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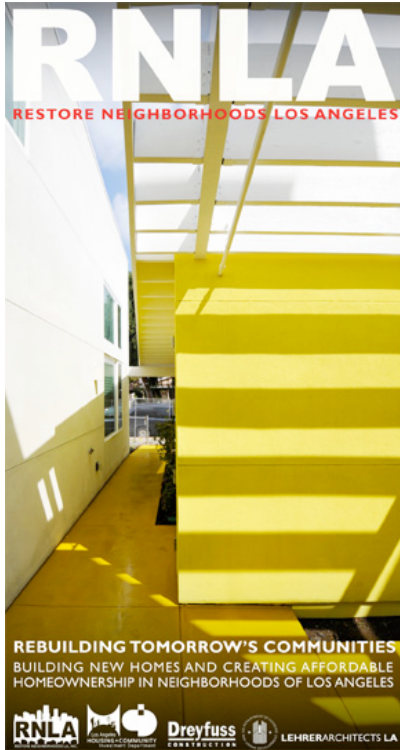
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**AIALA Announces Affordable Housing Tour**



**When:** Sunday, March 23, 2014 12:00 PM to 4:00 PM

**Where:** South Los Angeles, Finishing at Watts Towers

**Who:** AIALA, RNLA, Lehrer Architects LA

**Tickets:** <http://www.aialosangeles.org/content/tours>

February 12, 2014, (Los Angeles, CA) - This coming March 23rd, AIA Los Angeles (AIALA) will kick off its tour season by offering a tour of 5 residences in Los Angeles. This is not a traditional AIALA Tour. In fact, instead of focusing on the glitz and glamour of the hills or the beaches, this tour will focus on low-income housing designed to still honor the sustainable Southern California living.

The homes are set in South Los Angeles and developed by non-profit community development leaders, Restore Neighborhoods L.A. Inc, (RNLA) whose mission is to "enrich the quality of life for the people in the [underserved] communities." Teaming up with Lehrer Architects LA, the homes were built on extremely tight budgets and sought to reclaim and re-envision urban infill areas.

"Experiencing disparate parts of the city is a powerful way to love the whole LA. Seeing these new, prototypical infill houses, designed to refresh their streets...and ending up at Watts Towers makes for a delightful design day together." Says Michael Lehrer, FAIA of Lehrer Architects LA.

We invite the community to take this tour and see how good design can benefit an economically challenged neighborhood turning it into a thriving and sustainable community.

The South LA Tour is a self-guided tour of the 5 residences, finishing with a tour of the famed Watts Towers and including a one-hour symposium entitled, ***URBAN TOURISM - especially here in LA is a big part of urban design***, between representatives of Lehrer Architects LA, RNLA and the City of L.A.

*Chances are you have been living in L.A. for a long time or are a native and have never visited the world famous Watts Towers (we know many at the AIALA Chapter office haven't). Here is your chance to discover this interesting, bizarre and unique project – in fact; your ticket to the South LA tour includes a tour of the Watts Tower, for the fullest experience of this historical neighborhood.*

#### **About AIALA**

The American Institute of Architects (AIA) is the voice of the architecture profession, dedicated to serving and empowering its members through advocacy, educational and outreach programs as well as educating the public on the value and importance of architecture. AIA/Los Angeles is a not-for-profit professional membership association.

#### **About RNLA**

RNLA works in the most economically distressed neighborhoods: stabilizing low-income communities most impacted by economic divestiture and foreclosure. RNLA has worked in collaboration with the National Community Stabilization Trust (NCST) to acquire foreclosed properties from other loan servicing entities, lending institutions, investors and local real estate agents.

#### **About Lehrer Architects LA**

Michael B. Lehrer, FAIA, founded Lehrer Architects (LA) in his native district of Los Feliz in Los Angeles as a Sole Proprietorship, in 1985. 26 years later, the business, now a California corporation, is still thriving. Lehrer Architects' approach to design grows out of a deep love and respect for the community and unwavering focus on its improvement. Michael Lehrer has developed a unique relationship of an architect's communal role: a leader, using design to improve quality of space and quality of life.

#### **About Watts Towers**

A collection of 17 interconnected structures, two of which reach heights of over 99 feet (30 m). Built from 1921 to 1954, by Italian immigrant construction worker Sabato ("Sam" or "Simon") Rodia over a period of 33 years, the Towers are an example of non-traditional vernacular architecture and American naïve art.

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