



## Index of Livability 2011

18 teilige Foto-Text Serie, in je 3 Teilen  
2 Pigmentprints auf Hahnemühle Photo Rag in Passepartout, gerahmt  
je 40 x 76 cm

Abb: Installationsansicht aus 9 Arbeiten (von insgesamt 18), Auswahl und Details

Richard Neutra, berühmt für seine Stahl-Glas-Villen entworfen für das Los Angeles Establishment, ist weniger bekannt für seine soziale und fortschrittliche Überzeugung, die ihren Ausdruck in stadtplanerischen Entwürfen und sozialen Wohnbauprojekten fand. *Index of Livability\** beschreibt anhand der von Neutra geplanten (oder an der Planung maßgeblich beteiligten) Wohnbauprojekte *Hacienda Village*, *Pueblo del Rio*, *Maravilla*, *Channel Heights*, *Progressive Builders Homes* und *Elysian Park Heights*, die Auswirkungen des politischen Wandels auf städtebauliche Transformationsprozesse: von einer politisch Links orientierten utopischen Idee der Moderne (die sich über Selbstorganisation, Tagesbetreuung für Kinder, Opposition zu Rassismus und dem Kampf gegen die Immobilienlobby definierte), über die "Rote Gefahr" der McCarthy-Ära und Politik des Kalten Krieges, hin zu einem "Corporate Modernism" der politisch Rechten und deren Glaube, dass Sozialwohnungen "unamerikanisch" sind. In Verbindung mit Informationen zu den verschiedenen Erscheinungsformen der einzelnen Wohnprojekte in den vergangenen Dekaden – in denen jede ihre eigene (politische) Vision von einem besseren Leben darstellt – beschreibt das Projekt als eine Art fiktives Archiv den Einfluss von Politik und Immobilienmarkt sowie der Medien auf urbane Formationen, indem es den urbanen Raum auf seine kulturellen und ideologischen Repräsentationen untersucht. \*Der Titel zitiert einen von Richard Neutra publizierten Artikel im *Sunset* Magazin vom November 1943





**PROJECT:**  
Channel Heights

**DATE COMPLETED:**  
1942

**REVISITED:**  
May 14, 2011

**TYPE:**  
Public low housing for veterans and defense workers

**ARCHITECT:**  
Richard Neutra

**LOCATION:**  
Western Avenue and 23rd Street, San Pedro, California

**SITE:**  
138 acres of rolling terrain, cut and divided by canyons, at the south slope of Palms Verdes Hills

**FUNDING:**  
Public (Federal Works Agency); managed by the Los Angeles Housing Authority

**DESCRIPTION:**  
686 units consisting of one-story duplexes alternating with two-story buildings. Constructed of redwood and plaster and organized in three large clusters. All structures were oriented towards the streets in an oblique 45° angle in order to provide ventilation and unobstructed views of the San Pedro harbor and the ocean. Call-out-lug planning was used to serve privacy, as well as communication, and pedestrian underpasses below high road embankments were used for safety. The duplex apartments, courtyards, were appointed in: Stucco, green, red tile and casahuate patio.

**SOCIAL FACILITIES:**  
Community center building, recreational green area, child care facilities, indoor and outdoor playgrounds, two schools, health care center as well as a convenience store. A vegetable garden was operated as a cooperative experiment.

**REMARKS:**  
Channel Heights tenants formed a residents council and organized activities, which formed the project into a healthy progressive community, named until the early 1980s for its inter-ethnic and cooperative approach.





**PROJECT:**  
Channel Heights

**DATE COMPLETED:**  
1942

**REVISITED:**  
May 14, 2011

**TYPE:**  
Private low-cost housing complex

**ARCHITECT:**  
Richard Neutra

**LOCATION:**  
Western Avenue and 23rd Street, San Pedro, California


**SITE:**  
138 acres of rolling terrain, cut and divided by canyons, at the south slope of Palms Verdes Hills


**FUNDING:**  
Public (Federal Works Agency)

**DESCRIPTION:**  
686 units consisting of one-story duplexes alternating with two-story buildings. Constructed of redwood and plaster and organized in three large clusters. All structures were oriented towards the streets in an oblique 45° angle, in order to provide ventilation and unobstructed views of the San Pedro harbor and the ocean. Call-out-lug planning was used to serve privacy, as well as communication, and pedestrian underpasses below high road embankments were used for safety.

