NEWS AND CURRENT EVENTS

POSTER SALE TO SUPPORT THE ARCHIVES

In conjunction with the Library exhibit Design Radicals: Creativity and Protest at Wurster Hall, the EDA sold fabulous posters designed by CED faculty emeritus Marc Treib before the lecture Graphic Arts Insurgency: The Poster Legacy of Wurster Hall by Lincoln Cushing on Thursday October 16. The event was such a success we might be holding another sale, stay tuned!

Exhibition on view from October 16 - December 5, 2014...

DESIGN RADICALS: CREATIVITY AND PROTEST AT WURSTER HALL

Curator: Greg Castillo
Environmental Design Library
Volkmann Reading
Room 210 Wurster Hall

Marc Treib and Fumike Matsumoto for Kamakaze Design Studio, 1970

The shock waves of Berkeley’s Free Speech Movement of 1964 reverberated within Wurster Hall, transforming the College of Environmental Design into a Laboratory for experiments in countercultural art and politics. Design Radicals surveys student and faculty ventures in the graphic art of anti-war protest, hands-on research into commune building and the creation of ecologically sustainable structures, and efforts to recast architecture, landscape architecture and community planning as participatory enterprises. In telling the story of Wurster Hall’s design radicals, the exhibit includes posters, images, and artifacts of Berkeley’s expanded field of countercultural design practice and pedagogy from the Environmental Design Archives and privately held collections and is intended to provide inspiration for a new generation of design activists.

http://ced.berkeley.edu/events-media/events/design-radicals-protest-wurster

OMG, How much stuff?!?!: A Lesson in Accessioning and Appraisal
By Cailin Swarm

The Archives has recently acquired the SMWM collection. In 1985, architect Cathy Simon founded SMWM, an architecture, planning, and urban design firm based in San Francisco and New York. Karen Alschuler joined the firm in 1991 as an Urban Design Principal. The firm’s award-winning portfolio consists of educational projects including work for the University of California Berkeley, Davis, and Santa Cruz campuses, the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, and Bard College; public projects such as the San Francisco Ferry Building and Main Library; master plans for Stanford, Harvard, Brown, and NYU; and urban planning projects for San Francisco’s Hunter’s Point district, Boston’s Central Artery, and the Transbay Redevelopment in San Francisco. In 2008, SMWM joined the San Francisco office of Perkins + Will.
In January 2013, EDA staff met with donors Cathy Simon and Karen Alscher to discuss the process of physical acquisition. They estimated having 3,000 items in storage, some of which were cataloged, but a large portion of which were not. Our primary concern was how much was worthy of permanent retention and would we have the space for it?

That February, we began the physical review and transfer of records. This turned out to be quite an undertaking. Together with Cathy and Karen, the EDA staff reviewed 5,000 items over the course of 15 months. Items included cartons containing paper records (personal, office and project), photographs, slides, CDs and floppy disks, and material samples; as well as presentation boards, framed works, rolled drawings, and models of all sizes.

On the morning of day one, Waverly and I met Cathy and Karen at their secure records storage facility to start the process, none of us knowing quite what we were getting into. They had requested 150 items from storage. Over the course of the day, we carefully sifted through boxes, separating items and folders going to the Archives from those to be destroyed. Cathy and Karen posed many questions about the kinds of records the Archives considered worthy of retention, and we asked them to identify significant projects and important records unique to their design process. At the end of the day, we had only made it through about 130 items, the Archives keeping about a third of what we had seen.

We continued to meet monthly to review a batch of assorted items. Cathy and Karen quickly realized the size and scope of their stored materials and became much more ruthless in their decision-making.

By the end of the process, we had put together a team of 6-8 people enlisting everyone from the Archives that we could, as well as the Perkins + Will office manager.

We would begin the day by doing a quick survey of materials, weeding out boxes labeled with unwanted projects, record types, and materials. Then we would each start on a pallet. By this time we had figured out what to look for and we knew to ask whether records from unfamiliar projects were worth keeping. On one of our last days we reached a personal best and got through over 900 items, taking about the same number as we had on our first day, demonstrating just how much we had all learned about the appraisal process.

