

Celebrating Our Architectural Heritage

SANTA MONICA CONSERVANCY EVISTORIA DE VIS

September 2018 • Vol 16, No 3

An Autumn Stroll Down Adelaide Drive: A Neighborhood Above It All

High on a bluff above Santa Monica Canyon where imposing homes look out over spectacular ocean and hillside vistas, you'll find Adelaide Drive, site of our fall walking tour on Sunday, October 21, from 1 to 5 pm. Tour docents will describe the fascinating history and architectural styles of various residences, both vintage and contemporary. View the beautiful pines and ornate lampposts of this neighborhood, and perhaps attempt one or both sets of the notorious stairs that draw fitness buffs to Adelaide.

In the early 20th century, wealthy pioneer families built their coastal homes on Adelaide Drive, and today, six of these residences are still standing as designated landmarks. Current Adelaide residents include architect Frank Gehry, artist Don Bachardy, author Mona Simpson and cartoonist/animator Matt Groening.

The second home of Roy Jones, son of Santa Monica co-founder Senator John Percival Jones, will be open to visitors. Built in 1907, this Colonial Revival home was designed by Jones' brother-in-law, architect Robert Farquhar, who is recognized for UCLA's Clark Library, the California Club in downtown Los Angeles and Santa Monica landmarks, including the Henry Weyse/Charles Morris House.

Also featured on the tour is the stunning Gillis House, a 1905 Craftsman masterpiece with an English Arts and Crafts influence. Robert Gillis, who owned the Santa Monica Land and Water Company and bought thousands of acres in Pacific Palisades in the early 20th century, named Adelaide Drive after his oldest daughter. Gillis selected architects Myron Hunt and Elmer Grey to design this home. Hunt and Grey were associates of a prominent Pasadena firm that designed the Huntington Library in San Marino.

In contrast to these historic homes is the very contemporary home recently built by and for renowned architect Frank Gehry and his wife



Robert Gillis and his wife on horseback in front of their home at 406 Adelaide Drive. Photo: Santa Monica Public Library

Berta. Construction of Gehry's new house began in 2014. It features glass walls and a distinctive a roof—a cluster of smaller, overlapping roofs each oriented differently.

An invitation with details will follow. Tickets may be purchased by mail or online at www.smconservancy.org and will also be available on the day of the tour.

Conservancy Nominates Carousel Park for **Landmark Status**

arousel Park, the welcoming gateway to the Looff Hippodrome from the boardwalk below, has been in threat of demolition with the proposed pier bridge improvements. The award-winning Park contains a children's playground, ample bleacher seating with lookout pavilions and ADA access from Ocean Front Walk to the Pier deck. The Conservancy joined the Cultural Landscape Foundation and Chattel, Inc., preservation consultants, in submitting a landmark designation application for the Park.

A designation hearing by the Landmarks Commission will be held on September 13 at 6 pm at the Santa Monica Institute (SMI) Training Room at 330 Olympic Drive.



Supporters of Carousel Park gathered on June 15 to take a "This Place Matters" photo. Photo: Chattel, Inc.

11th Street Historic District Meetings, page 5

OUR MISSION

The Santa Monica Conservancy is the leading voice for preserving our historic places. We promote understanding of the cultural, social, economic and environmental benefits of historic preservation through education, assistance and advocacy.

JOIN US

The Santa Monica Conservancy exists because of the involvement and generosity of people like you. Become a member today and strengthen our voice for preserving Santa Monica's architectural and cultural heritage. *Membership information is available on p. 7.*

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Liz Coughlin Carol Lemlein
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This newsletter is supported in part by a grant from the City of Santa Monica and the Santa Monica Arts Commission.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Demolition permits are no longer being reviewed by the city's Landmarks Commission, a task it has been charged with for decades. Who will be responsible? You and I and organizations like the Conservancy who are willing to step up and protect our potential historic resources.

For years, Santa Monica empowered the Commission to proactively nominate properties for Landmark designation. After an independent consultant's report and a public hearing, the Commission



determined if a property was landmark-worthy. These proactive designations were very effective in protecting important historic resources where an owner would not have initiated the designation but ultimately accepted it, and, in some cases, went on to take advantage of a Mills Act property tax abatement. This is how many historic buildings in Downtown Santa Monica and elsewhere in the City were designated, including several featured on the Conservancy's Downtown Walking Tour.

