NEWS & UPCOMING EVENTS

Our current exhibit is Render Unto God. Focusing on the design of religious structures, this exhibition explores the connections between religious institutions and residences, social spaces, and the challenges of designing for religious purposes. Themes of community, ethnicity, innovation, and tradition are highlighted with holdings from the Environmental Design Archives, Visual Resources Center, and Environmental Design Library collections, such as rare books, original sketches, and photographs. Miranda Hambro curated this show, which continues until December 17, 2010.

JOIN US FOR A TALK BY CRAIG HARTMAN (SOM) DESIGNER OF THE CATHEDRAL OF CHRIST THE LIGHT IN OAKLAND, DECEMBER 3, 6:30-8:00 PM, 112 WURSTER HALL

We will be sending invitations for this event soon.

THE PERFECT HOLIDAY GIFT

Design on the Edge: A Century of Teaching Architecture at the University of California, Berkeley, 1903-2003 Edited by Waverly Lowell, Elizabeth Byrne, and Betsy Frederick-Rothwell, this well-received book contains 320 pages of essays, recollections, interviews, drawings, and photographs.

A recent reader sent us an email stating: “I wasn’t a CED student, but I must say reading that book made me pretty jealous of those that were and are.”

The book would make an excellent holiday gift for a designer in your life, or for anyone you know who is interested in the history of architecture or part of the extended Cal community. Please see our website to order the book. (www.ced.berkeley.edu/cedarchives)

Also in time for the holidays, the Archives is now selling Thomas Church, Landscape Architect: Designing a Modern California Landscape, edited by Marc Treib. The cost is $35 (payment by check or cash only) and...
**RECENT EVENTS**

On September 9, a closing event for *It's Not Just Black & White: Photographing the Built Environment* was held. Assistant Professor of Landscape Architecture Judith Stilgenbauer, along with photographer Janet Delaney, presented on the topic "Tree Time/Human Time". A Friends reception was held immediately prior to the event, and a good and educational time was had by all!

Continuing our mission to serve the campus community, this semester has seen a very active class tour schedule. More than 300 students recently toured the archives, including CED students and from other departments such as Art History. We also hosted a tour of 15 landscape architecture exchange students from Taiwan!

The Archives’ outreach program continues to expand through loans to other institutions. For anyone who will be in Washington D.C., we encourage you to visit the National Building Museum’s Designing Tomorrow: America’s World’s Fairs of the 1930s show, which runs through July 11, 2011. We loaned 6 items to that exhibition, including the Maybeck shown here.

We are finally settled in to our new off-site facility in Richmond. With increased storage space and state-of-the-art climate controls, we are better able to collect and preserve documentation of the designed environment for generations to come.

**IN PASSING**

We are sad to report that Architect James Ream passed away in August. A designer of both public buildings and private residences, he was also active in civic affairs and planning issues in San Francisco. Our sincere condolences go out to his family.

**NEW ACQUISITIONS**

We are thrilled to announce that the papers of Edith Heath/Heath Ceramics were donated to the Archives at the end of October. Edith Heath founded the company in the mid-1940s. She specialized in stoneware, and developed original methods of production, as well as original equipment. Many architects worked with Heath and her ceramic art in their design projects. These records will be available once funds have been raised for archival processing.
The CED is also excited about the newly accessioned records of recently retired professors Randy Hester and Marcia McNally. Both professors taught in CED’s LAEP department. Their practice focused on the role of citizens in community design and ecological planning. Randy’s most current work is a search for a design process to support ecological democracy. In addition to her environmental planning and design work with local and regional groups, McNally has recently helped lead a community process to assess Berkeley’s public park system at its 100th anniversary.

Architect William Coburn generously donated a rendering by Ernest Born, and photographs of work by F.J. McCarthy to supplement our McCarthy collection of drawings.

Marion Osgood Hooker, a doctor and member of the Hooker family of San Francisco was also a traveler who wrote about, and took photographs of her extensive journeys. This new collection is comprised of 30 photo albums of her travels primarily in Europe and the Middle East between 1896 and 1922.

The VRC has acquired two slide collections this summer. The first is the Harthill Slides, approximately 15,000 35mm slides documenting architecture around the world. These slides were purchased by the University of California for use by the California Digital Library and entrusted to the CED VRC for long-term storage. This collection is fully digitized and is available to the UC Community through the ARTstor image database.

The second is the slide collection of CED Alumni Ken Ogawa (Arch. 1965), and consists of more than 20,000 slides of his architecture career here and in Japan.

ARCHIVAL PROCESSING

What is Archival Processing? We often use the term archival processing in the context of how financial gifts are applied to the collections, or what needs to occur before collections can be made available for use.