The SMWM collection presents a great opportunity for researchers but also for the Archives as it contains a significant amount of born digital records. This has motivated Collection Archivist Emily Vigor, who recently completed her Digital Archives Specialist certificate, to move forward in creating a digital processing plan for the Archives. The Archives is moving into the digital age! And we need to if we are to keep up with today’s design firms.

In MEMORIAM
Olof Dahlstrand (1916 – 2014)

With sadness we express the loss of architect Olof Dahlstrand. He earned his degree in architecture from Cornell University in 1939, moving to the Bay Area in 1948. He worked as an associate for modernist architects Fred and Lois Langhorst and later, in the San Francisco offices of SOM. Inspired by Frank Lloyd Wright, between 1950 and 1958, Dahlstrand designed seven site-specific, custom-designed “Usonian” residences. In the early 1960s, he relocated to Carmel in the Monterey Bay area where he established his own practice, designing projects such as the Carmel Valley Shopping Center (1966) and the UC Santa Cruz Faculty Housing (1974). Dahlstrand remained in Monterey, retiring in 1984.
EDA ON DISPLAY

• *Planning with Nature*, the exhibit celebrating the Centennial of the Department of Landscape Architecture and Environmental Planning is now online [http://exhibits.ced.berkeley.edu/exhibits/show/laepcentennial](http://exhibits.ced.berkeley.edu/exhibits/show/laepcentennial)

• The New York Botanical Garden’s exhibit entitled *Groundbreakers* used drawings from the Beatrix Farrand collection to physically recreate parts of the Rockefeller garden in Bar Harbor, Maine.

• Images from the Garrett Eckbo collection will be part of a permanent exhibition at Fulton Mall, illustrating Eckbo’s contribution to the landscape design of the outdoor mall.

FROM THE CURATOR

Dear Friends,

It seems both the Archives and I have fully embraced social media. I tweeted and blogged on the same day now that the EDA is on Facebook, Instagram, Tumblr and Twitter. The Archives is hosting #WursterWednesday and #FeinFriday on Instagram. Every Wednesday, in an effort to showcase the EDA’s wonderful collections and honor one of the founding figures of the College of Environmental Design, we post an image from the William Wurster Collection. Each Friday we post an unidentified image from architectural photographer Phillip Fein’s Collection, in hopes that someone will be able to identify these classic images. We welcome your participation and look forward to your comments!

We also provide a monthly blog post written by one of the staff. In this issue for those of you who don’t “do blogs” we have reprinted Cailin’s review of the archival appraisal of the SMWM Collection, and birthday greetings to Sea Ranch. Enjoy our online news.

As always, thank you for your continued support and stay in touch.

Thank you,
Waverly Lowell, Curator

NEW ACQUISITIONS

The EDA is pleased to welcome the records of landscape architect Achva Benzinberg Stein (FASLA). Stein taught and worked in the US, Europe, Israel, India, and China. She is a faculty member and the founding Director of the Graduate program in Landscape Architecture at the Spitzer School of Architecture at the City College of New York. Professor Stein is author of the book, *Morocco: Courtyards and Gardens* (Monacelli Press) and the designer of the inspirational Moroccan Courtyard in the new galleries for the Art of the Arab Lands, Turkey, Iran, Central Asia and South Asia at the Metropolitan Museum of New York.

We are also very pleased and grateful to the family of Donald Hardison for donating his papers and records to the Archives.

Donald Hardison, FAIA (1916-2004) was born in Fillmore, CA, and attended the University of California, Berkeley (AB Architecture 1938). In 1948 he founded Donald L. Hardison, Architect and by the mid-50’s, Hardison & Associates included Harry Clausen and Rich Komatsu. His last firm became Hardison, Komatsu, Ivelich and Tucker also identified as HKIT. He also undertook joint ventures with Vernon DeMars as Hardison & DeMars for “Easter Hill” post-war PHA public housing and the UC Berkeley complex that included the Student Union, Dining Commons, Eschelman Hall and Zellerbach Auditorium.