What changed? In 2015, City staff, citing a State Court of Appeals decision, *Woody's Group, Inc. vs. City of Newport Beach*, prohibited the Landmarks Commission from making proactive nominations. Fortunately, the Conservancy and the Landmarks Commission were successful in getting Council to waive the nomination fee for nonprofits like the Conservancy and the neighborhood organizations, as well as for individual Landmark Commissioners who were willing to recuse themselves from deciding on the designation.

In June, this prohibition was extended to end the Commission's review of demolition applications for every property over 40 years of age. When the list of applications not yet addressed by the Commission was released in July to the Conservancy and the neighborhood organizations, 27 demo applications were pending, including eight properties on the Historic Resource Inventory (HRI)! The Conservancy Advocacy Committee immediately reviewed all 27 and identified several to be investigated. So far, we have discovered a few where the property isn't actually threatened— and by the time this newsletter goes to press, our work may have resulted in one or more Landmark designation applications.

Relying on non-governmental individuals or organizations to take on this review creates an undue burden which is complicated by several procedural problems. The first is time. City staff does not release demo application packages in a timely fashion, limiting the time to determine those worthy of designation before the demo permit becomes effective.

Most serious, however, is the fact that our current HRI reflects 10-years-old field studies and only covers properties built prior to 1968. The update authorized in 2015, covering properties through 1978, has been undergoing staff review for months. Since it has not been released to the public, we lack essential up-to-date information on some, perhaps even a majority, of the properties which might be landmark-worthy. Release of the new HRI is desperately needed!

How can you help? If you see a demo sign go up on a property that you believe may have historic and/or cultural value, please email president@smconservancy.org. Include anything you know about the owner and plans for the property. It may be several weeks before the application package is publicly available. It really helps to know as soon as possible so we can begin our research. More than ever, it's now up to us and others to safeguard our historic resources!

Carol lember



Commemoration of Nikkei Hall completion in 1957. The Hall was designated as a landmark in May 2018 after a review of a demolition permit.

Photo: Discover Nikkei

New Docents Guide Shotgun House Tours

ozens of docents staff our tours, which include the Downtown Walking Tour, the Marion Davies Guest House at the Annenberg Community Beach House and the Shotgun House, welcoming local residents and visitors from around the world. Docents are integral to our mission of showing Santa Monica's heritage and the benefits of preservation.

Our three newest docents at the Shotgun House recently completed training in Santa Monica history, architecture and the art of docenting and have been leading tours at the Shotgun House for several months.

Bill Androlia docents on weekends with his

wife Linda, and also docents at the Annenberg Community Beach House. He has always been interested in "heritage kind of architecture and the people behind it." He was surprised by a recent Bay area visitor who Bill Androlia



turned out to be a former classmate of his from UC Berkeley.

Gabriela Corona, a native Santa Monican and our youngest docent, works as a community college counselor at Santa Monica College, and is earning a doctoral degree in Educational Leadership. She has always been Gabriela Corona fascinated by history and



wanted to learn more about her hometown. When she saw our "open" sign on the library lawn this year, she was determined to visit. One of her most rewarding docent experiences has been showing her mother the Shotgun House.

Beth Leder-Pack was an early proponent of the Shotgun House when it was under threat of demolition. As a member of the Church in Ocean Park, a supporting organization, she wrote the appeals to save the house. Encouraged by her friend and Conservancy Board

member Nina Fresco to become a docent, she signed on. "I love Ocean Park," she says. "Docenting gives me the opportunity to get more immersed in local history while doing something good for the community."



Beth Leder-Pack

We are always looking for new docents. To apply as a volunteer, go to www.smconservancy.org and click "Get Involved."

