
Archivist's Annual Report 2003-2004
International Archive of Women in Architecture

Submitted by Jennifer Meehan
Manuscript Archivist
Digital Library and Archives, Virginia Tech
August 27, 2004

The year 2003-2004 has been a landmark year for the International Archive of Women in Architecture. In past years, the primary focus has been on acquiring collections and developing the unique resources of the Archive. It has always been of the utmost importance to identify potential donors and solicit their original material for donation to the Archive, in order to preserve the documentary heritage of women in architecture and design. Given the success of the IAWA in building and developing its holdings over nearly twenty years, it now becomes increasingly important to process the collections, so that these unique resources are freely available to researchers across the country and around the world, both now and in the future. Beginning last year (2002-2003) and continuing into this year, the focus has been on preserving and creating access to the collections. I am happy to report that great progress has been made this year – to date, 7 collections (totaling 38 cubic feet of material) have been preserved and made available with detailed finding aids online, while 3 other collections (totaling a massive 470 cubic feet of material) are currently being preserved and will be accessible online in the near future.

This year's efforts to preserve and create access to collections mark a significant shift in the IAWA's approach to collection development. This shift stems from a growing awareness that collection development does not only concern acquiring and bringing collections into the Archive, but also caring for the collections once they are here. Caring for the collections involves preservation treatment of the various types of material. This typically includes: removing corrosive items, such as staples and paper clips; unrolling rolled drawings; housing photographs and other graphic material in archival sleeves; housing documents and drawings in acid-free folders, boxes, and containers; and storing all material on shelves and/or in drawers in a humidity- and temperature-controlled environment. Caring for the collections also involves providing access through the creation of detailed finding aids and other online access points. The process of caring for the collections in a professional and standardized way can be time consuming and labor intensive, and moreover can require significant expenditures for appropriate housing and storage of large collections and oversize material (such as drawings).

However time-consuming and expensive, the archival care of these collections should not be construed as a luxury; rather, such care is an absolute necessity for fulfilling the important mission of the IAWA to document the under-documented contributions of women to the built environment. Without providing for their long-term preservation and access, the collections remain virtually non-existent – no one knows about them and no one has access to them; it is as if they don't exist. The question must be asked: what is the point of acquiring collections, if we don't preserve and make them available in a timely fashion? This is a rhetorical question, but it is meant to highlight the pressing concerns of the IAWA Archivist and other DLA staff who are charged with caring for the collections – the need to preserve and make available a growing backlog of collections when faced with continual shortages of space, supplies, and staff.

I call attention to the necessity and importance of preservation and access not only to raise awareness of these issues, but also to underscore our many achievements this year. The following report will provide general information about recent acquisitions to the IAWA (including both collections and publications),

and more detailed information about the collections that have been, and are currently being, processed this year.

Our progress in processing collections was made possible by increased support from the Library. DLA received additional funding to hire two graduate students in architecture. Anushka Kowshik and Sreevidya Subramanian came on board last fall and, since that time, have been working to process several IAWA collections. Jessica Caruthers, an undergraduate in architecture, returned this year as well to continue work on processing the Zelma Wilson collection. I am glad to report that the funding for the student positions will carry on into the next academic year and that work on processing the collections of the IAWA will continue for the next while.

Looking further ahead, we will need to explore other sources of funding to support the preservation and access of IAWA collections. Endowments, such as the one that accompanied the donation of the Eleanore Pettersen collection, could provide one possible source. Grants, from public agencies or private foundations, could provide another possible source of funds for carrying out the vital work of caring for the collections. In the past year, DLA has been active in pursuing various grant possibilities to support the processing of IAWA collections. The following report will provide information about these efforts as well.

Looking back on 2003-2004, my overwhelming sense is: our many achievements do not represent an end in and of themselves; rather they mark a beginning. The work carried out this year (in terms of processing large collections of original material and pursuing external sources of funding) will lay an important foundation for planning, funding, and carrying out future processing projects. I am impressed at how far we have come in recent years, and hopeful about how far yet we may go, in further building and developing the unique and important resource that is the IAWA.

Collections

ACQUISITIONS

New collection:

Barbara Woodward Architectural Papers, 1.75 cu. ft.