The term archival processing refers to the myriad steps, both physical and intellectual, required to take boxes full of folders, loose papers, clippings, photographs, tubes, rolls, and other “stuff” and end up with a preserved, organized, and documented collection ready for research. Each collection requires processing whether it consists of one lovely rendering or records for 1500 projects. Processing consists of different levels of activity requiring different levels of expertise. The initial step is the development of a processing plan resulting from a review of the collection, noting the kinds of materials included and their condition, contents, and organization. In addition to the records of a design practice, many collections include personal papers such as student work and travel sketchbooks and professional papers such as teaching files, publications and involvement in professional organizations.

Gaining physical control of the collection is largely a matter of preservation. This is referred to as holdings maintenance, and may include refolding, removing rusty metal fasteners, sleeving photographs, slides, and fragile trace drawings in polyester, humidifying and flattening folded drawings, rerolling and rehousing tubes of drawings and so forth. Trained students undertake most of this work, which requires the purchase of somewhat expensive archival supplies.

Gaining intellectual control of the material requires an understanding of the designer and the way in which they and their firm worked. If we’re lucky the files and tubes are received in the order in which they were created. Otherwise it is important to pay
careful attention as the records are rehoused to identify sequences of numbers or letters that reveal the original order. A finding aid is created both to provide information on the designer (biographical sketch) and the records (scope and content), and to document the arrangement (series list) and the content (file list and project index). Finally the finding aid will be coded using Encoded Archival Description (EAD) and uploaded to the Online Archive of California (OAC) where it will be collocated with finding aids from other archival repositories throughout California. Special project grant funding has allowed the Archives to include digitized items within the electronic finding aids.

Our work depends on resources from beyond the College and the University and the poor economy has resulted in a noticeable decline in research visits resulting in diminished income. Traditionally these funds have been used to pay salaries and purchase flat files and preservation supplies. It is only with your contributions and support that the Archives can maintain and improve our current program of insuring the legacy of generations of architects, landscape architects, designers, and architectural photographers.

The Archives is also hoping for donations to purchase or design and build a mobile exhibit case that could roll back into the EDA at night for safety. It would provide an opportunity to showcase new acquisitions or unique items that we “discover” during archival processing. Please let me know if you are interested in naming opportunities or tax-deductible donations to further this or other projects.

We hope you will support our effort; we need your help to continue our work.

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

VRC CORNER

The CED Visual Resources Center has been kept busy supporting the Arch 170 and Arch 173 history classes, which uses both digital and physical materials. It has also been coordinating “Digital Image Reserves” for each class, where select groups of lecture images are co-located and presented on line for students to study and review. Our use of the ARTstor database to maintain these image sets allows students to discover thousands of additional images relating to or complimenting the lecture images.

Parallel to the digital image reserves, photo-boards of the same images are posted in the hallway. This allows students to...
congregate and study these images as a group generating dialog and collaborative learning. Graduate Student Instructors lead review sessions and conduct mini lectures using the posted images.

The VRC has been consolidating the 35mm slide and mounted photograph collection in preparation for moving the material into a smaller space. Although slides may be obsolete, the images are not so that over the past few years, the 35mm teaching slide collection has been used as a source for digital images. This change in technology allows us to consolidate the undigitized slides into fewer cabinets at a higher density without hindering collection users. It also permits archival storage for original slides (rather than images from books) to ensure their longevity.

EDA Staff News

Curator Waverly Lowell, CED Librarian Elizabeth Byrne, and CED Alumnus Betsy Frederick-Rothwell, the authors of Design on the Edge gave presentations with book signings and at the Oakland Museum and Mrs. Dalloways Bookstore. Lowell also taught workshops on design records for the Society of American Archivists.

Assistant Curator Miranda Hambro, has been responding to an abundance of reference requests and conducting tours of the Archives all semester. She has also been coordinating loans to other institutions, and curating the current exhibition in the Library.

VRC Librarian Jason Miller recently attended a workshop on implementing the Archivists Toolkit, an integrated database for collection management. In July he attended the annual meeting of the UC Shared Image Collection Liaisons as the representative of the CED.

EDA Student Archives Technicians

Welcome back Seniors Maddy Hamlin and Henry Richardson.

Our newest student worker is Gar-Yin Lee, a graduate student from the LAEP Program who will be processing the records of landscape architect Richard Vignolo. Her project is supported by funds from the Farrand Endowment.

Emma Keefe is our Fall intern from SJU Library & Information School. She is processing the Oakland & Imada Collection and continues putting the exhibit Environmental Design/A New Modernism on the EDA website http://www.ced.berkeley.edu/cedarchives/exhibitions/

*** 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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