We thank our cadre of other Shotgun House docents: Linda Androlia, Catherine Conkle, Phillis Dudick, Eric Dugdale, Board member Mario Fonda-Bonardi, Denise Orlando, Chair of the Docent Council Libby Pachares, Sylvia Rose, Shannon Ryan, Lorraine Sanchez, Jodi Summers, Hilda Weiss, Carolyn Yost and Patty Godon-Tann, who has undertaken the enormous task of scheduling the docents' shifts since 2011.

Docents Take in a Day of Ocean Park History

By Libby Pachares

n May 30, Docent Council members Linda Androlia and Patty Godon-Tann arranged a special Shotgun House tour for the Beach House docents. Androlia and Godon-Tann both serve as Beach House and Shotgun House docents. Conservancy Board Member and Shotgun House docent Mario Fonda-Bonardi shared with tour-goers his extensive knowledge of these homes and the role they played in Santa Monica's history. Docents then headed to the California Heritage Museum, the 1894 former home of Roy Jones, son of Santa Monica co-founder John Jones. The home was originally located on Ocean Avenue but was moved in 1977 to its present location on the corner of Main Street and Ocean Park Boulevard. At the Museum, docents had the



opportunity to view the special exhibit "Rock & Roll Legends, The Lost Negatives of Michael Friedman." The photos from this exhibit are headed to the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame in Cleveland, OH where they will become a part of the permanent archives. The day concluded with a lovely lunch at La Vecchia Ristorante on Main Street.

A Summer Hit: Speaker Series

The Conservancy's first summer speaker series was a resounding success. All three Sunday evening lectures sold out with over 180 guests attending the series at the historic landmark Rapp Saloon.

The idea for the successful series was the brainchild of Program Committee chair Libby Motika and Jan Jackson, and was successfully executed by coordinator Steve Loeper and volunteers Kaitlin Drisko, Phillis Dudick, Susan Eve, Dwight Flowers, Sherrill Kushner, Ruthann Lehrer, Diane Locklear, Fran Lyness and Meighan Maguire. We thank our videographers Eli Fresco and Reed Wilson, and the Rapp Saloon for hosting our lecture series. Special thanks to our guest speakers Marc Wanamaker, Mike Machat and Michael Blum with Kathy Kohner Zuckerman.

Conservancy Program Committee members Steve Loeper and Libby Motika with guest speaker Michael Machat.

Downtown Walking Tour Dazzles





On June 16, docent extraordinaire Rita Schneir captivated guests with the history and architecture of sites like the Rapp Saloon, Hotel Shangri-La and Georgian Hotel on the Conservancy's Downtown Walking Tour. Photos: Stephanie Plomarity Photography, courtesy of Santa Monica Travel & Tourism



1415 5th Street in Santa Monica. Photo: Michael W. Folonis Architects

Michael W. Folonis Architects Wins 3 AIA Design Awards

Congratulations to Board member Michael Folonis, FAIA, and his firm on receiving three Design Awards from the San Fernando Valley Chapter of the American Institute of Architects.

The projects include a delicatessen and cafe in Ensenada, Mexico; renovation of the West Hills Medical Office Building; and a 64-unit mixed-use apartment building located at 1415 5th Street in downtown Santa Monica. The design of the building in Santa Monica establishes dynamic pedestrian interaction and incorporates a movable panel system that allows tenants to regulate the amount of light filtering into their spaces. Construction for the mixed-use building will begin this September.

Former Papermate Factory Wins Architecture Award

f you've ever driven down Olympic Boulevard, then you've seen the rainbow-striped façade of the Pen Factory, the former 1950s Papermate factory at the corner of 26th Street. This colorful multi-tenant office space is a prime example of a successful adaptive reuse. Awesomeness, a Santa Monica entertainment brand, received an architecture award from the Los Angeles Business Council for its new offices inside the east wing, designed by architect Skidmore, Owings & Merrill LLP. From nearly 300 entries, this office was one of 54 projects that were honored for supporting sustainability and enhancing economic competitiveness, quality of life, and community development in the Los Angeles region.



Photo: Benny Chan/Fotoworks

The Penguin Is Reborn as Mel's Drive-In!

