

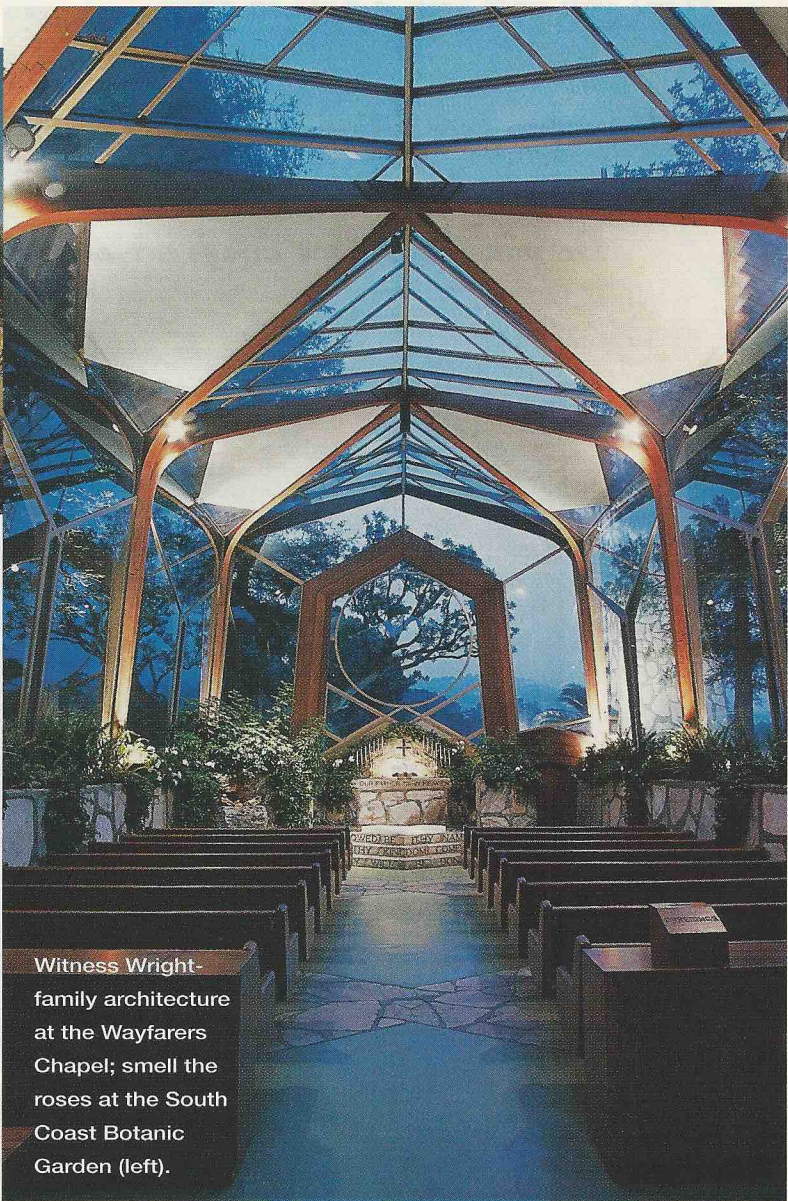
Glass idyll by the sea

In Palos Verdes, the Wayfarers Chapel boasts the best of Wright design

■ You've seen Disneyland's Matterhorn, downtown's cloverleaf freeway exchange, and the giant doughnut looming over Interstate 405. But a tour of Los Angeles-area architectural wonders isn't complete without a visit to the Palos Verdes Peninsula—more specifically, a visit to the Wayfarers Chapel, now celebrating its 50th anniversary and the debut of its new visitors center.

Lloyd Wright, son of architect Frank Lloyd Wright, designed his masterpiece "Glass Chapel" with the same blend of nature and function employed by his father. Redwood beams and native stones support a structure that is mostly glass. The beams meet at wide, "natural" angles, echoing the shapes in the canopy of trees surrounding the chapel. Inside, sword ferns and ornamental grape ivy crawl along the walls.

To commemorate the chapel's golden anniversary, third-generation Wright architect Eric Lloyd Wright helped design a new, 2,064-square-foot visitors center. (The old building was razed in 1995 after it was fatally damaged in a landslide.) The new building is a perfect complement to the chapel directly across the parking lot. In Wrightian tradition, bright blue roof tiles merge seamlessly with the sky, and vast panels of angled glass reveal views of so-close-you-can-hear-the-waves-crash Abalone Cove. Inside the center's exhibit hall you can read about the Wrights' architectural philosophy and the history of the Wright family.



Witness Wright-family architecture at the Wayfarers Chapel; smell the roses at the South Coast Botanic Garden (left).

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For a leg stretcher, take a walk around the surrounding 3½ acres of landscaped gardens. Beyond azaleas, rhododendrons, roses, and various plants mentioned in the Bible lie a shady meditation garden and a gently tiered grass amphitheater that often hosts events and religious services.

An additional 87 acres of gardens can be found a short way down the road at the South Coast Botanic Garden. More than 150,000 landscaped plants and trees, including an English rose garden and an herb garden, populate the grounds. Guided walking tours and horticultural lectures are available, and there are picnic areas too.

Wayfarers Chapel: 5755 Palos Verdes Dr. S; (310) 377-1279 or www.wayfarerschapel.org. No entry is permitted during weddings; call in advance. South Coast Botanic Garden: 26300 Crenshaw Blvd.; 544-6815.

— Michael Yessis