



The Getty Research Institute



Council on
Library and
Information
Resources

Architectural Archive Research Workshop

September 18, 2012 / Getty Research Institute Lecture Hall

AGENDA

- 8:30 – 9:00 Light Breakfast
- 9:00 – 9:30 Welcome and Agenda Overview (David Farneth, Assistant Director and Wim de Wit, Head, Department of Architecture and Contemporary Art, Getty Research Institute)

MORNING SESSION:

- 9:30 – 12:00
1. Discussion Leader: David
How is architectural documentation changing?
Which documents are really important (in the short and long term)?
 2. Discussion Leader: Ann
How do the perspectives of architects, archivists and researchers differ?
How can archivists help architects shape and manage their collections before they transfer them to a repository (e.g. one-on-one meetings, general guidelines, etc.)?
 3. Discussion Leader: Christopher
What are the implications of larger volumes of documentation and the shift toward digital records?
What are the issues related to security and privacy with digital/digitized architectural records, particularly regarding access?

12:00 – 1:30 **LUNCH (PRIVATE DINING ROOM)**

1:30 – 2:00 **TOUR OF GRI STORAGE AREAS, DIGITAL SERVICES, AND CONSERVATION**

AFTERNOON SESSION:

1:30 – 4:30 4. Discussion Leader: Andra

How do researchers find/discover material?

How do they wish to view and use it?

How can access be improved?

5. Discussion Leader: Wim

What is the future of architectural history?

Do electronic architectural records provide greater potential for scholarship with a digital component?

4:30 – 5:30 **RECEPTION (GRI WEST TERRACE)**

PARTICIPANTS:

Christopher Alexander, Getty Research Institute
Kenneth Breisch, University of Southern California
Lauren Bricker, California Polytechnic Pomona
Andra Darlington, Getty Research Institute
Wim de Wit, Getty Research Institute
Steven Ehrlich, Ehrlich Architects
Mitchell Erzinger, Getty Research Institute
David Farneth, Getty Research Institute
Jocelyn Gibbs, University of California, Santa Barbara
Ann Harrison, Getty Research Institute
Waverly Lowell, University of California, Berkeley
Cindy Olnick, Los Angeles Conservancy
Linda Sellars, North Carolina State University
Volker Welter, University of California, Santa Barbara
Will Wright, American Institute of Architects

FUNDED BY A GRANT FROM THE COUNCIL ON LIBRARY AND INFORMATION RESOURCES

CHRISTOPHER JAMES ALEXANDER is the assistant curator of architecture and design at the Getty Research Institute. Since arriving at the Getty in 2004, he has co-curated the touring exhibitions *Julius Shulman's Los Angeles* (2007-2012); *Julius Shulman, Modernity and the Metropolis* (2005-2006); *Bernard Rudofsky: What Would Intrigue Him Now?* (2007-2008), and the GRI's installation of *Lessons from Bernard Rudofsky: Life as a Voyage* (2008). He is the author of *Julius Shulman's Los Angeles* (2011).

KENNETH BREISCH is an Assistant Professor in the School of Architecture at the University of Southern California. He has a Ph.D. from the University of Michigan and currently serves as 1st Vice President of the Society of Architectural Historians. He is the author of *Henry Hobson Richardson and the Small Public Library in America* (MIT Press 1997), and recently completed *The Library in America: Images from the Library of Congress*.

LAUREN BRICKER is professor of architecture at California State Polytechnic University, Pomona and director of the Archives-Special Collections in the College of Environmental Design, Cal Poly Pomona. Dr. Bricker is past chair of the State Historical Resources Commission in California, and founding member of the Commission's Committee on the Cultural Resources of the Modern Age. She is the author of *The Mediterranean House in America* (Abrams, October 2008), and co-author of the catalog *Steel and Shade: The Architecture of Donald Wexler* – which accompanied an exhibition of the same title (Palm Springs Museum of Art, Jan. 29-May 29, 2011). She is currently working on "The Modern American House," scheduled to be published by W.W. Norton in 2013.

ANDRA DARLINGTON is the Head of Special Collections Cataloging & Metadata at the Getty Research Institute, where she oversees archival processing and cataloging of materials in a wide range of formats. She has a master's degree in Art History and Library and Information Studies.