Anticipation reigned two years ago when a sign was posted for a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) for a new restaurant on the former Penguin Café site at 1670 Lincoln Boulevard. For more than two decades, the classic 1959 Googie-style restaurant designed by Armet and Davis at the official terminus of Route 66 had been the site of a chain dental office. These architects are renowned for their perfection of the Googie style, representing the very best of Midcentury Modern roadside design.

The Conservancy supported the grant of the CUP and asked the Planning Commission to protect the building's historic façade and the Penguin sign. We also met with restaurant owner, Steven Weiss, offering assistance and support for preservation-related issues.

Former Los Angeles Conservancy ModCom chairs Chris Nichols and Adriene Biondo also worked closely with Weiss to recreate the Googie-era interior, complete with sparkling terrazzo floors, jukeboxes in many of the booths



Photo: Mel's Drive-In

and classic capri shell light fixtures.

Conversion of the original freestanding pole sign required particular care, since such signs are no longer allowed under Santa Monica's 1985 Sign Ordinance. At that time, all freestanding, protruding and rooftop signs were removed, except approximately 100 that were protected as meritorious because they were "Historically Significant," typically built before 1970, or reflected "Contemporary Culture," a category which allowed for recognition of some newer signs built prior to 1985.



Photo: Rich Schmitt Photography

Rehabilitated Craftsman Showcased at Salon

By Libby Motika

This year, nearly 50 Salon participants saw first-hand the results of Anitra and Alan Eskovitzes' exquisite restoration and rehabilitation of a formerly a down-at-the heels landmark home. The aeroplane bungalow had to be stripped to the studs and rebuilt to accommodate structural reinforcement and updated systems. Some of the work done on the house was in fulfillment of their Mills Act contract historic preservation commitment.

Guests toured the unique home and enjoyed refreshments, bluegrass music by The Rattlesnakes and the garden with an espaliered apple tree fronting the swimming pool.

We thank our hosts, Anitra and Alan Eskovitz, and all those who attended and supported the Conservancy; Mike Deasy and Bjorn Farrugia, realtors who sponsored the event; Rich Schmitt Photography; and Conservancy Salon volunteers: Phyllis Conkle (caterer extraordinaire), Susan Eve, Patty Godon-Tann, Mary Ann Hays, Margarita Jerabek, Ursula Kress, Ruthann Lehrer, Steve Loeper, Fran Lyness, Sara Meric, Diane Miller, Libby Motika, Maureen Murphy, Anita Roglich, Joyce Rosenblum, Ruth Shari and Sarah Weber.

"Passport to Success" Visits Marquez Cemetery



On July 14, students from the Martin Luther King, Jr. Recreation Center visited the Pasqual Marquez Cemetery in Santa Monica Canyon as part of the Conservancy's educational series, "Passport to Success." Ernesto Marquez, Sharon Killbride and Tish Nettleship, director of La Señora Research Institute, taught about the legacy of the pioneering Marquez family. Photo: Nina Kidd

Ferris Wheel Celebrates 125th Anniversary

Both Santa Monica Pier and Navy Pier in Chicago celebrated the 125th anniversary of the invention of the Ferris wheel this past June. Designed and constructed by George Washington Gale Ferris, Jr. for the World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago, the Ferris wheel rolled onto the scene with a grand opening on June 21, 1893. While Chicago is home to the original Ferris wheel, Santa Monica is home to the world's only solar-powered Ferris wheel.

Ferris's engineering feat was America's answer to the recently completed Eiffel Tower in Paris. The original Ferris wheel was 264 feet tall and illuminated by 2,500 Edison incandescent lamps.

Our nine-story tall Pacific Wheel Ferris wheel first debuted in May 1996 with the opening of Pacific Park on the Santa Monica Pier. It was adapted as the world's first solar-powered Ferris wheel in November 1998. The Pacific Wheel's 174,000 LED lights are mounted on the wheel's structure which includes 40 spokes and two hubs. The lighting



The original Ferris Wheel at the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago.

system features 16.7 million color value combinations while the programming and display software presents imaging up to 24 frames per second to display dynamic, custom, computer-generated lighting entertainment. The eco-friendly, enhanced LED lighting provides 81% greater energy savings than most Ferris wheels using traditional incandescent bulbs.

Thanks to the Santa Monica Daily Press for this information.



