

Incidents of Travel, San Francisco

### **Will Brown**

Meet Lindsay White and David Kasprzak at 24th & Mission St. BART Station. Meet by entrance on the same side of the street as McDonald's. BART to University of California, Berkeley.

#### The Campanile aka Sather Tower

In 1902 the famous 12th century bell tower known as the campanile in the Palazzo San Marco in Venice, Italy came thundering to the ground. Miraculously no one but a resident cat was hurt in the unexpected catastrophe. The beloved tower was rebuilt "as it was, where it was" in 1912. UC Berkeley campus architect, John Galen Howard, had visited Venice in the 1890's, and had the chance to see the San Marco Campanile before its collapse. Looking strikingly similar to that other famous tower, the Campanile on the campus of UC Berkeley has stood a lynchpin on campus since its cornerstone was laid on March 8, 1914. The Campanile is constructed of 2,800 blocks of Raymond granite quarried from the Sierra Nevada Mountains, over 500 tons of structural steel, and Alaskan marble. Hiding inside it's dry climate-steady walls are some of the University's fossil collection, belonging to the Department of Integrative Biology, many of which come from the La Brea Tar Pits in Los Angeles.

#### Morrison Library

Morrison Library opened in 1928 as a traditional library reading room providing an ambient atmosphere for students to take a break from the rigors of academic life. One of the architectural treasures of the UC Berkeley campus, Morrison Library offers comfortable seating for leisurely reading, and maintains a circulating collection of newly published popular fiction and non-fiction. Morrison Library also has a limited collection of circulating audiobooks, travel books, and newly published poetry books, as well as subscriptions to several popular magazines and a few daily newspapers.

#### Room 219 at the Faculty Club

While at UC Berkeley, Henry Morse Stephens, a history professor, lived in the west wing of the Faculty Club for more than 20 years until his death in 1919. Since then, eyewitnesses have said Stephens' ghost never left his room and can still be spotted lounging in his favorite chair, reciting poetry. Members of staff have also reported several eerie phenomena, including flickering lights, strange noises and a supernatural chill. Stephens made it his life's work to collect archives on California's history. As a member of the Earthquake History Committee, Stephens collected more than 800 individual accounts of the 1906 San Francisco earthquake as well as numerous newspaper articles and photographs. Unfortunately, Stephens died before he could complete his ambition of submitting this archive to the newly purchased Bancroft Library.

#### Urban Ore

In 1976 the City of Berkeley's Solid Waste Management Plan called for salvaging for reuse at the City-owned landfill. About 400 self-haul vehicles per day dumped loads rich in reusables. A non-profit organization tried to salvage but failed. In 1980 Urban Ore rose from its ashes and started recovering and trading resources as a scavenger organization. Its only assets were permission to exist and a place to put things

down. It had no capital, no equipment, no shelter, and it paid no rent, building its cash flow from the reusable goods and scrap metals it could divert from or rescue from the tipping face. It moved its operation as the tipping face changed. Its suppliers and retail customers were people who had already paid to waste. To serve the community's interest in having a reuse salvaging operation, the City incubated Urban Ore by providing the company licensed access to the resources – scrap metals and reusable goods – and a sales location that was rent-free until it brought in more than \$11,000 a month in income. Then the City charged rent calculated as a percentage of income over \$11,000. The entrepreneurial Urban Ore staff built their sales until the Store could afford commercial rent, and in 1989 it voluntarily vacated the City property to let the Ecology Center expand. The General Store moved to a warehouse on Sixth Street next to Building Materials, where it stayed until 2002, when it moved to its current location at 900 Murray Street.

Dinner.

#### The Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive (BAM/PFA)

One of the largest university art museums in the United States, BAM/PFA opened the doors of its distinctive Modernist building on the south side of the UC Berkeley campus in 1970. BAM/ PFA's diverse exhibition programs and its collections of more than 16,000 objects and 14,000 films and videos are characterized by themes of artistic innovation, intellectual exploration, and social commentary, and reflect the central role of education in BAM/PFA's mission. The museum was founded in 1963 following artist and teacher Hans Hofmann's donation of forty- five paintings and \$250,000 to the University. An architectural competition to design the new museum building was announced in November 1964, and the following year San Francisco architect Mario Ciampi and associates Richard L. Jorasch and Ronald E. Wagner were named the winners. Construction began in 1967, and the building opened on November 7, 1970.

Matrix 259:

“For MATRIX 259, Will Brown takes as its point of departure a site-specific work made by Minimalist artist Dan Flavin for BAM/PFA's main public stairway in 1977–78. Flavin's installation, untitled (for Gretchen, a colorful and fond match), consisted of twenty-eight green fluorescent lightbulbs installed vertically in the building's light well, whose glow permeated the adjacent stairway and spilled out into the lobby. Although the installation was removed sometime in the 1980s, divergent narratives have survived about the ethereal green light that could often be seen emanating from the exterior of the building through the skylight above the stairwell. Building upon the mythology and transience of Flavin's work, Will Brown takes the allure of Flavin's green glow as its point of departure for each of the works in MATRIX 259. The light acts as a conceptual and formal link among each location, object, and event, and as a metaphorical beacon for the memories that remain of a mysterious work of art.”

BART back to San Francisco.

Realised on 4 September 2015 as part of Latitudes' residency at Kadist Art Foundation, San Francisco.

This and two other tours by Megan & Rick Prelinger and Amy Balkin 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](http://LTTDS.org/projects/kadist)