Additions to existing collections:

Maria Aubock Architectural Papers, 0.1 cu. ft.
Carmen Espegel Alonso Architectural Papers, 0.2 cu. ft.
Diane Elliott Gayer Collection, 0.1 cu. ft.
Organization of Women Architects, 6.5 cu. ft.
Melita Rodeck Architectural Papers, 8 cu. ft.
Sigrid Rupp Architectural Papers, 0.2 cu. ft.
Lilia Sofer Skala Student Portfolio, 0.5 cu. ft.
Anna Sokolina Architectural Papers, 2 cu. ft.
Susana Torre Architectural Papers, 0.7 cu. ft.

PRESERVATION

From October 2003 to August 2004, the IAWA Archivist and student assistants conducted preservation treatment of 10 collections. Progress so far includes 7 collections completely processed (38 cubic feet of

material) and 3 more collections currently in process (163 cubic feet of a total 470 cubic feet of material processed to date).

Processed collections include:

Diana Balmori Landscape Architectural Drawings, 2 cu. ft.

Diana Balmori is a landscape architect and design principal of Balmori Associates, Inc., which has offices in New York City and New Haven, Connecticut. She was educated at the University of California, Los Angeles, was partner for landscape at Cesar Pelli and Associates from 1984 to 1990, and faculty in the School of Forestry and Environmental Studies at Yale University. This collection consists of drawings, sketches, and presentation boards for three landscape architecture design projects.

Addition to A. Jane Duncombe Architectural Papers, 2 cu. ft.

A. Jane Duncombe was a graduate of the Art Institute of Chicago School of Industrial Design, an apprentice of Frank Lloyd Wright at Taliesin from 1950 to 1951, and an architect in the San Francisco Bay Area from 1956 to 1996. Her papers primarily include drawings and some printed material that relate to various residential and other design projects, one in Illinois and the rest in California.

Addition to Lois Davidson Gottlieb Architectural Papers, 17 cu. ft.

Lois Davidson Gottlieb is a residential designer based in San Francisco, California. She attended Stanford University and Harvard Graduate School of Design, and served as an apprentice to Frank Lloyd Wright at Taliesin from 1948 to 1949. She has designed residences in California, Washington, Idaho, and Virginia, and is the author of *Environment and Design in Housing* (Macmillan, 1965). Her papers include project files, drawings, correspondence, manuscripts, photographs, and printed material.

L. Jane Hastings Architectural Papers, 10 cu. ft.

L. Jane Hastings received a Bachelor of Architecture from the University of Washington in 1952 and became licensed as an architect in the State of Washington in 1953 (she was the eighth woman to do so). She started her own practice in 1959 and formed the Hastings Group in 1974, eventually employing eight architects. The Hastings Group carried out work on more than 500 residential projects primarily in the Seattle and surrounding areas. The collection includes drawings, presentation boards, photographs, and printed material.

Lilia Sofer Skala Student Portfolio, 1 cu. ft.

Lilia Sofer Skala earned a degree in architecture from the University of Dresden and became the first female member of the Austrian Association of Engineers and Architects, practicing architecture. She became a successful stage and film actress in Europe before fleeing the Nazis and immigrating to the United States in 1939. She then found success as an actress on Broadway and in television and film, and was nominated for an Academy Award in 1963 for her role as Mother Maria in *Lilies of the Field*. Her collection consists of her work as a student, including architectural drawings, sketches, and watercolor paintings, copies of her academic records, and some printed material.

Barbara Woodward Architectural Papers, 1.75 cu. ft.

Barbara Woodward was a residential remodeling designer in Berkeley, California, who practiced from 1966 to 1992. Her papers include specifications, materials lists, correspondence, photographs, and drawings relating to various residential projects in Berkeley, Oakland, and San Francisco.

Liane Zimbler Collection, 4 cu. ft.

Liane Zimbler was the first licensed woman architect in Austria, an interior designer in the United States after 1938, and a member of the Association of Women in Architecture. Her collection consists of photographs, printed material, writings, drawings, and correspondence.

