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 Via Mesiano, 77 I-38123 TRENTO  
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Photomontage by *Gunther de Graaff* (AA Diploma School student) illustrating the Cosmorama feature 'THE AA in LA'

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### Summaries/French

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### Cosmorama

Ten impressions of a three-weeks visit to Los Angeles by a group of AA students and members. *Jenny Lowe* and *Nigel Coates* (Diploma School students) describe in words and photos their tour of California, Arizona, Nevada. *Barbara Sawden* (first year student) concentrates more on Las Vegas. *Pamela Parkinson* (Diploma School student) 'gets away from it all'. *Don Skirving* (student working in BSD's London office) reflects on West Coast concentration on 'the body'. *Helen Petit* (art graduate from The Slade School and Hornsey School of Art) takes up the women's cause. *David Osborne* (practising architect/teacher) describes Gay LA. *Brian Clare* (Diploma School student) is fascinated by Car Club Night. *Tony Gwilliam* (architect in charge of AA First year course) provides snippets on education and on mobile homes.

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### The LA connection: pushing freeways

The earliest freeways appeared in LA in the late 30's. After the war they replaced railways. Today there are 560 miles of freeways in LA, Ventura and Orange County, and LA has nearly 4 million passenger cars in use. *Peter Plagens* describes how this freeway system has turned into a nightmare.



AA students snapped by *Monica Pidgeon* as they looked over fog-bound LA from Griffith Park Observatory.

An LA freeways interchange photographed from a helicopter by *John Donat*.



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### Sanctuaries

Fearing the disorder of central LA, the middle-class take refuge behind the gates of their suburban retreats. So the decaying remnants of the inner city are abandoned to low-income minorities, who are now determined to defend and govern their territories. *Bernard Tschumi* studies in depth Watts, East LA, Pico Union, Venice, and three sanctuaries of affluence (Leisure World, Westlake Village and Rolling Hills).

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### Mickey Mouse the great dictator

*Roy Landau*, after visits to Disneyland (LA) and Walt Disney World (Florida), reflects on the Disney goal which assumes an active regulator in control of the entertainment system, with a passive, regulated audience at the receiving end. He also describes EPCOT, The Experimental Prototype Community of Tomorrow, which is being built at Walt Disney World.

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### Ersatz in LA

Ersatz, says *Charles Jencks*, has produced in LA an environment which is sensual, tactile and highly accessible.

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### Fitch-guide to US architecture

*Reyner Banham* ruminates on the ideas of J.M. Fitch, whose latest book he read while at this year's Aspen design conference.

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### Services

*Alastair Robertson* reckons that the service industries in LA must alone generate an annual turnover far in excess of the GNP of any country outside the developed world, and equivalent to, or exceeding, even that of many developing European nations.

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### Round up

Hyatt Regency Hotel. Madonna Inn. Mariners Village. Aspen 73. Santa Monica mon amour. LA architectural tours. Spotlight.

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### Summaries/German

### Next month

Solar energy - *Colin Moorcraft* reports on the present situation. *Michael Brawne* writes about Museums in the Briefing series. And *William Grigsby*, in Sector, makes some observations on the application of systems analysis to urban social planning.