



Below is the sample script of the 90-minute tour of Sunnylands that is offered every 15 minutes on days when retreats are not scheduled. The regular schedule is Wednesday through Sunday.

Depart Center

- *Introduction*
 - I am --- and I will be leading your tour today. I am a student at --- and am participating in a program that continues the Annenberg commitment to education while providing paid positions for tour guides.
 - Water is allowed on this tour and I suggest that you make certain you are hydrated on this 90-minute tour. *(This statement is particularly important in April/May and September/October—less so on a very cold winter rainy day. But you need to tell people this BEFORE they are boarding the shuttle.)*
- *Provide guidelines for the tours*

There are a few rules that I need to review with you as we begin our tour:

 - Please stay seated with your arms and legs inside the shuttle.
 - This tour will provide many opportunities for taking photographs. I will point out particularly wonderful photo ops. Photography for personal use is permitted on the grounds, but is prohibited in the house. Videotaping or sound recording devices are not permitted in the house.
 - Please silence your cell phones at this time so that we can all share this experience without outside interruptions.
- *Tell them what you are going to tell them:*
 - I will be speaking about the Annenbergs, the many people who visited them here at Sunnylands, and the mission of The Annenberg Foundation Trust at Sunnylands to act as a high-level retreat center. I hope you will learn something about midcentury modern architecture, the Annenbergs' art collections, and the design team who helped shape the experience of this special place. When we are finished with the tour, I hope you will have a general understanding of the history of this private home and retreat center.
 - I'm also excited to share with you some of the stories that came out of the visit of President Barack Obama and the President of the People's Republic of China Xi Jinping in June 2013 and the ASEAN summit in February 2016. These historic meetings emphasized the unique qualities of Sunnylands as part of a "new era of diplomacy" where informal interactions between powerful world leaders can lead to better understanding and facilitate international agreement.
- *Who were the Annenbergs?*
 - Sunnylands was the winter home of Walter and Leonore Annenberg from 1966 until 2009.
 - Walter was a highly successful business man. He oversaw a communications empire. In 1940, he took over Triangle Publications, Inc. from his father and developed a thriving business that included *Seventeen* (the first popular magazine for young women), *TV Guide* (which had the largest circulation in America for two decades), and TV and radio stations.

- Both Walter and Leonore were engaged in public service. Walter as the Ambassador to the Court of Saint James's for President Richard Nixon (1969-1974) and Leonore as Chief of Protocol for President Ronald Reagan (1981-82).
- They were the most generous philanthropists of their generation—most noteworthy was the 1993 \$500 million challenge grant for K-12 education or their \$50 million gift to the United Negro College Fund in 1990 which ultimately assisted in securing \$200 million in support. In 1991, the Annenbergs bequeathed their collection of Impressionist and Post-Impressionist paintings, valued at \$1 billion, to the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York.
- *When was Sunnylands built—200 acres; 20th-century oasis*
 - Sunnylands includes an historic house on 200 acres with a private golf course.
 - During the Annenbergs' lifetimes, Sunnylands was visited by seven American presidents, 10 first ladies, royalty of Great Britain, political leaders, and entertainment icons.
 - In 2013, President Barack Obama became the eighth president to visit Sunnylands. (He has visited eight times—six times during his presidency and twice afterwards. Official visits include: June 2013 met with China's President Xi Jinping; February 2014 met with King Abdullah of Jordan; and February 2016 met with 10 ASEAN leaders.)
 - The Annenbergs used their home as a place of refuge and reflection for these powerful figures in the world of politics and culture. They created a distinctly 20th-century oasis in the desert.
 - The Annenberg Foundation Trust at Sunnylands (established in 2001) now owns and operates Sunnylands and has the responsibility for preservation of the historic estate, adaptive reuse as a location for high-level retreats, and is responsible for environmental practices reflecting a commitment to sustainability.

Entry Court (stop/disembark for tour through the house)

- *Introduce A. Quincy Jones and architectural features—overhang; horizontal roof*
The architect for the project was A. Quincy Jones (1912- 1979) who had opened his architectural office in Los Angeles after World War II and entered into partnership with Fredrick Earl Emmons in 1951. He taught architectural design at the University of Southern California and was the Dean of their School of Architecture from 1975 to 1978.