WIM DE WIT is the Head of the Department of Architecture and Contemporary Art at the Getty Research Institute in Los Angeles. Trained as an architectural historian, he has been active as an architecture curator in Amsterdam, New York, Chicago, and Los Angeles, and has organized numerous exhibitions. He is a co-curator for the upcoming exhibition *Overdrive: L.A. Constructs the Future, 1940-1990*.

STEVEN EHRLICH is the Design Principal for the Culver-City based firm, Erlich Architects. During his career, Steven has had the opportunity to renovate a Richard Neutra House and a Rudolph Schinder House. In 2011, he was awarded the Maybeck Award by the AIA California recognizing outstanding achievement in architectural design.

MITCHELL ERZINGER is the Library Assistant at the Getty Research Institute where he is processing architectural collections funded by the CLIR grant. He has previous experience in archiving and public services at the Charles E. Young Library Special Collections at the University of California Los Angeles. Mitchell has a bachelor's degree in Art History and is a prospective graduate student for a master's in Library and Information Science.

DAVID FARNETH is the Assistant Director of the Getty Research Institute, where he oversees special collections management, cataloging, conservation, the Getty vocabularies, and the Getty Institutional Archives. He serves on the Advisory Committee for the Built Works Registry, a partnership between Avery Library (Columbia University) and ARTstor.

JOCELYN GIBBS is the Curator of the Architecture and Design Collection at the Art, Design & Architecture Museum, UC Santa Barbara. Trained as an archivist and architectural historian, she was previously the Head of Special Collections Cataloguing at the Getty Research Institute, Los Angeles, and the Associate Director, Collection at the Canadian Centre for Architecture/Centre Canadien d'Architecture, Montreal.

ANN HARRISON is a Senior Special Collections Cataloger at the Getty Research Institute. She has been processing and cataloging archival and visual material since 1995. She serves as the project supervisor for the CLIR Hidden Collections grant, *Open Plan, Open Access: Increasing Researcher Access to Modern Architectural Records*.

WAVERLY B. LOWELL is Curator of the Environmental Design Archives at the University of California, Berkeley. She developed the de-facto standard for the archival processing of design records with her groundbreaking *Standard Series for Architecture and Landscape Design Records: A Tool for the Arrangement and Description of Archival Collections* in 2000. Her recent publications include *Living Modern: A Biography of Greenwood Common*; *Design on the Edge: 100 years of Architecture at the University of California, Berkeley* and *Architectural Records: Managing Design & Construction Records*; and *Design on the Edge*. She is also a Fellow of the Society of American Archivists.

CINDY OLNICK is the Communications Director for the Los Angeles Conservancy, a nonprofit historic preservation organization serving all of Los Angeles County. She manages public outreach, messaging, media relations, and marketing efforts to advance the Conservancy's advocacy work, educational programs, membership cultivation, and development activities.

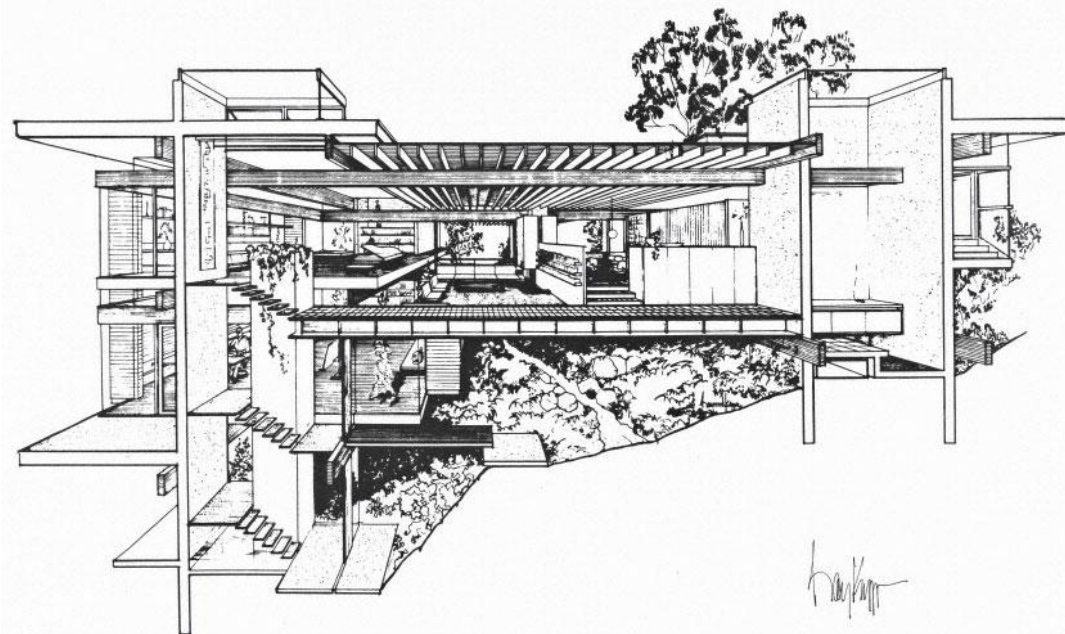
LINDA SELLARS is Head of Technical Services for Special Collections at the North Carolina State University Libraries, where she manages all technical services activities for the Special Collections Research Center, including processing of collections in a variety of formats and locations. She has more than twenty years' experience processing and supervising processing of archival materials. She was principal investigator for a CLIR-funded "Cataloging Hidden Special Collections and Archives" project, "Changing the Landscape: Exposing the Legacy of Modernist Architects and Landscape Architects."