**SOCIAL FACILITIES:**  
Community center building, recreational green area, child care facilities, indoor and outdoor playgrounds, two schools, health care center as well as a convenience store.

**REMARKS:**  
Shortly after 1948 the Federal Public Housing Authority offered the residents the opportunity to purchase their homes cooperatively with provision of postwar unemployment and home mortgage, as well as the process of private real-estate groups, the plan was halted. In 1953 the project was closed and sold to four contributors to a private corporation. Neutra offered his services for the planned 1.5 million-dollar renovation of the project, but was not accepted.





**PROJECT:**  
Neighborhood North San Pedro

**DATE COMPLETED:**  
1978

**REVISITED:**  
May 14, 2011

**TYPE:**  
Private single-family homes

**ARCHITECT:**  
Unknown

**LOCATION:**  
Via Corvina, Via Navarra, Via La Paz, Via Sebastian and Via Francisco, San Pedro, California

**SITE:**  
West of North Park Western Drive and south of West Capital Drive, at the south slope of Palms Verdes Hills

**FUNDING:**  
Private

**DESCRIPTION:**  
Residential neighborhood of about 137 private single-family homes. Situated along slightly sloped, leading streets and cut-backs, these 2-4 bedroom houses, some of them with outdoor patios, were built in various eclectic architectural styles, with wide streets based on the same building pattern.

**SOCIAL FACILITIES:**  
None

**REMARKS:**  
In 1953 Channel Heights was turned into private low-income rental units. Fences were built by tenants to separate private gardens. From open communal green spaces, after more than ten decades of neglect, the dilapidated housing complex was destroyed by fire and in the 1970s, with the help of the City of San Pedro, was redeveloped and transformed into a residential neighborhood. Neutra's influence is evident throughout the harbor area. Situated between the districts neighborhoods of Miraflores, Palms Verdes and Rolling Hills, the range road was used to make room for private residential buildings.

## FILE UNDER:

| Urban Redevelopment |  
 Planned Communities |  
 Garden Cities | Affordable  
 Housing | Los Angeles |  
 Richard Neutra

## RELATED PROJECTS:

Amity Village | Rancho San  
 Pedro | Hacienda Village |  
 William Mead Homes | Ramona  
 Gardens | Pueblo del Rio |  
 Aliso Village | Estrada  
 Courts | Pico Gardens |  
 Rose Hill Courts | Avalon  
 Gardens

## RELATED TOPICS:

Late New Deal Public  
 Housing | Defense Housing  
 Programs | Roosevelt  
 Coalition | Left Liberal  
 Popular Front | Self  
 Management, Cooperative  
 Living Experiments | The  
 Burke Incident | Los Angeles  
 Harbour Union Workers |  
 Popular Mechanics, Channel  
 Heights Chair | Community  
 Modernism | U.S. War  
 Propaganda Architecture  
 Exhibitions | McCarthyism  
 and the Red Scare | Park  
 Western Lomas | Corporate  
 Modernism | Private Real  
 Estate Developers |  
 New Urbanism

## PROJECT:

Channel Heights

## DATE COMPLETED:

1942

## REVISITED:

May 14, 2011

## TYPE:

Public war housing for shipyard and defense workers

## ARCHITECT:

Richard Neutra

## LOCATION:

Western Avenue and 25th Street, San Pedro, California

## SITE:

150 acres of rolling terrain, cut and divided by canyons,  
 at the south slope of Palos Verdes Hills

## FUNDING:

Public (Federal Works Agency);  
 managed by the Los Angeles Housing Authority

## DESCRIPTION:

600 units consisting of one-storey duplexes alternating  
 with two-storey buildings. Constructed of redwood and plaster  
 and organized in three large clusters, all structures were  
 oriented towards the streets in an oblique 45° angle, in  
 order to provide seclusion and unobstructed views of the  
 San Pedro harbour and the ocean. Cul-de-sac planning was used  
 to serve privacy, as well as communication, and pedestrian  
 underpasses below high road embankments were used for safety.  
 The sample apartments' interiors were painted in blue-greens,  
 rust red and cadmium yellow.

