Bike Haus: Summer Solstice Architectural Bike Ride & Architectural Tour



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Provider Name: AIA Long Beach/South Bay

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Speakers:

Maureen Neeley, M.L.I.S., Owner & Historian - HouStories

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Description:

The 2025 AIA Summer Solstice program returns with "**Bike Haus**"—an immersive architectural cycling tour through the storied neighborhoods of Virginia Country Club (Los Cerritos) and Bixby Knolls. Once part of the historic Rancho Los Cerritos, this area evolved from its agrarian origins into a vibrant architectural landscape blending early 20th-century estates with landmark Mid-Century Modern works.

This year's tour offers more than just a ride. Participants will pedal through quiet, tree-lined streets and stop at a curated selection of architecturally significant sites, including **exclusive access to several formally hosted stops**. At these locations, guests will step inside select private residences and commercial buildings for a guided, in-depth look at their design, history, and architectural context.

Featured works span from the handcrafted Arts and Crafts homes of Charles and Henry Greene to iconic Mid-Century Modern designs by Edward Killingsworth, Paul Tay, Hugh Davies, Stan Goldin, and Donald Gibbs. The tour also includes recent contemporary projects that thoughtfully respond to historic surroundings while addressing modern needs.

With its blend of architectural insight, neighborhood history, and rare behind-the-scenes access, Bike Haus invites attendees to engage in meaningful dialogue on preservation, adaptation, and the future of development in Long Beach—all while enjoying a shady summer morning ride through some of the city's most scenic streets.

Learning Objectives:

- 1. Participants will observe and evaluate historic and Mid-Century Modern architecture, gaining insight into preservation and adaptive reuse strategies in both residential and commercial contexts.
- 2. Participants will explore the suburban development of Virginia Country Club and Bixby Knolls and understand how architectural trends and CC&Rs have shaped these neighborhoods over time.
- 3. Participants will examine the historical significance of Rancho Los Cerritos—a national, state, and city-designated landmark—and its lasting influence on local planning and architecture.
- 4. Participants will study the work of key architects—Edward Killingsworth, Charles and Henry Greene, Paul Tay, Hugh Davies, Stan Goldin, and Donald Gibbs—and assess how their legacies inform current architectural practice.