One of the surprising aspects of this residence is that the architecture is modern in style. Sunnylands is one of the largest midcentury modern homes built in the 1960s. It follows the tradition of great estates but its commission indicates the openness of the Annenbergs to the contemporary style of architecture—a progressive perspective among wealthy clients at the time.

Your first up-close view of Sunnylands is impacted by the 20-foot tall replica of a Mexican column at the National Museum of Anthropology in Mexico City designed by artists José and Tomás Chávez Morado. In 1968, this bronze column with river rock stones below was installed and reinforced the Mayan theme of the house—a theme suggested to Jones by the Annenbergs as being sympathetic to the landscape.

- *Mexican column:*

The column serves as a direct representation of Mexico and is formed with carvings that illustrate important events in the history of the country. The story reads chronologically from the bottom to the top, starting on the east side, which represents the Atlantic coast of Mexico, and continuing on the west side, which represents the Pacific coast of Mexico. Both sides feature a jaguar and eagle at the base of the column representing the cultural origins of modern Mexico: the ancient indigenous people.

Two sides of this courtyard are enclosed by long windowless walls faced with lava stone. The use of this stone also connects with Mayan building techniques and style. Surrounding plantings unite the space as an outdoor room. You will note the grapefruit trees that are planted in lava-rock containers.

The double doors are set at an oblique angle at the entrance. This placement stands in contrast to the usual formal straight drive flanked by rows of trees that frame the entrance to rigidly symmetrical homes. The use of the open meandering drive, the circular courtyard, and the corner entrance all emphasized the underlying concept of informality.

Note the cantilevered egg-crate coffered ceiling over the entrance. A. Quincy Jones used this element in many of his buildings, including the Annenberg School for Communication at the University of Southern California in 1976. Here it has the effect of hovering over the entrance and then it continues inside—bridging the outdoors and indoors.

Modern architecture emphasizes flexibility of space, light, openness, the use of innovative materials and new building techniques as well as the integration of the indoors and outdoors.

Atrium/ Rodin

- *Midcentury Modern architectural features—exposed steel columns; monitor as skylight; informal arrangement of spaces; walls don't meet the ceiling; indoors and outdoors merge*
- *Lava stone walls—original design with plants—later paintings*
- *Impressionist and Post-Impressionist paintings (Annenberg Collection now at the Met)*

This is the area where Chinese President Xi Jinping was welcomed by President Obama in June 2013.

The style of the house reflects the new way of thinking about “living modern.” It combines the Annenberg art and decorative arts collections, the architectural forms that appealed to A. Quincy Jones, the interior design sensibilities of William Haines and Ted Graber, as well as the landscape design that creates the nature/house relationship.

Entering the house itself, you will note the expansiveness of this central space. Following the basic tenants of modern architecture that open spaces to each other and avoid the creation of small and separate rooms, here A. Quincy Jones designed an amazingly adaptable and comfortable space that is actually 6,400 square feet (five times larger than the average home in the 1960s) that doesn't feel overwhelming in scale.

In addition to the open space are the views through the walls of glass to the outdoors. So another tenet of modern architecture—the integration of outdoors and indoors—is evident in this space. The invitation to do some of your living inside and then step out on the terrace for another aspect of living is extended here. The use of flowering bromeliads (surrounding the

fountain and the Rodin sculpture of *Eve*) brings the outdoors inside as well. Originally planters filled with bromeliads and chrysanthemums lined the area below the lava walls, thus expanding the concept of an interior garden.

Unusual as an interior wall treatment is the lava stone that covers the two sides of the central space. Reflecting the Mayan influence, the dark rich walls proved to be the perfect background for the extensive collection of Impressionist and Post-Impressionist art which the Annenbergs brought to Sunnylands in 1974. The collection of more than 50 paintings was promised to the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City in 1991. You are seeing digital reproductions of the paintings—hung following Walter Annenberg’s death in 2002 to allow Leonore Annenberg to live with the memory of her beloved paintings until her death in 2009.

All other art works in the home are the originals. One of the Trust’s goals is to capture, in as historically accurate a way as possible, the authentic experience of this midcentury modern home with its wide-ranging collections of modern sculpture (Rodin, Arp, Agam, and Bertoia); Chinese ceramics and enamels; silver; and Steuben glass.

Rodin’s *Eve* dominates this space. Created by French artist Auguste Rodin (called the father of modern sculpture), *Eve* is part of Rodin’s plan for an elaborate set of doors for a French museum that wasn’t built. Her figure is representational with an expressive quality—you can see the artist’s touch.