## SOCIAL FACILITIES:

Community center building, recreational green area, child  
 care facilities, indoor and outdoor playgrounds, two schools,  
 health care center as well as a convenience store. A vegetable  
 garden was operated as a cooperative experiment.

## REMARKS:

The Channel Heights tenants formed a residents council and  
 organized activities, turning the project into a socially  
 progressive community, known until the early 1950s for its  
 inter-ethnic and cooperative approach.

## FILE UNDER:

| Urban Redevelopment |  
 Planned Communities |  
 Garden Cities | Affordable  
 Housing | Los Angeles |  
 Richard Neutra

## RELATED PROJECTS:

Amity Village | Rancho San  
 Pedro | Hacienda Village |  
 William Mead Homes | Ramona  
 Gardens | Pueblo del Rio |  
 Aliso Village | Estrada  
 Courts | Pico Gardens |  
 Rose Hill Courts | Avalon  
 Gardens

## RELATED TOPICS:

Late New Deal Public  
 Housing | Defense Housing  
 Programs | Roosevelt  
 Coalition | Left Liberal  
 Popular Front | Self  
 Management, Cooperative  
 Living Experiments | The  
 Burke Incident | Los Angeles  
 Harbour Union Workers |  
 Popular Mechanics, Channel  
 Heights Chair | Community  
 Modernism | U.S. War  
 Propaganda Architecture  
 Exhibitions | McCarthyism  
 and the Red Scare | Park  
 Western Lomas | Corporate  
 Modernism | Private Real  
 Estate Developers |  
 New Urbanism

## PROJECT:

Neighborhood North San Pedro

## DATE COMPLETED:

1978

## REVISITED:

May 14, 2011

## TYPE:

Private single-family homes

## ARCHITECT:

Unknown

## LOCATION:

Via Cordova, Via Navarra, Via La Paz, Via Sebastian  
 and Via Francisca, San Pedro, California

## SITE:

West of North Park Western Drive and south of West Capitol  
 Drive, at the south slope of Palos Verdes Hills

## FUNDING:

Private

## DESCRIPTION:

Residential neighborhood of about 117 private single-family  
 homes. Situated along slightly sloped, looping streets and  
 cul-de-sacs, these 3-6 bedroom houses, some of them with  
 outdoor pools, were built in various eclectic architectural  
 styles, with whole streets based on the same building pattern.

## SOCIAL FACILITIES:

None

## REMARKS:

In 1955 Channel Heights was turned into private low-income  
 rental units. Fences were built by tenants to separate  
 private gardens from open communal green space. After  
 more than two decades of neglect, the dilapidated housing  
 complex was destroyed by the end of the 1970s, with its  
 residents forcefully relocated and scattered throughout the  
 harbour area. Situated between the upscale neighborhoods of  
 Miraleste, Palos Verdes and Rolling Hills, the razed land  
 was used to make room for private residential buildings.



**PROJECT:**  
Hacienda Village

**DATE COMPLETED:**  
1942

**REVISITED:**  
June 5, 2011

**TYPE:**  
Public housing project for defense workers

**ARCHITECT:**  
Paul Revere Williams, Richard Neutra, Adrian Wilson, Walter Workman and Neilson Beckert

**LOCATION:**  
East 186th Street and Compton Avenue, Los Angeles, California

**FILE UNDER:**  
Urban Redevelopment | Planned Communities | Garden Cities | Affordable Housing | Los Angeles | Richard Neutra

**RELATED PROJECTS:**  
Rancho San Pedro | William Road House | Norwalk | Ramona Gardens | Pueblo del Rio | Arroyo Village | Price Gardens | Rose Hill Courts | Estrada Courts | Axelson Gardens

