

# Graduate Media Design Program's 9th Annual Dialectical Bus Tour 2009

Sept. 4, 2009. Bus departs at 8:30 a.m. from Art Center's South Campus parking lot. 950 S. Raymond Ave., Pasadena, CA 91105. Bus returns at approx. 4:30 p.m.

Bring water, snacks, and recording/capturing devices of all kinds.

The tour includes a boat trip through the Port of Los Angeles and a restaurant stop for lunch in San Pedro.

## Industrializing and Idealizing the Landscape of Los Angeles: the Artificial Terrains of Infrastructure and Parkland

Guided by

Norman Klein, MDP Faculty, Cultural Historian,  
Author, [The History of Forgetting, Los Angeles and the Erasure of Memory](#)  
Tim Durfee, MDP Core Faculty, Durfee | Regn Architecture and Exhibits

The MDP's annual bus tour and 2-day charette offers participants an experience that is central to the philosophy of the program. An intelligent designer must slow-down their vision in order to see anew the overly familiar or glimpse the otherwise invisible. The tour will defamiliarize the city that most people think they already know before they've arrived, revealing the remarkable in the mundane and tracing the interwoven networks that connect people, objects, places, and information at all scales.

The tour follows a non-touristic path through the city, focusing on two powerful systems that were – quite independently – the foundation of the early economical and mythical power of the city. Each system is visible on a map of Los Angeles as two opposing, nerve-shaped figures. One – green, and headed by Griffith Park running south with the Los Angeles River connecting to the ocean. The other – gray, and grounded by the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach, and running north along the Alameda Corridor to downtown and ultimately across the United States.

In many respects, these figures are the geographic imprint of two modes of viewing the landscape of Los Angeles: as a global-scaled instrument for the production and movement of goods, resources and people, or as an edenic paradise about which people from other climates all over the world would dream. Despite their inherently oppositional character, both promote a reality that was almost entirely constructed and artificial, and both perceptions have played nearly equal roles in prompting vast migration to the region for the past 150 years.

On this tour, we will be traveling along these two nerves, briefly visiting locations critical to the history and current operation of these systems.