Collections in process include:

Eleanore Pettersen Architectural Archive, 80 of 365 cu. ft. processed so far

Eleanore Pettersen received a Certificate in Architecture from Cooper Union for Advancement of Science and Art in 1941, and served as apprentice to Frank Lloyd Wright at Taliesin from 1941 to 1943. She became one of the first women licensed as an architect in the state of New Jersey in 1950, and the first woman in the state to open her own architectural office in 1951. Pettersen's career as a residential architect spanned over half a century. Among her clients was former President Richard Nixon. Pettersen was also very active in professional and civic organizations. Highlights of her achievements include: being the first woman recipient of the Professional Achievement Citation for Distinguished Accomplishments by Cooper Union in 1965; being the first woman appointed by the governor to, and subsequently the first woman president of, the New Jersey State Board of Architects from 1975 to 1976; being elected New Jersey's first woman Regional Director to the AIA Board from 1986 to 1989; and becoming a Fellow of the AIA in 1991. The collection consists of files, drawings, models, photographs, and other material relating to over 240 of Pettersen's design and construction projects carried out over the course of her career as well as papers and other material relating to Pettersen's participation in various professional and civic organizations.

Susana Torre Architectural Papers, 18 of 25 cu. ft. processed so far

Susana Torre is an architect in New York City and was editor of *Women in American Architecture: A Historic and Contemporary Perspective* (1977). She formerly served as director of the Cranbrook Academy of Art in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, and as a member of the IAWA Board of Advisors. Her collection consists of project files, drawings, research files, publications, and printed material.

Zelma Wilson Architectural Papers, 65 of 80 cu. ft. processed so far

Zelma Wilson was an architect in Ojai, California and a Fellow of the American Institute of Architects. She studied at the University of Southern California (B. Arch., 1947), U.C. Berkeley, and L'Ecole de Beaux Arts in Paris and she established her own architecture firm in 1967. Her projects included the Ojai City Hall, the Simi Valley Library (Simi, California), and other structures in the Ojai area. Her papers consist of copies of articles about her career and her designs, an extensive series of architectural drawings of projects she designed throughout her career, and administrative and project files.

ACCESS

Current finding aids for the following collections were made available online:

Diana Balmori Landscape Architectural Drawings

<http://ead.lib.virginia.edu/vivaead/published/vt/vivadoc.pl?file=vibl bv00122.xml>

A. Jane Duncombe Architectural Papers

<http://ead.lib.virginia.edu/vivaead/published/vt/vivadoc.pl?file=vibl bv00091.xml>

Carmen Espejel Alonso Architectural Papers

<http://ead.lib.virginia.edu/vivaead/published/vt/vivadoc.pl?file=vibl bv00136.xml>

Lois Davidson Gottlieb Architectural Papers

<http://ead.lib.virginia.edu/vivaead/published/vt/vivadoc.pl?file=vibl bv00125.xml>

L. Jane Hastings Architectural Papers

<http://ead.lib.virginia.edu/vivaead/published/vt/vivadoc.pl?file=vibl bv00138.xml>

Lilia Skala Student Portfolio

<http://ead.lib.virginia.edu/vivaead/published/vt/vivadoc.pl?file=vibl bv00135.xml>

Barbara Woodward Architectural Papers

<http://ead.lib.virginia.edu/vivaead/published/vt/vivadoc.pl?file=vibl bv00096.xml>

Publications

The following publications were donated to or purchased for the IAWA this year:

Betsky, Aaron. *Queer Space: Architecture and Same-Sex Desire*. New York, William Morrow, 1997. PB

Bland, Sidney R. *Preserving Charleston's Past, Shaping its Future: The Life and Times of Susan Pringle Frost*. Columbia: University of South Carolina Press, 1999.

Brown, Erica. *Sixty Years of Interior Design: The World of McMillen*. New York: Viking Press, 1982. PB

Canel, Annie, et al, eds. *Crossing Boundaries, Building Bridges: Comparing the History of Women Engineers, 1870s-1990s*. Amsterdam: Harwood Academic, 2000.

Constant, Caroline. *Eileen Gray*. [London]: Phaidon, [2000]. PB

Delayed Space: Work of Homa Fardjadi and Mohsen Mostafavi. New York: Princeton Architectural Press, 1994. PB

Kirkham, Pat, ed. *Women Designers in the USA, 1900-2000: Diversity and Difference*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 2000.

