftsman with views of the San Gabriel Mountains

