

**Venue: A Project by Geoff Manaugh and Nicola Twilley**  
**Collection CAE1405**

**Introduction/Abstract**

VENUE was a 16-month-long commissioned project by Geoff Manaugh and Nicola Twilley that was launched in June 2012, designed to document often overlooked yet fascinating sites through the eyes of the innovators, trendsetters, entrepreneurs, and designers at the forefront of ideas today. Materials include digital recording equipment, a wooden tool box, digital and analog field instruments, postcards, interviews, press materials, maps, ephemera, digital images, and blog posts.

**Biographical Note: Geoff Manaugh**

Geoff Manaugh is the author of one of the Web's most visited cultural sites, BLDGBLOG, as well as *The BLDGBLOG Book*. He is former senior editor of Dwell magazine, a contributing editor at Wired UK, and Editor in Chief of Gizmodo. Along with Nicola Twilley, he organized and co-curated "Landscapes of Quarantine," a design studio and exhibition at New York's Storefront for Art and Architecture in 2010, and in 2011 an exhibition for the Nevada Museum of Art titled "Landscape Futures." In addition to lecturing on a broad range of topics, from urban sustainability to the use of science fiction in architectural design, at museums and universities around the world, he has taught design studios at Columbia University, the Pratt Institute, the University of Technology, Sydney, and University of Southern California.

**Biographical Note: Nicola Twilley**

Nicola Twilley is author of the blog Edible Geography, co-founder of the Foodprint Project, and director of Studio-X NYC, part of the Columbia University Graduate School of Architecture, Planning, and Preservation's global network of advanced research laboratories for exploring the future of cities. With the Center for Land Use Interpretation, she recently curated an exhibition exploring North America's spaces of artificial refrigeration and is currently writing a book on the same topic. From 2011 to 2013, Twilley was a Research Fellow at the CA+E as part of which she partnered with Geoff Manaugh to launch the Venue project. In May 2013, Twilley was named as one of the first annual UC Berkeley/11th Hour Foundation Food and Farming Fellows.

**Scope and Content**

VENUE was a 16-month-long project proposed to the CA+E by Geoff Manaugh and Nicola Twilley in 2011, and launched as a commissioned project at the Museum in June 2012. The project was substantially underwritten by a grant from the Western States Arts Federation. Venue traversed the U.S. in a series of looping car and airplane trips to visit sites and people of interest with a variety of analog and digital instruments. The instruments were designed by Chris Woebken, and a custom, hand-built toolbox was designed and built by the woodworkers Semigood in Seattle. Inside the box was a variety of recording equipment used as a pop-up studio to record interviews in audio and video. Venue visited sites as diverse as New Mexico's Very Large Array, Arches National Park, the world's largest living organism in the Blue Mountains of Oregon, and the 2012 Aspen Ideas Festival. They interviewed experts ranging from a speleo-biologist, a golf-course designer, the keeper of the U.S. national atomic clock, and a car crash reconstructionist, to environmental lawyers, concept artists, archivists, and photographers.

Manaugh and Twilley framed their curatorial mission as follows: "to document often overlooked yet fascinating sites through the eyes of the innovators, trendsetters, entrepreneurs, and designers at the forefront of ideas today." The primary outlets for the work were a blog hosted by the CA+E on the Nevada Museum of Art's

website, parallel excerpts running on *The Atlantic* website, and through Twitter. Materials include digital recording equipment, a wooden tool box, digital and analog field instruments, postcards, interviews, press materials, maps, ephemera, digital images, and blog posts.

**This archive is currently in process**