Levin, Brenda A. *Brenda Levin: Levin & Associates Architects, Los Angeles, Selected and Current Works*. Mulgrave, Vic.: Images Pub. Group, 2001. PB

McCarty, Cara, and Matilda McQuaid [organized by]. *Structure and Surface: Contemporary Japanese Textiles*. New York: Museum of Modern Art, distributed by Abrams, 1998. PB

Modern Priscilla Home Furnishing Book: A Practical Book for the Women Who Loves Her Home. Boston: Priscilla Publishing Co., 1925. ["special subscription edition"] PB

Nadel, Barbara. *Building Security: Handbook for Architectural Planning and Design*. New York: McGraw Hill, 2004.

Paun, Sylvia. *Romania: Valoarea Arhitecturii Autohtone*. Bucharest: Per Omnes Artes, 2003.

Premios COAM 2003. Madrid: Fundacion COAM, 2003.

Severens, Kenneth. *Southern Architecture: 350 Years of Distinctive American Buildings*. New York: E. P. Dutton, 1981. PB

Sokolina, Anna, ed. *Architecture and Anthroposophy*. Moscow: KMK Scientific Press, Ltd., 2001.

Sokolina, Anna. *Poems*. New York: Telex, 1998.

Trescott, Martha Moore. *New Images, New Paths: A History of Women in Engineering in the United States, 1850-1980*. Dallas, TX: T&L Enterprises, 1996.

Weltge-Wortmann, Sigrid. *Women's Work: Textile Art from the Bauhaus*. San Francisco: Chronicle Books, 1993. PB

Funding

This year saw a tremendous effort on DLA's part to seek funding from external sources to support the processing of IAWA collections. In particular, DLA was seeking funds to continue the Manuscript Archivist (also, currently the IAWA Archivist) position and two part-time graduate student positions, as well as funds for storage equipment and archival supplies.

Early efforts included submitting preliminary letters of inquiry to the Getty Grant Program and the Delmas Foundation for funding to process the Eleanore Pettersen collection. Unfortunately, we were not invited to submit formal proposals. Our biggest effort by far was submitting a proposal for a highly competitive Preservation and Access Grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. For this proposal, we devised a two-year project to process and make available nine collections of American women architects and designers. These collections total nearly 500 cubic feet of material and include those of Olive Chadeayne, Martha Crawford, Wena Dows, Louise Hall, Eleanore Pettersen, Alberta Pfeiffer, Melita Rodeck, Lorraine Rudoff, and Paula Treder. The project involves the preservation, arrangement and description of each collection, the creation of a detailed, EAD finding aid for each, and the digitization of selected material (such as drawings and photographs) from each. We (hopefully) made our case for funding by highlighting the uniqueness, the quality of scope and content, and the geographical breadth of the collections; and by emphasizing their social and cultural significance as resources for historical research and analysis in such fields as architecture, design, and women's studies, among others.

In putting the NEH proposal together, we received great support from Despina Stratigakos (member of IAWA Board of Advisors) and Jennifer Gunter King (former IAWA Archivist), both of whom wrote letters of support, and offered invaluable feedback on drafts of the proposal. We also received letters of support from Marcia Feuerstein (Chair, IAWA Board of Advisors), Inge Horton (former member of IAWA Board of Advisors), Tony Wrenn (Emeritus, IAWA Board of Advisors), Paul Knox (Dean, College of Architecture and Urban Studies), and Eileen Hitchingham (Dean, University Libraries). Thank you to all for their wonderful contributions!

We won't know the results until early 2005, but the completion and submission of a proposal to NEH is quite an achievement in itself, one which will potentially lay the groundwork for future efforts in planning and preparing grant proposals for IAWA projects.

Digital Library and Archives: IAWA Expenditures

Addendum to IAWA Archivist's Annual Report 2003-2004

Gail McMillan, director, DLA

Processing

Student wages	\$14,327.83	(3 architecture graduate students processing IAWA collections under Jennifer Meehan's direction)
---------------	-------------	--

Books

	\$391.00	(Penobscot Books [PB])
	204.95	(DLA/Library Materials Budget)
subtotal	\$595.95	

Other

Skala translations	\$124.00	
--------------------	----------	--

Pettersen transfer	\$4,577.00	(travel, supplies, and movers)
--------------------	------------	--------------------------------

Advisors' Annual Meeting		
L'Arche B&B	\$260.00	(Matsukawa-Tsuchida, Schaad)

per Jennifer Meehan, Sept. 24, 2004
Gail McMillan, Sept. 27, Dec. 6, 2004
Jane Wills