



The Architecture of John Lautner

a documentary feature film

"The purpose of architecture," said John Lautner, "is to create timeless, free, joyous spaces for all activities in life."

The Architecture of John Lautner, a new documentary feature film, traces the lifelong quest of visionary genius John Lautner to create "architecture that has no beginning and no end." It is the story of brilliance and of a complicated life – and the most sensual architecture of the 20th century.

As a young man, Lautner broke from his mentor, Frank Lloyd Wright, and went west to California to forge his own unique style. His life was marked by innovation and inspiration, endless battles with building codes, an accidental leap into the epicenter of pop culture, bitterness at lost opportunities, and finally – monumental achievement. Lautner was idolized by young modernists, criticized by academics, and beloved by the clients who worked side by side with him to build their houses. It was a life in pursuit of beauty.

Renowned architectural filmmaker Murray Grigor explores Lautner's dramatic spaces with dreamy, choreographed camera moves, as Lautner himself provides the commentary, speaking with insight and wit in recordings culled from archival sources. Other voices join him: comments from Frank Gehry and his peers who were influenced by Lautner, the emotional memories of original clients, owners and builders, the remarks of Frank Escher, the architect who restored the Chemosphere house, and Julius Shulman who famously photographed all the great modernists.

Original drawings and historical photographs from the John Lautner Archives at the Getty Museum are layered with the artistic photography of seminal buildings, bringing to life Lautner's quest to create timeless space.

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A Googie Company Production

in association with

The John Lautner Foundation + The Hammer Museum

Director/Writer: **Murray Grigor**

Grigor is internationally renowned for his films about architecture.

His credits include "Pride of Place," the 8-part PBS series on American architecture with Robert Stern, as well as films about Frank Lloyd Wright, Charles Rennie Mackintosh, and Sir John Soane.

Producers: **Anna Thomas + Sara Sackner**

Director of Photography: **Hamid Shams**

Editor: **Sara Sackner**

The Architecture of John Lautner will premiere in fall 2008 at the Hammer Museum's Billy Wilder Theater in conjunction with the exhibition *Between Earth and Heaven: The Architecture of John Lautner*.

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