

[Explore by Car]

The Art of Light

Los Angeles has more than 215,000 streetlights representing more than 400 different styles, from ornately historical to classically modern. With its high concentration of vintage street lamps, downtown L.A. is a great place to appreciate the unique features of these luminary lovelies. Also, check out what's shining in your own neighborhood—this beautiful art form may be as close as your curb. —Brenda Rees



LOOK AT THE LIGHT: LUMINARIES

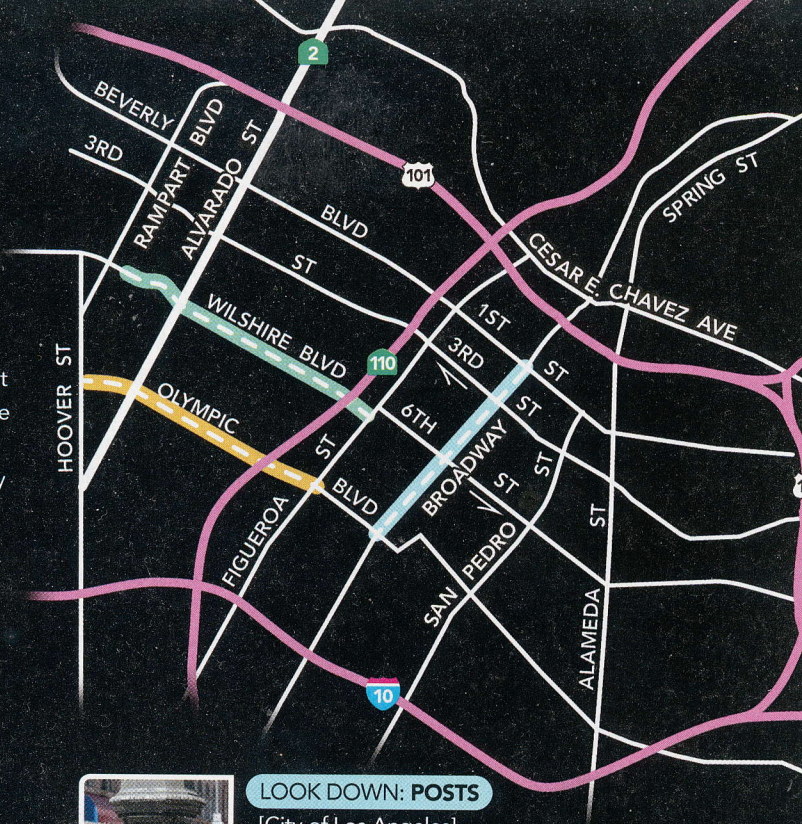
The lamps can be spheroid, acorn-shaped, teardrop pendant, and other shapes. The Wilshire Special is a lantern adorned with artichokes, acorns, and 1920s bobbed-hair flappers. *Wilshire Boulevard between Figueroa and Park View streets.*



LOOK UP: ARMS

[L.A. Office of Historic Resources]

Sprouting from the base, the arms are often curved, straight, or supported by elaborate bracket designs. The Olympic Special features a dragon arm propping up a stemware fruit platter. *Olympic Boulevard between Figueroa and Hoover streets.*



LOOK DOWN: POSTS

[City of Los Angeles]

Bases sometimes feature linear moldings or fanciful images. The Broadway Rose has elaborate ornamental roses and Spanish Renaissance designs. *Broadway between Temple Street and Olympic Boulevard.*

STREET LAMP COLLECTIONS

Artist Sheila Klein used 25 varieties of vintage street lamps to assemble **Vernonica**. Northeast corner of Vermont Avenue and Santa Monica Boulevard.



Similarly, in 2008 artist Chris Burden created **Urban Light**, an assembly of 202 vintage street lamps that stand tall at the entrance to the Los Angeles County Museum of Art. 5905 Wilshire Boulevard.

