Descriptive Summary

Title: Villa Aurora
Dates: 2016
Collection Number: Box 28 - Villa Aurora 1
Creator/Collector: Villa Aurora
Extent: 40 items

Online items available [http://lacarchive.com/browse/publisher/4915/bytitle](http://lacarchive.com/browse/publisher/4915/bytitle)
Repository: Los Angeles Contemporary Archive
Los Angeles, California 90012

Abstract: The Villa Aurora at 520 Paseo Miramar is located in Pacific Palisades, Los Angeles and has been used as an artists residence since 1995. It is the former home of the German-Jewish author Lion Feuchtwanger and his wife Marta. The Feuchtwangers bought this Spanish-style mansion in 1943 for only $9,000, the annual salary of a school teacher. The house was a popular meeting place for artists and the community of German-speaking émigrés. Lion Feuchtwanger wrote six of his historical novels in this house: Der Tag wird kommen, Waffen für Amerika, Die Jüdin von Toledo, Narrenweisheit oder Tod und Verklärung des Jean-Jacques Rousseau, Jefta und seine Töchter, and Goya oder der arge Weg der Erkenntnis. Villa Aurora was part of a building project initiated by Arthur Weber and George Ley in cooperation with the Los Angeles Times, which reported routinely on the construction of this "demonstration house". Weber hired architect Mark Daniels and interior designer Rodney Benso. The house pipe organ was built by Santa Monica Artcraft.[1] Villa Aurora was inspired by the Teruel Cathedral outside Sevilla, Spain. The wood for the ceilings was brought in from Spain and the fountains came from Italy. The Malibu Tile Company supplied the decorative tiles throughout the entire house. When Villa Aurora was finished in 1928, it featured the latest technological inventions and novelties in domestic design such as an electric garage openers, a dishwasher, a fridge and a gas range. Due to the depression, it was not sold, and the developer Weber and his family were forced to move in themselves in 1931. Financial problems forced Weber to leave the house in 1939 and the property sat idle.

Language of Material: English

Access
Collection is open for research

Preferred Citation
Villa Aurora. Los Angeles Contemporary Archive

Scope and Content of Collection
Audio and ephemera donated by Villa Aurora

Villa Aurora Detailed Inventory