**RELATED TOPICS:**  
New Deal Public Housing | Defense Housing Program | Lusk Act (1941 - 1945) | Liberal Popular Front | U.S. Housing Act of 1937 | Catherine Bauer | Community Modernism | California Eagle | East-Coast House | Hacienda Village Blocks | South Side Watts Village Block 11 | Crisp and Blomde | Watts Gang Task Force

**SITE:**  
37.43 acres of flat terrain located in the Watts district of south central Los Angeles, just east of the 108 Freeway and south of the Florence-Graham residential district.

**FUNDING:**  
Public (Following the Housing Act of 1937); Managed by the Los Angeles Housing Authority

**DESCRIPTION:**  
The single-story residential buildings with 584 units for over 400 residents were built with wood frames, white stucco exteriors and composition roofing. The apartments opened onto garages and were connected by walkways with no automobile traffic. The single modern buildings feature a Californian ranch-style house design.

**SOCIAL FACILITIES:**  
Recreational green area

**REMARKS:**  
Leading architect for the project was Paul Revere Williams. Stories for a Hacienda Village church by Richard Neutra can be found in the Neutra Archive, as well as a drawing for the Los Arroyo housing project in San Diego, which translates the idea and design of the Hacienda Village.



**PROJECT:**  
Hacienda Village

**DATE COMPLETED:**  
1942

**REVISITED:**  
June 5, 2011

**TYPE:**  
Public housing project

**ARCHITECT:**  
Paul Revere Williams, Richard Neutra, Adrian Wilson, Walter Workman and Neilson Beckert

**LOCATION:**  
East 186th Street and Compton Avenue, Los Angeles, California

**FILE UNDER:**  
Urban Redevelopment | Planned Communities | Garden Cities | Affordable Housing | Los Angeles | Richard Neutra

**RELATED PROJECTS:**  
Rancho San Pedro | William Road House | Norwalk | Ramona Gardens | Pueblo del Rio | Arroyo Village | Price Gardens | Rose Hill Courts | Estrada Courts | Axelson Gardens

**RELATED TOPICS:**  
New Deal Public Housing | Defense Housing Program | Lusk Act (1941 - 1945) | Liberal Popular Front | U.S. Housing Act of 1937 | Catherine Bauer | Community Modernism | California Eagle | East-Coast House | Hacienda Village Blocks | South Side Watts Village Block 11 | Crisp and Blomde | Watts Gang Task Force

**SITE:**  
37.43 acres of flat terrain located in the Watts district of south central Los Angeles, just east of the 108 Freeway and south of the Florence-Graham residential district.

**FUNDING:**  
Public (Following the Housing Act of 1937); Managed by the Los Angeles Housing Authority

**DESCRIPTION:**  
The single-story residential buildings with 584 units for over 400 residents were built with wood frames, white stucco exteriors and composition roofing. The apartments opened onto garages and were connected by walkways with no automobile traffic. The single modern buildings feature a Californian ranch-style house design.

**SOCIAL FACILITIES:**  
Recreational green area

**REMARKS:**  
The housing project is home to the African-American gang East Side Hacienda Village Bloods, founded there in the 1970s, along with the Southside Watts Village Bloods.



**PROJECT:**  
Sanitation Village

**DATE COMPLETED:**  
1942

**REVISITED:**  
June 5, 2011

**TYPE:**  
Public housing project

**ARCHITECT:**  
Paul Revere Williams, Richard Neutra, Adrian Wilson, Walter Workman and Neilson Beckert

**LOCATION:**  
East 186th Street and Compton Avenue, Los Angeles, California

**FILE UNDER:**  
Urban Redevelopment | Planned Communities | Garden Cities | Affordable Housing | Los Angeles | Richard Neutra

**RELATED PROJECTS:**  
Rancho San Pedro | William Road House | Norwalk | Ramona Gardens | Pueblo del Rio | Arroyo Village | Price Gardens | Rose Hill Courts | Estrada Courts | Axelson Gardens

