

## Field Session: FS-014

# ***Tinsel-Town Movie-O-La: drawing on location*** **Sketching the urban and natural landscape settings of iconic Los Angeles film locations**

### Session Leaders

Chip Sullivan, ASLA - Professor, University of California, Berkeley (Role: Director)

James Richards, FASLA - Principal, Townscape Inc. (Role: Executive Producer)

Richard Alomar, ASLA - Assistant Professor, Rutgers University (Role: Cinematographer)

Robert Chipman, ASLA - Robert Chipman Landscape Architect, Inc. (Role: Production Designer)

Charles Caplinger, ASLA - Principal and Creative Director, Cap's Design Studio LLC (Role: Visual Fx)

We will begin this field session with a short workshop on sketching film locations, then board a bus to discover the fascinating cinematic landscapes of Los Angeles with on-location sketching. Bring your own drawing materials, sunscreen, hat and comfortable walking shoes; sketchbooks will be provided. Participants' sketchbooks will be displayed in the ASLA Commons at the Expo.

## Learning Objectives:

1. Learn the backstories of the iconic film locations from the landscape historian and designer's point of view.
2. Test out the best variety of materials, tools and techniques for location sketching.
3. Learn to use thumbnails, rapid sketching and other field techniques to quickly explore alternative compositions and to select a strong central sketch idea.
4. Learn strategies for editing, composition, detail and color to simplify and capture complex scenes.

## Field Session Timetable / Script:

SCENE 7L SHOT PAN/POV LOCATION 304 S. BROADWAY LOS ANGELES PAGE 38



BLADE RUNNER

### Establishing Shot

#### Act 1

#### Scene-1

- 8:30am: Orientation with participants at the convention center meeting room  
 Hand-out sketchbooks
- a. Film location sketching for designers (Sullivan & Richards, 5 min.)
  - b. Cool tools: Road-worthy art materials for urban sketching (Chipman, 5 min.)
  - c. Field techniques and strategies for capturing urban scenes (Alomar, 5 min.)
  - d. Attitudes, approaches and techniques to enhance location sketching (Sullivan, 5 min.)
  - e. Short overview of the sketch route and points of interest (Sullivan, 5 min.)

### **Scene-2**

9:00-9:15

9:15am

#### *“Lights-Camera-Action”*

Board bus. Our bus will chauffeur the artists to each of the 5 film locations.

Arrive at 304 Broadway -- the Bradbury Building & classic urban street location.

- a. Site overview by Sullivan
- b. Mini urban street workshop by Richards
- c. Draw interior atrium of iconic Bradbury Building
- d. Draw view of Broadway looking to Orpheum Theater and Eastern Building

### **Scene-3**

10:00-10:15

10:15am:

Board bus

Arrive at Los Angeles Union Station

- a. Site overview by Sullivan
- b. Mini Workshop by Chipman
- c. On location sketching of station façade, interior and courtyards & distant panorama of downtown LA

## **Act 2:**

### **Scene-1**

11:30-11:45

11:15am

Board bus

Arrive at Grauman’s Chinese Theater, 6925 Hollywood Blvd.

- a. Site Overview by Sullivan
- b. Urban sketching by Richards
- c. On location sketching of façade of Grauman’s Chinese Theater and views of other Hollywood icons on Hollywood Blvd.

## **INTERMISSION**

SCENE 20 SHOT PLAN FORWARD LOCATION DRAW POTENTIAL / TAM-O-SHANTER / 1886 LOS BRILLIANT PAGE 21



*Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*

### **Scene-2**

1:00-1:15pm

1:15pm

Lunch

board bus

Arrive at the Tam-O-Shanter restaurant where Disney met for lunch and martinis with his animators. Building and interior inspired Snow White & the 7 Dwarfs.

LUNCH

1:50-2:50

## **Act 3**

### **Scene-1:**

2:50-3:05

3:05pm

Board bus

Arrive at Griffith Park

- a. Overview of Griffith Park by Sullivan

### **Scene-2:**

3:50-4:10

4:10

board bus

Arrive at Griffith Observatory

- a. Overview of the film landscapes of the Griffith Observatory and surrounding landscape by Sullivan
- b. Summary sketching tips by Richards, Alomar & Chipman

4:15 pm

4:30 pm

draw Hollywood sign

draw Griffith Observatory and Panorama of Los Angeles



Who shot  
**ROGER RABBIT**

## FINALE

4:30pm: Dress rehearsal of Sketchbooks, throw down display and sharing--Group photo

### Wrap Set

4:30 pm board bus

5:00pm Arrive at the convention center; session concludes

a. Session leaders and ASLA staff hang sketchbook exhibition in the ASLA Commons

7:00pm **Red Carpet & Premier of Sketchbooks** at ASLA Commons at the Sheraton Downtown

## THE END

### Further Readings

Franklin, Joe. 1959. Classics of the Silent Screen.

Griffith, Richard & Arthur Mayer. 1957. The Movies

Holzman, Allan. 2010. Behind the Scenes: Rick Carter, Production Designer. DVD.

Neuman, Dietrich. 1996. Film Architecture.

Sennett, Robert. 1994. Setting the Scene: The Great Hollywood Set Directors.

Tschumi, Bernard. 1994. The Manhattan Transcripts.

Vaz, Mark Cotta and Craig Barron. 2002. The Invisible Art.

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