VOLKER WELTER is Professor in the Department of the History of Art and Architecture, University of California at Santa Barbara, where he teaches Californian and Western (European) modern architectural history and theory. He has studied architecture and architectural history in Berlin and Edinburgh (PhD, Univ. of Edinburgh), and has worked as architectural historian for private architecture firms on the restoration of listed buildings and as assistant archivist for an architectural drawings archive. His publications include *Biopolis-Patrick Geddes and the City of Life* (Cambridge, MA, 2002) and *Ernst L. Freud, Architect: The Case of the Modern Bourgeois Home* (Oxford/New York, 2012). He is currently completing a book entitled *Tremaine Houses: A Study in mid-20th-century Patronage of Modern American Architecture*.

WILL WRIGHT, Hon. (AIA|LA) is the Director of Government and Public Affairs for the Los Angeles chapter of the American Institute of Architects (AIA|LA) and a 2011 recipient of the Presidential Honor of Honorary (AIA|LA). As the chief design advocate for Los Angeles, he has more than a decade of experience lobbying for a healthier and more beautiful city. At (AIA|LA) he is responsible for a variety of roles including connecting architects and designers with civic leaders to help shape public policy. Mr. Wright is a public board member of the BOMA-LA PAC and serves on the Board of Directors of the Los Angeles County Business Federation (BizFed) as the co-Vice Chair of the Polling & Research Committee.

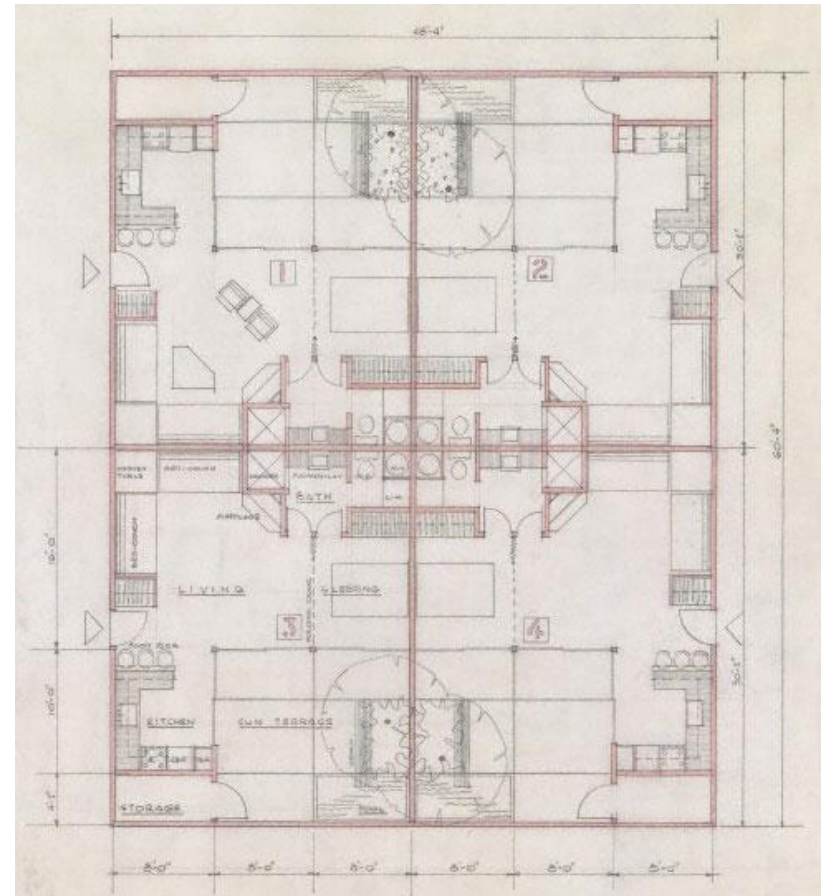
Open Plan, Open Access: Increasing Researcher Access to Modern Architectural Records