Another basic aspect of modern architecture is the use of modern materials. In the atrium you see the steel columns that support the hipped roof which rises some 26 feet above the atrium where it terminates in a skylight shaded by a smaller pyramidal element above. Called a “monitor” this architectural feature filters soft light over one of the original casts of Rodin’s *Eve*. The columns are not located at the corners of the atrium as you might expect, but instead along its sides, making its definition less formal.

As an aside, these columns caused consternation for the Annenbergs when they first saw them during construction. When they saw the exposed steel columns, bright red with round holes, Leonore Annenberg said: “We stood there aghast...we said we have a monster on our hands...it’s the worst thing I’d ever seen.” They worked with Jones to rectify the problem, leaving the steel exposed as Jones wished, but painted in a more agreeable color—a pale celadon green—and with round pegs inserted in the holes to refine their appearance. If you look up you will see that the circle detail of the support columns is carried as cut-outs in the skylight.

Two beautiful sculptures by Jean Arp are featured in the entrance. They both refer to the female form—in an abstracted way, emphasizing the sinuous curves of the female body. These sculptures show the evolution of modern art—from the expressive and more realistic form of Rodin’s *Eve* to the abstracted forms of Arp’s figures.

Room of Memories (time to look individually at items on the walls)

- *Originally intended for Ambassador’s mother*
- *Historic setting—Reagan viewing Gorbachev on television*
- *Photographs of family, friends, dignitaries*
- *Signed photos*
- *Queen Mother’s Christmas cards*

- *Book collection (3,500 books, 1,300 inscribed)*
- *Andrew Wyeth and Rembrandt Peale paintings*

Entering the Room of Memories is quite a different experience from the space we've just explored. This room was originally designed as a guest room for Walter Annenberg's mother, Sadie, who passed away before the house was completed. In its original plans, this bedroom had a wall of glass and an interior patio.

In 1977, the Annenbergs enclosed this room so that they could use it to display important books, letters, photographs, and other memorabilia from their guests, including the Queen Mother's annual Christmas cards. The skylight over the center of the room provided natural light. The theme of public service is emphasized here with the Andrew Wyeth portrait of Walter Annenberg (1978) paired with Rembrandt Peale's portrait of George Washington (1859).

This photo of President Ronald Reagan watching Soviet leader Mikael Gorbachev delivering a speech to the American people on nuclear disarmament reflects the level of history that took place at Sunnylands. Note the photos of Presidents Xi and Obama in front of this painting (next to the photo of President Reagan). This painting was moved to the living room for the photo documentation of the three major Obama meetings. The Obama/Xi meeting has been acknowledged as the most important meeting for U.S.-China relations since Nixon.

And these photos of President Obama and President Xi capture the most recent important use of the house. To accommodate the press pool, the portrait of George Washington was moved into the living room and set the stage for this formal photo of the two presidents. I'll point out the location used for this photo when we reach the living room.

I invite you to take a few minutes to look closely at the various photographs and certificates in this room. I will answer your questions if I can.

Walter's office wing

- *Secretaries' office*
- *Triangle Publications, Inc.*
- *President Reagan signs NAFTA agreement*
- *Dressing room*

We are entering the secretaries' office, joined to Walter's office and additional office space, which used to be the Annenbergs' garage. There were two full-time secretaries who worked in the office at Sunnylands. Some of their tasks included typing letters as Walter or Leonore dictated them, creating the "Schedule of Events" plan and guest biographies, which were placed in the guest rooms (we will see these later on in the tour), and worked to ensure guests visiting Sunnylands were well taken care of.

Leonore and the house manager often came into this space to work directly with the secretaries in anticipation of an upcoming guest visit. On the shelves are some of the original photos of the Annenbergs' friends and family and original décor. When the estate was transferred to the Trust in 2009, this space and the original two-car garage became working offices for retreats. On the walls are photos of high-level meetings and important events that have taken place at Sunnylands.

Please join me in Walter's office. As a businessman and a diplomat, this space is where Walter kept up on the stock market (he rose every morning on East Coast time at the opening of the New York stock

exchange) and usually took his breakfast here. He remotely managed his communications empire, Triangle Publications, Inc., working closely with staff on the East Coast. Behind this door is a soundproof closet where a teletype was installed, keeping Walter updated on national and international news.

