FUTURE EVENTS

Our next exhibition, **It's Not Just Black & White: Photographing the Built Environment**, opened May 6th in the Raymond Lifchez and Judith Lee Stronach Exhibition Cases, Volkmann Reading Room, Environmental Design Library, 210 Wurster Hall. Curated by Jason Miller, Director of the CED Visual Resources Center, the exhibition examines architectural photography through the themes of documentation, presentation, remembrance, and practice.

In September, a presentation and reception will be held in connection with this exhibit.

IN PASSING

Kenneth Cardwell passed away in January of this year. Cardwell was a practicing architect, and a professor at UC, creating classes in Architectural History and Historic Preservation. He was an authority on Maybeck, president of the Berkeley Historical Society, and Fellow of the AIA.

His passing was a particularly sad occurrence for the Archives, as it was through Cardwell that the CED acquired the Bernard Maybeck Collection. This was our first major collection, and the foundation of what eventually became the EDA.

The EDA also sends its regards and sympathy to the families of photographer Ernest Braun and architect John Carl Wamecke both long standing members of the design community who will be missed.

RECENT NEWS

**Saved from the Brink** - A true story that reminds us of the critical importance of Architecture Archives

When the firm of famed mid-century modernist Minoru Yamasaki closed amid a sea of debts and legal disputes the government of suburban Oakland County, north of Detroit, took control of the firm’s records to safeguard plans for sensitive buildings such as banks. Fearing those records might fall into the wrong hands, the county ordered the records shredded. The records included work related to the Yamasaki-designed New York World Trade Center towers, the Los Angeles Century Plaza, and Detroit’s Michigan Consolidated Gas Company Building as well as the Lambert-Saint Louis Air Terminal in Missouri and the U.S. Consulate building in Kobe, Japan.

A last-minute rescue effort by Pauline Saliga, executive director of the Society of
Architectural Historians and Michigan's State Historic Preservation Officer Brian Conway took immediate steps to save the archives from destruction. They alerted State Archivist Mark Harvey that the papers were to be destroyed the following morning. The Michigan History Foundation supplied a moving van and two movers so Harvey and other preservationists who had arrived early spent the day assessing and packing the available materials. Fortunately the records are now preserved in the State of Michigan Archives in the state capital in Lansing and will be preserved and made available for research.

In addition, the Michigan State Historic Preservation Office is in the early stages of organizing a project to document Michigan's Modern architecture (1940–1970) in which Yamasaki was a leader. “For us to be able to get the Yamasaki materials now, at the beginning of this project... is just amazing,” Conway said.

John Gallagher, Detroit Free Press, 4/30/2010

New Storage

In March, the Archives moved our off-campus collection facility to the Regatta Building in Richmond in a building shared with the Bancroft Library, Berkeley Art Museum & Pacific Film Archive, and Hearst Museum. The new space has environmentally controlled storage and secure parking. We welcome any surplus flat files you might have that are in good shape, metal and have drawers no deeper than 2 inches.

Website Update

Exhibits displayed in the Environmental Design Library will now have a longer life as they are mounted on the EDA website. http://www.ced.berkeley.edu/cedarchives/exhibitions/

From The Curator

Dear Friends,

It’s spring and things are hopping in the Archives. During a two-week period nearly 300 undergrads from Arch 170, the architectural history survey, and ED 1, the entry level design class, toured the collections. As I write, the photography exhibit is being installed, metadata for the Farrand digital project is being entered into the database, and finding aids are being encoded for the Online Archive of California. Each of these activities has been made possible through donations from our Friends and small grants.

Other things on the horizon include lending material from the Archives to the National Building Museum for an exhibition about world’s fairs of the 1930s and to the Los Angeles County Museum of Art for their exhibition California Design, 1930–1965: “Living in a Modern Way.” Our own future exhibits planned for the Environmental Design Library will focus on Designs for Worship and The National Peace Garden Competition. Both will display archival material neverbefore shown. We
are also looking forward to the next two volumes in the Berkeley Design Books series: a monograph on Gertrude Jekyll’s public work and one on San Francisco’s 1939 Golden Gate International Exposition.