**RELATED TOPICS:**  
New Deal Public Housing | Defense Housing Program | Lusk Act (1941 - 1945) | Liberal Popular Front | U.S. Housing Act of 1937 | Catherine Bauer | Community Modernism | California Eagle | East-Coast House | Hacienda Village Blocks | South Side Watts Village Block 11 | Crisp and Blomde | Watts Gang Task Force

**SITE:**  
37.43 acres of flat terrain located in the Watts district of south central Los Angeles, just east of the 108 Freeway and south of the Florence-Graham residential district.

**FUNDING:**  
Public (Following the Housing Act of 1937); Managed by the Los Angeles Housing Authority

**DESCRIPTION:**  
The single-story residential buildings with 584 units for over 400 residents were built with wood frames, white stucco exteriors and composition roofing. The apartments opened onto garages and were connected by walkways with no automobile traffic. The single modern buildings feature a Californian ranch-style house design.

**SOCIAL FACILITIES:**  
Recreational green area

**REMARKS:**  
In 2008 the Los Angeles Housing Authority renamed the housing project Sanitation Village, in honor of honor neighborhood advocate Bula B. Sanitation, a long-time resident of south central Los Angeles.

FILE UNDER:

| Urban Redevelopment |  
Planned Communities |  
Garden Cities | Affordable  
Housing | Los Angeles |  
Richard Neutra

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RELATED PROJECTS:

Rancho San Pedro | William  
Mead Homes | Maravilla |  
Ramona Gardens | Pueblo del  
Rio | Aliso Village | Pico  
Gardens | Rose Hill Courts  
| Estrada Courts | Avalon  
Gardens

RELATED TOPICS:

Roosevelt Coalition | Late  
New Deal Public Housing |  
Defense Housing Programs |  
Lanham Act 1940 | Left  
Liberal Popular Front |  
U.S. Housing Act of 1937 |  
Catherine Bauer | Community  
Modernism | California Eagle  
| Zoot-Suit Riots | Hacienda  
Village Bloods | South Side  
Watts Village Boys 13 |  
Crips and Bloods | Watts  
Gang Task Force

PROJECT:

Hacienda Village

DATE COMPLETED:

1942

REVISITED:

June 5, 2011

TYPE:

Public housing project

ARCHITECT:

Paul Revere Williams, Richard Neutra, Adrian Wilson,  
Walter Wurdeman and Welton Becket

LOCATION:

East 104th Street and Compton Avenue,  
Los Angeles, California

SITE:

17.63 acres of flat terrain located in the Watts district of  
south central Los Angeles, just east of the 110 freeway and  
south of the Florence-Graham residential district.

FUNDING:

Public (following the Housing Act of 1937);  
managed by the Los Angeles Housing Authority

DESCRIPTION:

The single-storey residential buildings with 184 units for  
over 400 residents were built with wood frames, white stucco  
exteriors and composition roofing. The apartments opened onto  
gardens and were connected by walkways with no automobile  
traffic. The simple modern buildings mediate a Californian  
ranch-style house design.

SOCIAL FACILITIES:

Recreational green area

REMARKS:

The housing project is home to the African-American gang  
East Side Hacienda Village Bloods, founded there in the  
1970s, along with the Southside Watts Village Boys 13.

**PROJECT:**  
Maravilla

**DATE COMPLETED:**  
1948

**REVISITED:**  
May 24, 2011

**TYPE:**  
Public housing project and temporary housing for World War II veterans

**ARCHITECT:**  
Richard Neutra, et al.

**LOCATION:**  
Brooklyn Avenue and Melrose Avenue, East Los Angeles, California

**SITE:**  
Flatlands in the Belvedere district of East Los Angeles, east of the Boyle Heights district of the City of Los Angeles and at the western edge of the San Gabriel Valley

**FUNDING:**  
Public; owned and managed by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

**DESCRIPTION:**  
The Maravilla Housing Project covered about sixty acres of land and was occupied by 488 families. The single-storied roof single-story units opened onto green areas, while the service sides of the buildings were oriented towards radial approach roads.