Walter's friends, such as President Ronald Reagan, also used this office while visiting. During his term, President Reagan gave radio addresses, penned letters, and signed the 1988 NAFTA agreement at Walter's desk. Behind Walter's desk is a portrait of Walter's mother Sadie. Walter and his mother were close and she was a great inspiration to him, especially in regards to philanthropy. The painting over the couch is *Palais-Gruyère* by French artist Lucien Mathelin. This politically satirical piece shows the façade of the Elysée Palace, the residence of former French president, Georges Pompidou, as gruyere cheese with a pair of nibbling rats.

When there were no guests at Sunnylands, Walter and Lenore spent time together in his office. The Annenbergs often enjoyed lunch here before heading out to play a round of golf. They also would watch TV in this space, usually right before bed.

Walter's office is connected to a bar which leads into a space that was originally his dressing room. The room is currently setup as a personal gym (President Obama used this gym while staying for a retreat). The window overlooks the cactus garden, which was planted in honor of Sadie, who loved desert plants.

Master Bedroom

- *Original art on walls approaching the master bedroom—Hindu temple doors/ Romare Bearden collage/ Picasso drawing/ etc.*
- *Period of significance relating to furnishings in master bedroom*
The master bedroom gives a sense of the room that Walter and Leonore shared. After Walter died, Leonore made the bedroom more feminine and we are in the process of returning it to its appearance during the period of cultural significance (the 1970s and 1980s).

If you look out the window, you can see the cactus Garden that Walter loved. This garden reflects Walter's mother Sadie's appreciation of desert plants. It had a bird feeder with a microphone that amplified the sounds of the birds so that Walter could hear them in his dressing room.

Here we also see Chinese elements in lamps and a collection of enamel boxes displayed. Leonore collected small enamel boxes manufactured by various companies, including Halcyon Days, in places such as Bilston, Battersea, and Limoges.

Inwood Room:

- *Indoor pool*
- *Inwood room furnishings from PA*
- *Portraits of Walter and Leonore Annenberg*
- *The Annenberg Retreat at Sunnylands*

This space has been many different things over the years. First, it was an outdoor patio space. Then in the 1970s, local architect E. Stewart Williams designed an indoor swimming pool used by the Annenbergs for decades.

Walter and Leonore also had a home in Pennsylvania called Inwood. When Leonore sold that house in 2007, she asked architect Frederick Fisher and Partners (who also designed the public Center & Gardens) to redesign this space. For the last two years of her life, she used this room as a special sitting area filled with her favorite antiques from her home in the East.

Note the coffered ceiling which recalls the other parts of the house. This room was refurnished with contemporary furniture and functioned as a meeting/briefing room for President Obama during official visits.

The Trust just made another change to this room. Starting this year, it will serve as the primary meeting space for retreats in the house. William Haines furnishings were selected to support the meeting function and a contemporary table system allows the staff to set the room for anywhere from 12–22 retreat participants. This room has acquired a new life as our beautiful meeting space and the antiques have been carefully crated and stored in our Archives Building for safe keeping.

Sunnylands made choices to achieve the Trust’s mission; operating as an active, living, functioning retreat center and preserving the historical aspects of the home for public access. Maintaining both of these components is essential. Decisions were made at every step regarding which objects/items would achieve the retreat mission and which items/objects needed to be preserved for the future.

Our Declaration of Trust charges us to bring leaders and experts from around the globe to find meaningful solutions to some of the most pressing challenges facing our nation and world. Toward this goal, Sunnylands’ Board of Trustees has approved three Areas of Focus:

- *Promoting Global Cooperation*: To foster world peace and international agreement, Sunnylands’ special geographic vantage point is ideal to explore the many opportunities and address the pressing challenges of the Greater Pacific—particularly those related to U.S.-China relations and the Western Hemisphere.
- *Strengthening Democratic Institutions and Expression*: Sunnylands seeks to support democratic institutions, processes, and freedoms domestically and internationally. Topics have included civics education, cooperation across the partisan divide, freedom and effectiveness of the press, credibility and integrity of elections and of science, and countering violent extremism.
- *Advancing Global Health and Food Security*: Enormous progress has been made against global poverty in recent decades, but those gains are threatened by poor governance, greater conflict and related human dislocation, and eroding political will. Therefore, Sunnylands is committed to furthering U.S. and international efforts to advance global health and food security, particularly in fragile and conflict-affected states.