The EDA is eager to increase our small endowment to create a steady income to insure the Assistant Curator position. In addition, the Archives would love to establish an endowment or fund for graduate students to do research using collections in the Archives. The mission of the Archives is to collect the records of the leaders of landscape architecture and architecture design and architectural photographers. Please let me know if you are interested in naming opportunities or tax-deductible donations to further these, or other, projects.

We hope that you will continue to be a friend and encourage your friends to support the Archives.

Thank you,
Waverly Lowell, Curator

The Environmental Design Archives and the University of California, Berkeley, is a tax-exempt, 501(c) 3 public benefit organization. Tax ID#: 94600 212 3G

EDA Staff News

Curator Waverly Lowell attended the Western Archives Roundup in Seattle where she chaired a session on Omeka software for online exhibits. This spring she co-taught “Social Spaces of Recreation and Leisure, 1850-2000,” a graduate seminar with Professor Paul Groth, and in June will attend the ICAM (International Confederation of Architectural Museums) conference in Paris.

Assistant Curator Miranda Hambro has returned from maternity leave. The EDA welcomes Theda Hambro, the youngest Friend of the Archives!

Huge thanks to former Assistant Curator Carrie McDade who coordinated our move to the Regatta Building and handled reference while Miranda was away. In April she completed the first phase of a project to digitize the Beatrix Farrand collection. This is a 3-year project, funded by the Landscape Architecture & Environmental Planning Department.

EDA Student Archives Technicians

This spring our returning workers were Maddy Hamlin, Carol Kuong, Henry Richardson, and recent architecture graduate Eduardo Rivera-Garcia.

Intern Devan McGirr recently graduated from SJU Library & Information School. She worked with us this semester putting the exhibit Environmental Design/A New Modernism on the EDA website and encoding finding aids for inclusion on the Online Archive of California http://www.oac.cdlib.org/.

This summer the EDA welcomes SJU Library & Information School intern Katherine Luce and Julia Borden an art/architectural history major at Bard College.

NEW ACQUISITIONS

In May the Archives received the records of landscape architect Richard Vignolo. Vignolo graduated from the CED in 1950, and began his practice working in Lawrence Halprin’s office, where he remained for several decades before establishing his own practice in 1972. His work ranges widely from zoos to shopping centers, universities to corporate headquarters as well as community planning and housing. His work was featured in the book Good Neighbors: Affordable Family Housing, as well as many magazines and scholarly journals.

The EDA thanks the family of Kenneth Cardwell for donating his papers containing manuscripts, drawings and photographs documenting his research, practice and teaching. The archives also contain images from his book on Bernard Maybeck.

Architect Jack Robbins will be donating his professional recordsto the Archives this
spring. Formerly partnered with James Ream, his designs include his own home which was featured in NorCal Mod, the Berkeley Cyclotron building and the Mills College Town Hall.

We hope to make these materials available for research soon.

**GET A FRIEND TO BECOME A FRIEND**

Largely a self-supporting design collection and research facility within the College of Environmental Design at UC Berkeley, the Environmental Design Archives (EDA) is a premier archival program dedicated to raising awareness of the architectural and landscape architecture heritage of Northern California. With a mission to collect, preserve, and provide access to the primary records of the designed environment, the EDA is an invaluable resource for preservation, restoration, education, and scholarship. The collection is used by design professionals, students, scholars, homeowners, and other researchers.

Encourage a friend or colleague to join The Friends of the Environmental Design Archives at the level that works best for them. As a Friend they will become identified with the invaluable work of this great archival program and be kept in touch with its activities through the lively newsletter Tracings. From time to time, the EDA will offer unique membership opportunities, such as special lectures, tours, publications, and collection-inspired merchandise.

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