

# STEPHEN SCHÄFER

## PHOTOGRAPHER

SCHAF PHOTO · VENTURA, CALIFORNIA · 415-857-HAER · SCHAF@WEST.NET

Stephen Schafer (AKA: Schaf) documents the historic buildings, structures, and landscapes of our inherited environment. Schafer opened his photo studio – Schaf Photo – in Ventura, California in 1989 after attending the University of Cape Town and Brooks Institute of Photography. With hundreds of completed projects to his credit, his portfolio is a testament to his love of the built environment, showcasing everything from historic skyscrapers to the depths of newly bored subway tunnels.

His work, extensively contributed to the prestigious HABS, HAER, and HALS collections at the Library of Congress, underscores his commitment to contribute to the national historical record. He specializes in archival, large format documentation photography, meticulously adhering to the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Architectural and Engineering Documentation. This ensures the long-term preservation and accessibility of his work for researchers, historians, and future generations.



Schaf Photo's client list reflects a long career, encompassing institutions, corporations, and cities as diverse as San Francisco, Los Angeles, Riverside, Alameda, Santa Monica, San Jose, and Berkeley, as well as the Ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles. He has recorded numerous educational entities, including the San Diego Unified, LA Unified, and Long Beach School Districts, Cornell University, UC San Francisco, UC Santa Cruz, and UCLA. His portfolio also includes work for organizations like Disneyland, the San Francisco Presidio Trust, the Getty Conservation Institute, the LA Conservancy, Caltrans, Caltrain, LA Metro Rail, SCE, PG&E, NASA, GSA, USGS, the National Park Service, the US Bureau of Reclamation, the Air Force, and the Navy, among others he is not at liberty to disclose.

Schafer's architectural photographs celebrate the character and legacy of American architecture and have been featured internationally in books and publications like the Wall Street Journal, Architect Magazine, the Los Angeles Times, Traditional Building Magazine, and the National Trust's Preservation Magazine. Notably, he documented 300 historic sites for the bestselling coffee table book: Preserving Los Angeles by Ken Bernstein. His documentary photographs have been used to nominate sites to the National Register of Historic Places and as CEQA and NEPA mitigation measures.

Schafer now shares his knowledge and expertise with the next generation of photographers and preservationists. He started teaching photography in 1997 in the University of Pittsburgh's Semester at Sea program aboard an ocean liner circumnavigating the globe, then at the LA Center of Photography and Cal State Northridge, and now at the University of Southern California School of Architecture.

A sought-after speaker, he has lectured on HABS/HAER/HALS best practices at the National Archives in Washington, D. C., the American Planning Association, the Association for Preservation Technology International, and the California Preservation Foundation. Mr. Schafer serves on the board of the San Buenaventura Conservancy for Preservation, and lives in downtown Ventura with his wife Sherry, in an 1881 folk Victorian farmhouse that they rehabilitated in 2001.