Living Room—at Van Gogh painting/ Royal sitting room

- *3 weddings by the fireplace (Frank & Barbara Sinatra, Elizabeth Kabler [granddaughter], Howard Deshong III [grandson])*
- *New Year’s Eve parties in this space annually*
- *William Haines designs—hostess chair, lamps, sofa (trapunto)*
- *Chinese cloisonné*
- *Tang funerary figures*

- *British royalty in photos in Royal Sitting Room*

Living Room:

As we move around this large living space, you will note that it is made comfortable by small groupings of furnishings—each conversational grouping has a slight variation in fabric or shade of color from the next. And you'll see the placement of sculpture and antiques—large and small—throughout. *The Portrait of George Washington* replaced the Claude Monet painting seen here for the Obama Xi meeting. Almost all furniture in this section of the house was removed to accommodate the meeting itself and the need to have a group of photographers moving through the space for special photo opportunities. In February 2014, King Abdullah of Jordan also sat here with President Obama for their official portrait. George Washington hung over the fireplace for the U.S.-ASEAN Leaders summit.

William Haines and Ted Graber were the interior designers who worked with A. Quincy Jones to create this comfortable and hospitable interior space. The Annenbergs selected the team of architect A. Quincy Jones and interior designers William Haines and Ted Graber because Leonore Annenberg admired the collaborative work they had done for Sidney and Frances Brody in Los Angeles. Their first meeting was with William Haines who invited A. Quincy Jones to participate in the project.

Their style is not what one typically thinks of as midcentury modern. In the 1960s, new materials were transforming furniture design in general, altering people's preconceptions about furniture and interiors. This was a time of the introduction of boldly colored plastics, wire-framed seating and extraordinary shapes into home décor. Haines' furnishings are more relaxed and informal than traditional furniture styles but less simplified and innovative than the modern designs of Charles and Ray Eames, George Nelson or Verner Panton. William Haines was an actor turned interior designer whose furnishings for the Hollywood crowd beginning in the 1930s were described as Hollywood Regency, making references to the English Regency style of the early 19th century. Following the English fascination with Asian objects, Haines searched for beautiful Chinese objects and then converted them into lamps or tables, as seen in this Chinese screen that has a new life as a coffee table.

The color palette that unifies the house is green and pink. You see that in the atrium with its pink bromeliads, the celadon columns, the hint of green in the pink marble floors, and the countless variations of those colors throughout the house (including the green jade of the Sacred Water Buffalo—"Walter").

The beauty of the desert is directly connected to the light that changes throughout the day from crisp blue in the morning, to glaring white in the heat of an afternoon, to rosy pinks and purples in the early evening. That changing quality of light is captured within the house. The overhangs shade the house from the most intense sunlight but the expanses of glass allow the changing light to penetrate the interior and animate it.

Royal Sitting Room:

As we move through the Royal Sitting Room, note the small bar at the edge of the space. This bar was used casually and during parties and events held at Sunnylands. In the Royal Sitting Room, photographs of the many friends from the Royal family are on display. President Xi and Madame Peng Liyuan met with President Obama in this room on Saturday, June 8, 2013.

Flanking the Royal Sitting Room are the Chinese Tang funerary figures. These ceramic figures are more than 1,300 years old and were placed in tombs as assistants in the afterlife. The *sancai* (or three-color glaze) figures are beautiful and graceful; they contrast with the other Tang figures near the windows which are not glazed but were painted and gilded—there are remnants of the pigment and gilding still evident.

Kitchen

- *Annenbergs' Hungarian porcelain and breakfast trays*
- *Original linens and original staff labels*
- *Multiple dishwashers, refrigerators, sinks, etc.*
- *Minton Bone China*
- *Color-coded guest room trays*

As we enter the hallway we will be going through the door on our right. You are going to be entering into the large butler's pantry, and the kitchen. This is a working kitchen used for retreat purposes now, and yet very little of it has been changed from its historic condition. If there is a reception for retreat participants, the items seen here are likely to be utilized (even the linen napkins, which were stored in this fashion by the Annenberg staff). We take advantage of this incredible array of items.

The breakfast trays displayed here were used by the Annenbergs on a daily basis (large butler's pantry).

