

Conservation News

Updates from the Getty Conservation Institute

April 2026



Getty



PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Modern Architecture Conservation in India

Applications are now open for this blended format (online and in-person) course.

Online: August–October 2026
Ahmedabad: November 29–December 5, 2026

Build specialized skills in conserving South Asia's modern architectural heritage through



lectures, demonstrations, hands-on exercises, and site visits across Ahmedabad.

[Read details and apply online](#)

Deadline to apply is April 30, 2026.

Co-organized with the Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH) and CEPT University Professional Programs

PROJECT UPDATES

Nature-Based Pest Deterrents Experts Meeting

At the end of February, experts from across North America came together at the Getty Center to explore the future of nature-based pest deterrents in museums and heritage institutions.

Over the course of this three-day meeting, participants defined needs for additional testing and case studies to help advance the field of pest management in cultural heritage contexts. Conversations highlighted the benefits of using nature based materials, the integration of traditional and modern approaches, and pathways for adopting native knowledge systems into the pest-management strategies of collections.

The group also toured the Getty Museum to observe the real world pest-management considerations of a collection on display.

We look forward to sharing the outcomes and insights from this meeting as the work continues.



Chinati Foundation Collaboration

Bogna Skwara, Head of Conservation at the Chinati Foundation, recently visited Getty to meet with conservation and imaging experts as part of a collaboration for the care of one hundred works in milled aluminum by Donald Judd, a cornerstone of Chinati's collection.



Chinati and Getty are partnering—along with the works' original fabricator and additional collaborators—to engineer safe handling of these sculptures as they prepare to return to their newly restored home in repurposed artillery sheds at the foundation.

The works will also receive conservation treatment to address decades of staining that obscure Judd's intended perceptual effect, work that ties directly to Conservation Institute research into cleaning modern metals.

RECENT ACTIVITIES

Opening the Vault: Conservation's Role in (re)Thinking Access to Collections

This dynamic panel discussion explored how conservation can shape and expand access to museum collections.

Panelists Wayne Modest, Joe D. Horse Capture, Lourdes I. Ramos, and Rachel Rivenc shared their perspectives on what meaningful access looks like today, how institutions are reimagining public interaction



with stored collections, and the critical ways conservators balance access with the long-term preservation of sensitive materials.

[Watch the event recording](#)

Open Dialogues in Conservation: Community-Engaged Experiences

In collaboration with UCLA Art History, we recently convened an open dialogue on the care, conservation, and interpretation of archaeological collections.

The gathering brought together scholars and practitioners from anthropology, conservation science, museum studies, and cultural heritage management to reflect on interdisciplinary approaches to working with Indigenous and local communities.

Central to the conversation was the recognition that conservation practices actively shape historical narratives and that greater attention must be paid to inclusivity, multivocality, and ethical responsibility. Overall, the event highlighted that meaningful engagement with Indigenous communities depends on dialogue, respect, and an expansive understanding of well-being.

These reflections directly inform our ongoing and future work, reinforcing our commitment to conservation research and practice grounded in context-sensitive needs and developed in close collaboration with diverse stakeholders.



Image courtesy of Cecilia Benedetti

Visit from Peruvian Consulate

At the end of February we welcomed Mr. Jaime Casafranca, Consul General, and Mr. Adán Silva, Deputy Consul of Peru in Los Angeles, to share our ongoing work on the seismic retrofitting of historic earthen buildings and outline Getty's long-term commitment to conserving Peruvian cultural heritage.



Experts from across the Conservation Institute and colleagues from the Museum presented their projects, including the decade-long effort to preserve and strengthen the Church of Kuñotambo, a 17th-century adobe building located in a remote Andean village, using local materials, techniques, and expertise. They also shared the impact of their efforts in capacity building and community engagement, as well as the resources created to help guide similar projects throughout the region.

As our work in Peru continues to advance, we look forward to sharing what comes next, especially with the Peruvian community in Los Angeles.

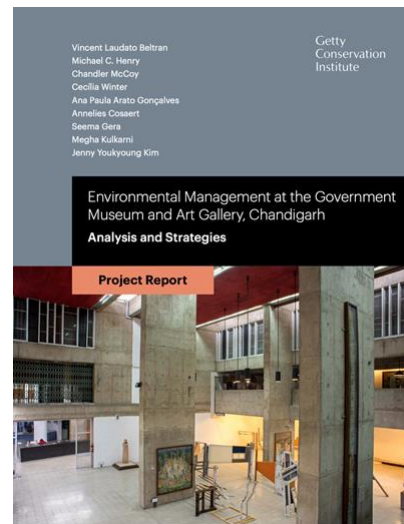
PUBLICATIONS AND RESOURCES

Environmental Management at the Government Museum and Art Gallery, Chandigarh: Analysis and Strategies

This publication presents environmental management strategies developed for the Le Corbusier-designed Government Museum and Art Gallery that take into consideration how Le Corbusier conceived the building, its location in a hot and humid climate that poses deterioration risks to some of the most valuable objects in the collection, and the resources currently available to the museum.

This methodology can also serve as guidance to other professionals facing similar challenges in architecturally significant sites housing equally significant collections in hot and humid climates.

[Download the free PDF edition](#)



New in the Conservation Collection

New to the [Conservation Collection](#) are books exploring design strategies for reuse in architecture, monuments in Japan, a rentable home museum, the history of science in conservation, a retrospective look at the work of 19th-century Black and Indigenous sculpture, Edmonia Lewis, excavation campaigns in the catacomb complex of Canusium, collection care fundamentals, cathedral roof frameworks, the destruction and reconstruction of the Church of the Holy Spirit in Munich, and women and photography in the 20th century.

