

Incidents of Travel, San Francisco  
**Megan and Rick Prelinger**

Meet at the Prelinger Library at 10 a.m. – the library is at 301 8th St., near the intersection with Folsom, in the south of Market (SoMa) neighborhood of San Francisco.

The tour focusses on the landscape and infrastructure areas of our library. For an “itinerary” below is a textual guide to those sections, Rows One and Two. Row Two is the ground-based infrastructure row. We will also step outside and walk around the neighborhood and discuss changing land use patterns in the vicinity.

Row One

Row One opens the library with a rough map of U.S. states and regions, with the Pacific Coast in the first shelves, north to South, with Alaska in the top row and Hawaii in the bottom row. Walking from the front of the room toward the back takes you past banks of books about the Great Basin, then Northern Plains at the top, the Southeast, et cetera, and finally an entire bank on New York. Specific American places then yield to shelves covering general subjects about the physical environment: global geography and cartography, then the Natural History section, which includes lots of books about seabirds and three decades of *The Auk* as well as unusual illustrated materials. We're strong on the nature/culture interface, with a collection of paperbacks published around the establishment of Earth Day. The library's history of agriculture and rural life shelves are one part classic out-of-print monographs and another part classic USDA bulletins, the kind with hand-colored lithography. Landscape studies and extractive resource industries lead to the end of Row One.

Row Two

Row Two opens with trade journals on industrial and manufacturing processes, then holds a home crafts and how-to section (a section originally developed for Maker Faire in 2008 and 2009), followed by safety and transportation. The home crafts section is a cul-de-sac: Row Two's sequence of associations between subjects flows from extractive resources (in Row One) to manufacturing, to the automotive industry in particular, leading to transportation infrastructure and other modes of transportation: roads, motor homes, buses, bicycles, railways, ships, and aviation. Row Two's second half continues with other infrastructural networks of the physical environment: electrical and other power systems, and sewers, leading to a regional planning section. The Urban Studies section is one of the largest undivided areas on the main shelves: spanning three full banks, the volumes in this section are arranged alphabetically by author. Following Urban Studies are subjects of the open spaces within them: parks, gardens, and cemeteries. Lastly, there is a small section on national parks and national public works.

Frequently pulled from Row Two: *Industrial Management*, *National Safety News*, histories of the U.S. road and highway systems, *Aerial Age* from the World War I era, *Nucleonics*: a trade journal of the civil nuclear power industry, publications of the New Deal-era National Resources Committee, National Resources Planning Board, and the Resettlement Administration plus a small Civilian Conservation Corps collection.

Lunch at Carafe, 1127 Folsom St.

Coffee at Sightglass, 270 7th St.

### Neighborhood exploration

Wicked Grounds Kink Café, 289 8th St, “18-&-over coffeehouse, gallery & adult boutique featuring fetish-themed products, artwork & events”. Since his first visit to California in 1975, French intellectual Michel Foucault made no secret of his fascination with the array of pleasures to be found around Folsom Street, the hub of San Francisco’s flourishing leather scene.

Social Print Studio offices, 275 8th St, “Social Print Studio of San Francisco is a good example of the modern startup ... it offers unlimited vacation, napping boxes, and a fully equipped jam room where its 20 employees and their friends can record a song or video... The company, which lets customers print photos off Facebook, Instagram and other social media, once brought in classical musicians to serenade the staff... Co-founder George Sylvain calls the 6,000-square-foot office ‘a creative playpen’”. (‘Tech, social media employers offer perks aplenty’, *SFGate*, 8 March, 2014.)

Howard Langton Community Gardens, corner of Howard St & Langton St. The San Francisco Recreation and Park Department supports and manages a program of 35 community gardens on City-owned property, where members can grow produce and ornamental plants for personal use. Each garden is operated by a group of committed volunteers, and membership fees are often self-imposed to cover common expenses.

Unimart, 1201 Howard St. Filipino grocery store.

Twitter HQ, 1355 Market St. This 1937 Art Deco building stood vacant for 50 years before Twitter moved its headquarters here.

555 California Street, formerly Bank of America Center.

The Green Arcade, 1680 Market St. “Specializing in books on San Francisco & California history, the built & the natural environment, politics & social justice, cooking, food & farming, select literature, noir, art, & children’s books, mostly new, some used”. The Green Arcade hosted the launch of Megan’s new book *Inside the Machine: Art and Invention in the Electronic Age*.

Realised on 27 August 2015 as part of Latitudes’ residency at Kadist Art Foundation, San Francisco.

This and two other tours, by Amy Balkin and the collective Will Brown, were progressively documented as part of Kadist’ Instagram takeover #ArtistNotAtTheStudioCuratorNotAtTheOffice and archived <https://storify.com/lttlds/latitudes-take-over-of-kadist-art-foundation-s-ins>

LTTDS.org/projects/kadist