- The Annenbergs usually called for their breakfast.
- The butler who answered the call would take care of it.
- Generally, they preferred a light breakfast including tea, seasonal fruits, and toast with jams and jellies. Walter generally took his breakfast in his office, where he'd be up and working by 6:00 am, just before the opening of the stock market on the east coast. Leonore would typically rise a bit later enjoying breakfast either in her room or with Walter in his office. She often spent most of her day preparing for the arrival of guests or entertaining them.
 - On a typical day, Walter would work until about noon, have lunch, and then enjoy a round or two of golf with Leonore. He'd freshen up and return to the office around 4:00 pm to close up any business for the day. Walter and Leonore would enjoy the evening news and then have dinner around 7:00 pm.
 - The Annenbergs hosted guests at Sunnylands roughly three weekends of each month while in residence. Guests would traditionally arrive on Thursday or Friday afternoon and depart on Sunday.

In the cupboard we have Minton Bone China from England. This was the second most used china for entertaining by the Annenbergs, after the Flora Danica. It is also used during retreats. Sunnylands uses some historic material for retreats to give those participants an opportunity for an experience which is activated by history.

Next is the kitchen. This space is where the Annenbergs' personal French chef, Michel Venuat, would, along with a sous chef and dishwasher, prepare meals for the Annenbergs and their guests. This space continues to function for our retreats today and was used by Chef Bobby Flay

and his staff to prepare the dinner for President Obama and President Xi Jinping (June 7, 2013). Celebrity Chef Ben Ford prepared the dinner for the U.S.-ASEAN Leaders summit between President Obama and 10 leaders of the Southeast Asian Nations (February 15, 2016).

There was a circular pattern for service. The butler exited from the kitchen area, served in the dining room, and then returned back into the kitchen from the side door so as to avoid collisions. As we leave the kitchen we make our way to the staff area. The household staff was always served breakfast and lunch by Chef Michel.

When the Annenbergs first built the home, there were only three main guest rooms (one where the Room of Memories is currently located and the suites on either side of the Game Room; Pink and Yellow Rooms). In 1977, when the Room of Memories was converted into what it is today, three additional guest rooms were built just beyond the Game Room. This extension includes the Blue, Green, and Peach Rooms (color-coded), even the breakfast trays for these rooms were color-coded. This helped the staff to identify which room was to receive each tray.

Additional lodging was at the Cottage Campus that had been completed in 1964; those three buildings (Mesquite, Ocotillo, and Palo Verde) hold 12 guests altogether. Today, the Trust can accommodate 22 guests for a retreat.

Beyond the stanchion and down the hallway from the kitchen are five staff rooms. These were occupied by the house manager, Michael; personal chef, Michel; personal maid, Fayley. Five rooms were converted and now function as guest rooms during retreats.

Small Butler Pantry:

This area now has new glassware that is used for retreat activities (small butler's pantry).

Formal Dining Room/Steuben

- *Haines & Graber furnishings/inlaid table*
- *Flora Danica fine china*
- *Queen's luncheon & remarks regarding the Flora Danica*
- *Art in dining room*
- *Asian Artists in Crystal—drawings by contemporary artists working in the Far and Near East used for a collection of engraved crystal; exhibition traveled throughout the world*

Formal Dining Room:

You can see that the formal dining room was expanded by pushing out the wall of glass. Haines designed the tables—note the elaborate inlay in the tables. A small selection of Flora Danica china can be seen here along with Georg Jensen silver that had been a gift from Moses Annenberg to Walter's mother Sadie in 1935-36.

When Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip visited Sunnylands in 1983, the Annenbergs hosted a luncheon here in the dining room. The Queen noted that she also had an extensive collection of Flora Danica but that Walter had more than she did!

Although the Annenbergs served many of their special guest meals on this china, Sunnylands has not used the Flora Danica for retreats because of its historic nature and fragile condition. The Minton Bone China is used during important retreats/events.

The place settings currently on view include china, stemware, and linens used by the Annenbergs. The new flatware on display is used for retreats. Sunnylands is choosing to combine historical elements with serviceable items. The china currently on display is the Green Derby, English Bone China and was selected by the White House for the presidential retreat (Sunnylands Summit) held in June 2013 and for the U.S.-ASEAN Leaders summit in February 2016.