Photo: Kristina Sado/SadoFoto

New Narrative Signs at the Shotgun House

Bringing history to life, Board member Nina Fresco has created new signs at the Shotgun House that showcase the history of downtown Santa Monica, Clover Field and Santa Monica Airport, as well as the personal story of Karen Noonan who grew up in the Shotgun House with her family in the 1960s. Drop by and read all about it! Thanks to Fresco for her research and to Allan Jeffries Framing in Santa Monica for its in-kind donation and framing expertise.

Extended Hours at the Shotgun House

During September, the Preservation Resource Center will be open from 12-3 pm on Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. These extra hours allow us to welcome more residents and summer visitors to tour the last intact Shotgun House in Santa Monica where they can learn about its two

relocations and rehabilitation with our docents. Our Center is a resource for Ocean Park history as well as the methods and benefits of preservation. And it's also a great place to bring kids—we have coloring books, puzzles, a Shotgun House model house and fun activities for all ages.

COMMUNITY MEETINGS:

Proposed 11th Street Historic District

id City Neighbors (MCN), a neighborhood association, has filed an application to nominate a handful of California bungalows on 11th Street to become a new historic district. The bungalows, built in the first two decades of the 1900s, are in the block south of Wilshire Boulevard.

On September 18 at 7 pm, MCN will share its research at a public meeting at Colorado Center's Community Room (2500 Broadway) with a presentation that describes the homes, their history, and significance. The City will host another meeting on September 24 at 6:30 pm at the Santa Monica Main Library (601 Santa Monica Boulevard) to discuss the district, followed by a meeting on November 12 at 7 pm at the Santa Monica Institute (330 Olympic Drive) when the Landmarks Commission will discuss the designation and decide whether to recommend it for City Council's approval.



1223 11th Street Photo: Santa Monica Mirror

"A historic district can stabilize entire blocks to the benefit of tenants, owners, residents and visitors," says Planning Commission member Mario Fonda-Bonardi, AIA. "These houses are at risk for demolition, yet they represent a significant part of the city's history—a place where the workers who built this city once lived."

The community is encouraged to attend. Validated parking available for all meetings.



Photo: Alison Rose Jefferson

5th Annual Nick Gabaldon Day

Students from the Martin Luther King, Jr. Recreation Center celebrated Nick Gabaldón on June 2, learning about Santa Monica Bay's first documented surfer of African- and Mexican-American descent at the historic "Inkwell." The Conservancy teamed up with historian Alison Rose Jefferson for the event.

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Landmarks Commission Report

by Ruthann Lehrer and Carol Lemlein, Advocacy Co-Chairs

he Conservancy gratefully thanks the two retiring Landmarks Commissioners --Margaret Bach and Laura O'Neill. Bach, the Commission's historian, initiated the brief presentation of interesting aspects of Santa Monica history at each meeting. In addition to her recent three terms, Bach served as a member and chair of the first Commission in 1976. O'Neill, the architectural historian, brought her extensive professional expertise in historic preservation practice to the Commission's work. City Council recently re-appointed Dolores Sloan to the Commission as well as replacements for the two vacancies: Ken Breisch, Conservancy Board member emeritus and Roger Genser, Conservancy member who previously served as Landmarks Commission historian and as a member of the Arts Commission.

A rehearing was held at the June meeting for Wilmont Neighborhood Association's landmark nomination of a 100-year-old monumental sycamore tree at 1122 California Avenue. Many residents presented impassioned testimony regarding its significance to their neighborhood. The Commission approved designation in a close 4-3 vote. However, the owners of the surrounding property have appealed the designation to City Council.

A certificate of appropriateness for modifications to the Henry Weyse/Charles Morris House at 401 Ocean Avenue was unanimously approved in July. This 1910 house, designated in 1990, is the work of famed local architect Robert Farquhar. The house facades will be restored, removing non-original alterations, and a second floor balcony will take advantage of ocean views. It will be converted into two units, and a new four-story three-unit residential condominium will be constructed at the rear facing Georgina Avenue. The proposed new structure will use complementary materials and design motifs, but its contemporary style will differentiate it from the historic house.