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Architectural rendering of the Kappe residence,
Pacific Palisades, 1965. Ray Kappe, architect.

- Council on Library and Information Resources (CLIR) grant-funded project: 3/2011-12/2012
- Process “hidden” collections
 - Ray Kappe papers (ca. 315 l.f.)
 - William Krisel papers (ca. 363 l.f.)
 - Frank Israel papers (ca. 409 l.f.)
- Re-assess procedures
 - “MPLP”
 - Arrangement in finding aid
 - Storage of oversize materials



“MPLP” for Architectural Records

- 5 hours per linear foot (average)
- Changes from full processing:
 - Do not organize items within folders
 - Do not define medium or type of drawing
 - Do not count items
 - Do not measure items
 - Do not identify collaborators
 - Date the projects but not the documents



National Boulevard Apartments (Los Angeles, 1954)

Box	Folder	
1	1	Documentation

Flatfile		
1**		Drawings
		Photography

Box	Folder	
42	1	Black-and-white photographs

Box	Folder	
92	1	Color photographs and negatives

Goetschel House (Tujunga, 1954)

Box	Folder	
1	2	Documentation

Flatfile		
2**		Drawings

Phineas Kappe House (Sherman Oaks, 1956)

Box	Folder	
1	3-5	Documentation

Flatfile		
3**-4**		Drawings

Box	Folder	
42	2	Black-and-white photographs

Example Scope and Contents note

Series I documents the architectural and planning projects of Ray Kappe. General documentation, architectural drawings, photographs and models form this series. General documentation files vary, but may include correspondence, reports, contracts, job bids and proposals, structural calculations, receipts, specifications, and press coverage. Occasionally a small drawing or reproduction may also be included with documentation. The architectural drawings encompass plans, elevations, sections, details, and perspectival drawings, renderings and presentation boards, both originals and reproductions. The reproduction drawings take a variety of formats including diazotypes, sepia prints, photostats, and electrostatic prints. The photographic documentation principally includes photography taken at the time projects were recently completed or under construction, and includes work by prominent architectural photographers such as Julius Shulman, Marvin Rand, and Kent Oppenheimer.

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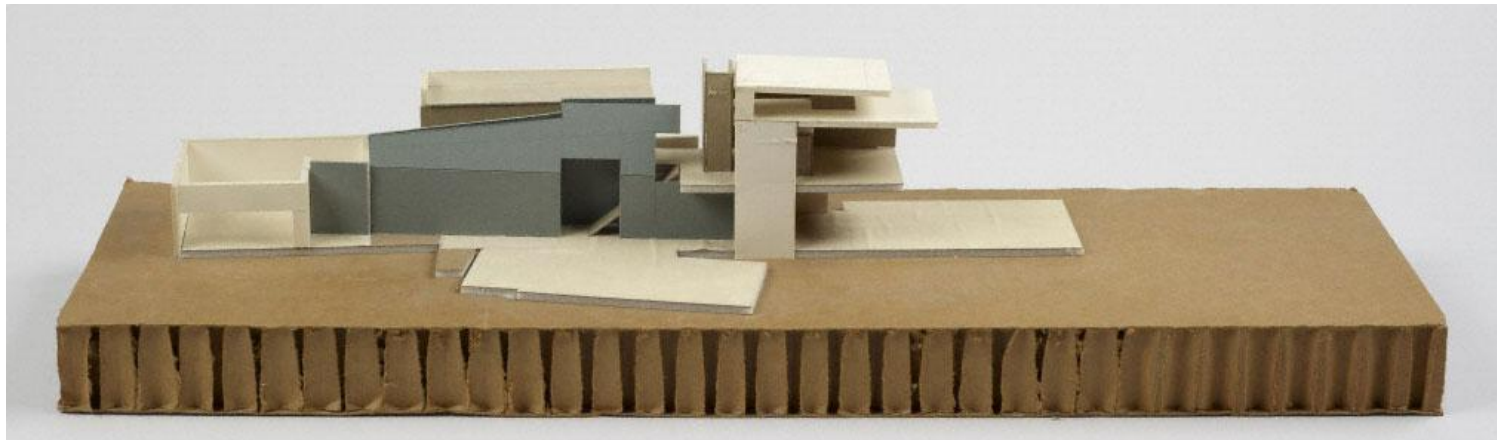
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“MPLP” for Architectural Records

