



IMAGINING LOS ANGELES

PHOTOGRAPHS OF A 20TH CENTURY CITY

THE LOS ANGELES TIMES • FOREWORD BY RAY BRADBURY



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WITH THE EXCEPTION of its almost year-round sunshine, the fates dealt Los Angeles a weak hand. It possesses neither a reliable water supply nor a useful natural harbor. Pinned among mountains, desert and ocean, the region is subject to earthquakes, floods and wind-propelled fires.

Yet these barriers did nothing to deter the ambitions and appetites of its residents, whose determination and creativity quite literally imagined Los Angeles into full maturity in the 20th century. In the span of just those 100 years, the city exploded from a population of slightly more than 102,000 clustered on about 45 square miles to nearly four million residents stretched across some 465 square miles.

COLLECTED HERE are some 175 photos from more than a dozen Southern California archives that tell the tale of men and women who hoped and dared on a grand scale, the people who made Los Angeles the world's quintessential 20th-century city.

The fruits of their imaginations, from the Owens Valley Aqueduct to the Los Angeles Harbor to the Hollywood movie studios to the towering freeway interchanges, are all testimony to the ingenuity and imagination of Los Angeles—and its people—in the 20th century.

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OVER THE 20TH CENTURY
Los Angeles came to symbolize
countless urgent dreams that
came true—a place that succeeded

beyond the wildest of many of
them. The photos here offer fasci-
nating glimpses of this dynamic
history, bits of an evanescent past

that demonstrate how the very
imagination that created Los
Angeles will again be needed as the
city embarks on the next century.



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