Activists surround the tree at 1122 California Ave Photo: Save Our Sycamore

Several owner-requested designations have been recently approved:

The Public Works Administration Moderne building at 1314 7th Street was designated, based upon its architecture and history as headquarters of the General Telephone Corporation between 1937 and 1956. Today it is re-purposed for commercial office use and restaurants, a project that received a Preservation Award from the Conservancy in 2016.

The newly designated Hipped-Roof Cottage at 1124 7th Street was moved from 840 Oregon Avenue (now Santa Monica Blvd) in 1922 when that area began to develop with automobile-serving businesses. It was built in 1907.

The single-story Craftsman bungalow at 1527 17th Street, built in 1924, was designated as an intact example of the early residential development of the Pico Neighborhood.

Finally, at its August meeting, the Commission recommended forwarding four applications for Mills Act Contracts to City Council for approval:

1659 Ocean Front Walk

133 Wadsworth Avenue

1305 2nd Street

1314 7th Street

The Mills Act is one of the most valuable preservation incentives available. It can provide a significant reduction in property taxes for owners of both owner-occupied and income-producing properties who commit to undertake specific restoration/rehabilitation tasks and properly maintain their historic structures.

Correction on the Vitagraph Studio

In the June 2018 newsletter, we wrote that the Vitagraph Studio was the first film studio in Los Angeles, founded by Thomas Ince. First, Vitagraph was founded by J. Stuart Blackton and Albert E. Smith and it was one of Los Angeles' first studios. Rather, the Selig Polyscope operation, built in 1909 in Eden-

dale (now Echo Park), is considered to be the region's oldest movie studio, followed by a flurry of other companies that migrated from the East coast soon after. Ince, on the other hand, founded Inceville, a movie studio, in what is now the Palisades Highlands. Thank you, Steve Loeper, for the correction.

2018 FALL PRESERVATION EVENTS

TOUR

Hollywood Forever Cemetery

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 13, 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Learn the life stories and scandals of Hollywood's pioneers and early movie stars and moguls during this 2-1/2-hour docent-led walking tour that includes "visits" from several of the luminaries buried there. Tours every 20 minutes.

Art Deco Society of Los Angeles (626) 441-6333

www.adsla.org

TOUR

Chinatown

AVAILABLE BY APPOINTMENT

Take a guided walking tour of Chinatown's architecture, temples, historic buildings and sites, and hear about the history of Chinese immigration to Los Angeles. Tours range from 1 to 4 hours.

Chinese Historical Society of Southern California

(323) 222-0856

www.chssc.org

HOUSE TOUR

Lanterman House

TUESDAYS, THURSDAYS & ALTERNATING SUNDAYS, 1:00 - 4:00 PM

Tour this 1915 fireproof bungalow in La Cañada Flintridge and see its exquisite original interiors and furnishings, including elaborate hand-painted wall and ceiling ornamentation.

Lanterman House (818) 790-1421

www.lcf.ca.gov/parks-rec/lanterman-house

CELEBRATION

Dia de Los Muertos (Day of the Dead) SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 12:00 - 4:00 PM

The City of Santa Monica celebrates the cycle of life and the remembrance of ancestors with altars, musicians, dancers, marigold offerings, a slide show honoring lost loved ones, food trucks and a communal memory wall.

Woodlawn Cemetery (310) 448-8717

www.smgov.net

FESTIVAL & TOUR

Craftsman Weekend

FRIDAY - SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9 - 11

The most comprehensive tribute to the Arts & Crafts Movement in the Western U.S. features a Craftsman House Tour, antique and decorative arts sales, bus and walking tours of historic neighborhoods, exclusive receptions and more.

Pasadena Heritage (626) 441-6333

www.pasadenaheritage.org

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Suzanne Edwards & Marc Crocetti

Caylin Ellowitz Maria Hopper Catherine Horrigan Richard Neyland

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FALL WALKING TOUR

Discover both the historic and contemporary architectural gems of Adelaide Drive.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 21 • 1-5 PM

For tickets and details, go to www.smconservancy.org.



The second Roy Jones house, featured on the tour.

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www.smconservancy.org



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