**SOCIAL FACILITIES:**  
Common green areas, handball court (built in 1952)

**REMARKS:**  
The housing project's name derived from Maravilla, one of the earliest settlements in East Los Angeles. Gangs already started to form there during the mid-to-late 1960s, and continued to grow well into the 1980s. Over time, green areas have been built along curb and sidewalk during the 1990s and 2000s. High fences were put up to separate the units in the block. By the early 2000s, abandoned houses and buildings beyond repair surrounded the project.

**PROJECT:**  
Maravilla

**DATE COMPLETED:**  
1948

**REVISITED:**  
May 24, 2011

**TYPE:**  
Public housing project

**ARCHITECT:**  
Richard Neutra, et al.

**LOCATION:**  
Brooklyn Avenue and Melrose Avenue, East Los Angeles, California

**SITE:**  
Flatlands in the Belvedere district of East Los Angeles, east of the Boyle Heights district of the City of Los Angeles and at the western edge of the San Gabriel Valley

**FUNDING:**  
Public; owned and managed by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

**DESCRIPTION:**  
The Maravilla Housing Project covered about sixty acres of land and was occupied by 488 families. The single-storied roof single-story units opened onto green areas, while the service sides of the buildings were oriented towards radial approach roads.

**SOCIAL FACILITIES:**  
Common green areas, handball court (built in 1952)

**REMARKS:**  
In 1971 pressure from the East Los Angeles Community Union gave the Housing Authority and the Housing and Urban Development consider a redevelopment of the dilapidated units. The majority of the old housing project were demolished in 1973 and new multi-family units were built in their place. Major planning responsibilities were given to a coalition of Maravilla area residents. A budgetary funding grant was obtained during construction, so that they could track local residents to work on the building crew.

**PROJECT:**  
Maravilla

**DATE COMPLETED:**  
1974

**REVISITED:**  
May 24, 2011

**TYPE:**  
Public housing project

**ARCHITECT:**  
Lynn Sirochman, AIA

**LOCATION:**  
488 East Court & Grand Avenue, East Los Angeles, California

**SITE:**  
Located in unincorporated East Los Angeles, east of Boyle Heights and west of the San Gabriel Valley

**FUNDING:**  
Public; operated by the Housing Authority of the County of Los Angeles

**DESCRIPTION:**  
The complex is comprised of 586 two-story buildings spread out amongst landscaped areas, giving the development the appearance of a single-class condominium complex. Architectural features such as the glass-enclosed courts reflected the Mexican-American background of its occupants. With 150 family units, about 160 elderly units, 10 to 15 one of the largest public housing developments in the Los Angeles area.

**SOCIAL FACILITIES:**  
Community center, senior citizens center, playground, handball court, common flower garden, handball court

**REMARKS:**  
In the late 1980s crime in the Maravilla Housing projects skyrocketed due to gang activity and color factors. Increased law enforcement was provided, as well as physical security improvements, including fencing and security cameras, to limit access to some housing complexes. Signs, as well as ground markers, highlight the ongoing presence of the area from the old Maravilla project. High fences were put up to separate the units in the block. By the early 2000s, abandoned houses and buildings beyond repair surrounded the project.

## FILE UNDER:

| Urban Redevelopment |  
 | Planned Communities |  
 | Garden Cities | Affordable  
 Housing | Los Angeles |  
 Richard Neutra

## RELATED PROJECTS:

Rancho San Pedro | Hacienda  
 Village | William Mead Homes  
 | Ramona Gardens | Pueblo  
 del Rio | Aliso Village |  
 Pico Gardens | Estrada  
 Courts | Rose Hill Courts |  
 Avalon Gardens

## RELATED TOPICS:

East L.A. Walkouts |  
 The Chicano Moratorium |  
 Rubén Salazar Killing |  
 16th September Parade 1970 |  
 Virgen De Guadalupe Murals |  
 Maravilla Foundation | East  
 Los Angeles Community Union  
 | East Los Angeles  
 Self-Government | Nueva  
 Maravilla Redevelopment |  
 La Rock | East L.A.  
 Street Gangs | Historic  
 Maravilla Handball Court  
 Preservation | Maravilla  
 Historical Society

## PROJECT:

Maravilla

## DATE COMPLETED:

1940

## REVISITED:

May 24, 2011

## TYPE:

Public housing project

## ARCHITECT:

Richard Neutra, et al.