One of the things I hope you have seen is the complex layering of art, architecture, and design. This is a house which was occupied in 1966 as a spare space designed for play and relaxation. In the mid- 1970s when the Annenbergs decided to move the Impressionist and Post-Impressionist paintings to Sunnylands and install their new collection of Steuben glass here, the quality of the living experience changed. They decided that they wanted a formal dining room for special events so the exterior walkway that connected the living room with the original billiard room was enclosed to provide display space for the Steuben collection and the billiard room became the formal dining room.

Steuben:

Please follow me out of the dining room and into the gallery hall where the *Asian Artists in Crystal* collection by Steuben Glass is displayed.

The *Asian Artists in Crystal* series represents the use of art for diplomatic purposes. This series was commissioned by the U.S. State Department to encourage a cultural exchange between America and Asia. Drawings by Asian artists were selected by Steuben and reproduced on crystal objects, then circulated in an exhibition that traveled throughout the Asian world. This collection is the only complete collection in existence.

Please follow me out through the double doors as we walk to the terrace point. **This is an excellent area to view the grounds and take photos!**

Terrace View

- *Mountain views*
- *Virginia oaks/ topiary/ replacement choices*
- *Pool/ Agam/ terrace with trellises (horizontal emphasis)*
- *Bertoia (formerly indoors in what was the billiards room)*

A. Quincy Jones's first concept was to introduce water into the design scheme. Jones set a pink wall on the lake, like the prow of a ship. Leonore Annenberg said, "It's my favorite thing."

Note that the pink wall that supports the flat pad of the house is bermed and merges with the lake so the blue of the sky and the blue of the water frame the pink and the white of the house within this emerald green landscape. Jones originally designed the walls of the house to be battered (or sloped) but that early design was changed to emphasize vertical glass walls.

The use of the long trellis-covered walkways to provide intermittent shade for the interior spaces is evident from this view. The placement of the trees between the walkways and the house actually integrates nature and domestic living. You'll notice a difference between many of the historic photographs of the house and the current plantings. We chose to replace the original Virginia Oak Trees (that had reached the end of their lifespan) with similar trees of the

original scale. We will try to shape them as they mature so that they can maintain their more natural shapes.

During the 2013 summit between presidents Obama and Xi, an area was designated for the amble (walk) around the grounds. Originally scheduled for ten minutes of walking, Presidents Obama and Xi spent an hour and 15 minutes together, speaking privately with interpreters only. The official gift from the White House to President Xi was a redwood bench that was placed here outside the Steuben Gallery in the shade (a replica of the bench is located at the Center & Gardens for guests to visit).

As we leave the main house, note the Harry Bertoia kinetic sculpture called *Peacock* by the Annenbergs. The Annenbergs acquired a number of kinetic works including Yaacov Agam's *Square Waves* which is installed at the end of the pool patio.

Walk down pool patio:

Each metal piece moves individually as the wind pushes it, making it look like rippling water.

Here you are able to see the landscape and golf course blending beautifully with the mountain range in the background. Please follow me into the Guest Wing where we will see the historic guestrooms, specifically the Yellow Room and the Pink Room.

Game Room/ Yellow Room/ Pink Room

- *Guest suites and gathering place for relaxation and casual gatherings/film screenings*
- *Open cupboard to indicate dishware etc.*
- *Robert Havell Jr. prints—John James Audubon*
- *Décor color for each guest room/ Yellow Room a Reagan favorite*
- *Important historical guests*
- *Retreat accommodations*

Yellow Room:

There are five guest rooms, all with the same design scheme but in different colors. The Yellow Room was the favored guest room and the Annenbergs encouraged every president who stayed here to stay in this room. This room was the preferred room of President Ronald Reagan and Nancy Reagan. It provides a fabulous view of the green expanse of the golf course, the reflective water of the pool and lakes, and the ring of mountains that stand in dramatic contrast to the open desert.

The Annenbergs hosted guests almost every weekend they were here at Sunnylands and were marvelous hosts. The throw pillows gave a hint of whimsy to the room as the Annenbergs were very hospitable to all of their guests.

Game Room:

Entering the Game Room, you can see the yellow and red color scheme which animates the space more dramatically than the muted greens and pinks of the main house. Fun sunflower fabrics were used for the draperies and the sofa. Over the years, the Annenbergs reupholstered their furniture including the sunflower furnishings. In 2015, the Trust initiated a replication project with FRET of Long Island City, New York, a high-end fabric company that supplies fabrics

to historic residences, including the White House. The first items to be reupholstered included the sunflower sofa set and drapes and the fabrics in the Pink and Yellow Rooms.