- Challenges:
 - Faster processing results in more errors
 - Less detail means less control
 - Less detail means fewer access points
 - Shifts burden to Reference
 - Less organization results in more handling by patrons



Intellectual Arrangement of Project Records

- Physical arrangement according to format
- Finding aid arranged chronologically by project
 - Then by format for each project



Format vs. Project Arrangement

Format Arrangement:

Series I. Project records

A. Files

- Project X
- Project Y

B. Drawings

- Project X
- Project Y

C. Photographs

- Project X
- Project Y

Project Arrangement:

Series I. Project records

Project X

- Files
- Drawings
- Photographs

Project Y

- Files
- Drawings
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Box	Folder	
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William Krisel papers, 1938-2010

Series I. Project records, 1946-2010

- A. Single-family custom houses, 1946-2008
- B. Single-family housing tracts, 1953-2010
- C. Multi-family dwellings, 1950-2008
- D. Commercial and industrial properties, 1950-2009

Oversize Storage Before CLIR Grant



Flat-file drawers



Rolls

Some Alternative Storage Solutions



Shelving prototype for
flat-file folders



Boxes for rolls



Pacific Standard Time Presents: Modern Architecture in L.A.

- Getty-sponsored Southern California initiative, April-June 2013
- 8 exhibitions:
 - J. Paul Getty Museum
 - Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA)
 - Hammer Museum
 - A+D Architecture and Design Museum
 - Kellogg University Art Gallery at Cal Poly Pomona
 - MAK Center for Art and Architecture
 - Southern California Institute of Architecture (SCI-Arc)
 - University Art Museum at UC Santa Barbara

Overdrive: L.A. Constructs the Future, 1940–1990 (Getty Museum, opening April 2013)



Thank you!

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Search the Library Catalog, including Special Collections

Council on Library and Information Resources (CLIR)/The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation

Open Plan, Open Access: Modern Architectural Records of Ray Kappe and William Krisel Archives

Program Period: March 2011–December 2012

Funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation through the Council on Library and Information Resources (CLIR) initiative Cataloging Hidden Special Collections and Archives, this project supports the creation of online finding aids for two large collections of architectural records at the Getty Research Institute: the [Ray Kappe Papers](#) and the [William Krisel Papers](#). The Kappe and Krisel archives document the modernist goal of creating housing that is well-designed yet affordable and reflect the development of modern, open-plan residential architecture in the second half of the 20th century, especially in Southern California.

This project uses an experimental finding aid template created by the Getty Research Library to process archives in a new way. Traditional finding aids for architectural records are arranged by record type or medium, such as design sketches, photographs, or client meeting records. By contrast, this new method arranges records by individual architectural design project.

This innovative approach is expected to save researchers valuable time and influence the way in which other institutions process architectural archives. To ensure that the new template meets the needs of researchers, project staff will collaborate with an advisory committee of architectural historians.



Architectural drawing of an unrealized mosque, Pierre Koenig, ca. 1963. Pierre Koenig papers and drawings. The Getty Research Institute, [2006.M.30](#)



Architectural drawing of the Racquet Club Estates, Palm Springs, California, William Krisel, ca. 1958. William Krisel papers. The Getty Research Institute, [2009.M.23](#). Gift of William and Corinne Krisel

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