[Read the full list of additions](#)



AATA Spring Update

The spring 2026 update includes abstracts from the AIC Wooden Artifacts Group; ICOM-CC Glass and Ceramics Working Group; World Congress on Earthen Architecture; Electronic Media Review; and on rock art in Mexico.

[Search AATA](#)



Staff Bibliography, 2025 Edition

Throughout the year, Conservation Institute staff present at conferences, teach workshops, publish articles in peer-reviewed journals, author book chapters, blog, and create videos about our work.

This important activity is captured in the Institute's annual bibliography—the latest contains 188 citations for calendar year 2025.

[Read the bibliography](#)



Finding Aid Available for Hominid Trackway at Laetoli Project Records

Project records consist of files from the Conservation Institute's partnership with the government of Tanzania to preserve the 3.6-million-year-old fossil hominid trackway at Laetoli.



Records include research documents, correspondence, videos, photographs, logs and field notes, reports, training summaries, and publications. The records document project activities such as planning, condition assessments, scientific studies and analyses, conservation treatments, petrological analysis, geological reports, photogrammetric documentation, site protection planning, and molding and casting techniques.

[View the finding aid](#)

ON GETTY.EDU

Take a Walking Tour of Downtown Los Angeles's Iconic Architecture

Walk the length of Grand Avenue from Temple Street to 5th Street, and you'll move through one of Los Angeles's most important art and modern architecture corridors.

Home to museums, theaters, and concert halls—including three buildings designed by Pritzker Prize-winning architects—this stretch draws millions of visitors each year and anchors a vibrant district in the heart of downtown.

Your guide is Gail Ostergren, a historian specializing in urban, architectural, and



Photo: Neil Setchfield / Alamy Stock Photo

Southern California history and a senior research specialist in our Buildings and Sites department.

[Read more](#)

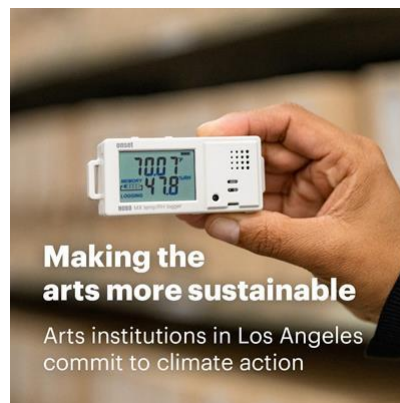
Getty, LACMA, MOCA, Hammer Museum, and Hauser & Wirth Announce Collective Commitment to Climate Action

Last month, a consortium of arts institutions announced their joint commitment to climate action through implementing the Bizot Green Protocol, a set of recommendations that offer environmentally sustainable approaches for the long-term care of collections.

The group includes Getty, the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA), the Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA), the Hammer Museum at UCLA, and Hauser & Wirth gallery.

This marks the first time Los Angeles art institutions have jointly committed to such efforts.

[Read the press release](#)



JOB OPENINGS

John E. and Louise Bryson Director

We are seeking a new John E. and Louise Bryson Director of the Conservation Institute. As chief executive and strategic leader, the director will steer and inspire a diverse team of approximately 100 staff, cultivating a high-performance, inclusive learning culture that values collaboration, innovation, and accountability.



Serving on Getty's executive team, the new Director will conceive, shape, and execute a compelling vision for conservation in the twenty-first century, affirming the Institute—and Getty more broadly—as a global leader in research-led, values-based, sustainable cultural heritage conservation practice.

Getty has partnered with Bridge Partners LLC for this search. Read the full job description and see information on how to apply through Bridge Partners LLC on the [Getty Job Opportunities site](#).

Nominations or expressions of interest should be sent to Bridge Partners LLC directly.

Head, Arches Initiative

The Head, Arches Initiative is accountable for the maintenance and development priorities of Arches software, the governance efforts of the Arches open-source community, and the dissemination of Arches publications and community resources.



This position will not only direct the Arches team but also liaise with the global and interdisciplinary heritage open-source community, including representatives from various leading heritage organizations,

software developers and service providers, funding groups, and individual heritage professionals such as IT staff, archaeologists, architects, conservators, researchers, scientists, and educators.

Getty has partnered with Bridge Partners LLC for this search. Read the full job description and see information on how to apply through Bridge Partners LLC on the [Getty Job Opportunities site](#).

Nominations or expressions of interest should be sent to Bridge Partners LLC directly.

Only individuals who express interest in this way will be considered as part of this search.

Project Specialist, Earthen Architecture Initiative

We are seeking an architectural conservator with a keen interest in research, documentation, and training to fill the position of Project Specialist.

You will be an integral member of the Getty Conservation Institute's Buildings and Sites Department, primarily contributing to the Earthen Architecture Initiative and addressing current conservation challenges of regional or international relevance.

Read the full job description, including responsibilities and qualifications, and apply online via the [Getty Job Opportunities site](#)

Deadline to apply is May 13, 2026.



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Mission Statement

The Getty Conservation Institute works internationally to advance conservation practice in the visual arts - broadly interpreted to include objects, collections, architecture, and sites. The Institute serves the conservation community through scientific research, education and training, field projects, and the dissemination of information. In all its endeavors, we create and deliver knowledge that contributes to the conservation of the world's cultural heritage.

About Conservation News

Conservation News is published six times a year with updates on our activities and timely information for conservation professionals.