This room was used like a den—a relaxed space where visitors played games, watched films, had lunch, and generally relaxed. A 16mm projector was used to provide first-run films for special guests and a new system for DVDs provides movies for retreat guests. The new system incorporates a digital projector mounted from the ceiling in the projectionist room for retreat guests to enjoy the most current films.

In this room, the Annenbergs included two wonderful Robert Havell Jr. engravings of John James Audubon's birds with small Yaacov Agam works that change as you the viewer walk past them.

Pink Room:

As we enter the Pink Room, the strength of modern architecture can be felt in this room—with its openness, its integration of the indoors and outdoors, and the flexibility of space. The Yellow Room is staged as it was historically; whereas the Pink Room is staged to display the way Sunnylands is used for retreats today.

Although all rooms are provided with contemporary accommodations for retreat participants, the color-coded rooms have a historical reference, more so than the rooms in the Courtyard.

Rose Garden/ Projection Room (restroom break)

- *Projection room*
- *Rose Garden—originally ribbons of color*
- *Redesigned in the 1990s introducing signature roses (Barbara Bush, Nancy Reagan, Leonore Annenberg, Uncle Walter, etc.)*

Next, we will be heading towards the projection room and Leonore's Rose Garden.

Projection Room:

Please take a walk through the projection room. You are welcome to take a moment to view this space. Leonore was the niece of Harry Cohn, one of the founders of Columbia Pictures. It was known that often, on Friday nights, she and Walter would show first-run films in the Game Room. A window through the bar allows the film to be displayed on the pull down screen in the Game Room.

A full-length feature film comes in multiple reels, once the first reel ends the second projector kicks in seamlessly to display the second reel—they may also take the first reel down to put the third one in if it is a longer film. Note the accommodations for the projectionist in this space so that in this way the projectionist would not have any excuses not to change the reels on time.

Rose Garden:

A. Quincy Jones designed this Rose Garden with ribbons of color—yellow, white, and pink. Now the garden is mixed with an emphasis on the rose type, not the color. In the 1990s, signature roses (like the Barbara Bush rose, the Nancy Reagan rose, the Leonore Annenberg rose, and the Uncle Walter rose) were introduced. First Lady and Royalty roses are contained in the Garden. Please take a moment to enjoy the Rose Garden or to use the restrooms before we get back on the shuttle. Although chosen by the Annenbergs, the roses were named by official rose associations and not by Walter and Leonore.

Continue tour to Center using route past pool; over bridge near Oak Grove; past *Birds of Welcome*; slow over curb, turn left onto road; back through driving range to arrive at shuttle entry at Center. Discuss landscape, sustainability efforts, and summary.

- *Golf course*
- *Birds of Welcome*
- *Sustainability*

Golf Course:

This nine-hole golf course was designed by Dick Wilson, a nationally renowned golf course designer, and finished in 1964. Dick Wilson's designs at Sunnyslands include elevated greens, each surrounded by three bunkers. The Annenbergs would usually play the golf course twice as an 18-hole course. Today, the golf course is available to retreat participants during their retreats and is sometimes used for the First Tee of Coachella Valley and Desert Arc.

Birds of Welcome:

Here we have a bronze and aluminum sculpture by Canadian artist, Art Price, titled *Birds of Welcome*. The Annenbergs first saw this sculpture at the Gander International Airport, while making a transatlantic flight to Europe. The Annenbergs fell in love with the sculpture and commissioned Art Price to create a *Birds of Welcome* for Sunnyslands to welcome their international guests.

Issues regarding sustainability and turf reduction:

- Sustainable strategies are employed here. For turf reduction, 200 acres of park-like setting with 180 acres of turf was reduced by 60 acres (1/3).
- Mulch and meadow grasses were introduced so that the irrigated area was substantially reduced. Using 2 types of irrigation that respond to the special needs of trees and turf, less water is required.
- Originally there were 13 lakes on property. We now have 11 lakes (re-lined) as part of our thriving man-made ecosystem.

Return to Center

- *Family home*
- *Visit gift shop, café, view exhibition, current public programs*
- *Thank guests for being part of your tour*