## LOCATION:

Brooklyn Avenue and Mednik Avenue,  
 East Los Angeles, California

## SITE:

Flatlands in the Belvedere district of East Los Angeles;  
 east of the Boyle Heights district of the City of Los  
 Angeles and at the western edge of the San Gabriel Valley

## FUNDING:

Public; owned and managed by the U.S. Department  
 of Housing and Urban Development

## DESCRIPTION:

The Maravilla Housing Project covered about sixty acres of  
 land and was occupied by 480 families. The simple sloped  
 roof single-storey units opened onto green areas, while the  
 service sides of the buildings were oriented towards radial  
 approach roads.

## SOCIAL FACILITIES:

Communal green areas, handball court (built in 1923)

## REMARKS:

In 1971 pressure from the East Los Angeles Community Union  
 made the Housing Authority and the Housing and Urban  
 Development consider a redevelopment of the dilapidated  
 units. The buildings of the old housing project were  
 demolished in 1973 and new multi-family units were built in  
 their place. Major planning responsibilities were given to  
 a council of Maravilla area residents. A manpower training  
 grant was obtained during construction, so that they could  
 train local residents to work on the building crews.



## FILE UNDER:

| Urban Redevelopment |  
 Planned Communities |  
 Garden Cities | Affordable  
 Housing | Los Angeles |  
 Richard Neutra

## RELATED PROJECTS:

Rancho San Pedro | Hacienda  
 Village | William Mead Homes  
 | Ramona Gardens | Pueblo  
 del Rio | Aliso Village |  
 Pico Gardens | Estrada  
 Courts | Rose Hill Courts |  
 Avalon Gardens

## RELATED TOPICS:

East L.A. Walkouts |  
 The Chicano Moratorium |  
 Rubén Salazar Killing |  
 16th September Parade 1970 |  
 Virgen De Guadalupe Murals |  
 Maravilla Foundation | East  
 Los Angeles Community Union  
 | East Los Angeles  
 Self-Government | Nueva  
 Maravilla Redevelopment |  
 La Rock | East L.A.  
 Street Gangs | Historic  
 Maravilla Handball Court  
 Preservation | Maravilla  
 Historical Society

## PROJECT:

Nueva Maravilla

## DATE COMPLETED:

1974

## REVISITED:

May 24, 2011

## TYPE:

Public housing project

## ARCHITECT:

Leon Glucksman, AIA

## LOCATION:

4900 East César E. Chavéz Avenue,  
 East Los Angeles, California

## SITE:

Located in unincorporated East Los Angeles, east of Boyle Heights and west of the San Gabriel Valley

## FUNDING:

Public; operated by the Housing Authority of the County of Los Angeles

## DESCRIPTION:

The complex is comprised of 504 two-storey buildings spread out amongst landscaped areas, giving the development the appearance of a middle-class condominium complex. Adobe-yellow plaster walls and the plain reddish roofs reflected the Mexican-American background of its occupants. With 350 family units, plus 147 elderly units, it is one of the largest public housing developments in the Los Angeles area.

## SOCIAL FACILITIES:

Community center, senior citizen center, playgrounds, basketball court, communal flower gardens, handball court

## REMARKS:

In the late 1980s crime in the Maravilla Housing projects skyrocketed, due to gang activity and other factors. Increased law enforcement was provided, as well as physical security improvements including fencing and security systems, to limit access to some housing complexes. Vigas, as well as painted murals, highlight the Hispanic presence. Two murals from the old Maravilla projects still exist today; they are now found on the exterior of the Community Development Commission.