RESEARCH INQUIRES

The Archives would like to share with you some of the research and researchers who use the collections our Friends have helped us preserve and make accessible.

• The grandson of mid-century developer Joseph Eicher researched at the Archives for an upcoming exhibit on Eichler in Palo Alto which will feature material from the Oakland & Imada Collection.

• Individuals from UC Berkeley’s development office visited the Archives to research John Galen Howard’s Sather Tower for a visual timeline commemorating the campanile’s centennial.

• A PhD candidate from Michigan conducted research on mid-century design in India.

The Environmental Design Archives at the University of California, Berkeley, is a tax-exempt, 501(c) 3 public benefit organization. Tax ID#: 946090626
HAPPY 50TH BIRTHDAY TO THE SEA RANCH!!!

Originally settled by members of the Pomo Nation and then called Rancho Del Mar, the plot of land 100 miles north of San Francisco was purchased by Hawaiian real estate developers Castle & Cooke. Their subsidiary Oceanic Properties had originally intended to develop a “new town” but were convinced by company vice-president Al Boeke working in collaboration with noted landscape architect Lawrence Halprin, that a development of “second-homes” would be a more appropriate and feasible use of the land. The result, as we know, was a non-traditional planned community built with the idea that human dwellings should be in harmony with the landscape.

The two primary architectural firms working with Halprin were Joseph Esherick & Associates, and the emerging Berkeley firm MLTW [Moore, Lyndon, Turnbull & Whitaker]. The Sea Ranch plan included both individual houses and group housing in the form of condominiums [designed by MLTW]. The rooflines of the ecologically innovative row houses, designed by Joseph Esherick, were sheltered by the trees and carefully designed to echo the angle of the wind blowing in from the sea.

Although each firm was working independently, they arrived at complementary designs that reflected Bay Region traditions of local materials and a sensitivity to climate and lifestyle. Ideas that were emphasized in all the designs were: use of topography to minimize human intrusion on the landscape, cooperative living, and sustainable development.

Considered one of the earliest ecological designs, for anyone lucky enough to spend time there it is a very special experience.

Enjoy The Sea Ranch Audio Walking Tour narrated by Donlyn Lyndon (of MLTW) an introduction to the architecture and landscape of The Sea Ranch, noting the ideas and features that have made it world renowned.


VISUAL RESOURCE CENTER

The CED Visual Resources Center (VRC) recently acquired the slide collection of Professor Emeritus Henry Lagorio. After graduating from Cal with a Masters in Architecture and a stint in the United States Army, Lagorio taught in the Department of Architecture starting in 1947. He was also a former director of the Center for Environmental Design Research. His slide collection contains a wealth of imagery depicting architecture and design education topics, city views from around the world, and case studies of earthquakes and earthquake engineering.

The VRC continues to digitize material from the ED Archives, including recent exhibit material from the Brian and Edith Heath Collection.

THE PERFECT HOLIDAY GIFTS

Design on the Edge: A Century of Teaching Architecture at the University of California, Berkeley, 1903-2003

Landscape at Berkeley: The First 100 Years

To order either or both books:

EDA STAFF NEWS

Archives Curator Waverly Lowell chaired a session on crowdfunding at the Society of American Archivists annual meeting. She continues to pursue collections to enhance the Archives, and funding to support their preservation and access.

In August Collections Archivist Emily Vigor, presented a paper about the EDA “Is This Your Eichler” crowd-funding campaign at the annual meeting of the Society of American Archivists (SAA) in Washington, D.C. and is currently serving as co-chair of the SAA Architectural Records Roundtable. She and Assistant Archivist Cailin Trimble are completing processing the Timothy L. Pflueger papers which are held by the Bancroft Library.

Chris Marino Reference and Outreach Archivist has been busy answering reference questions and organizing class tours. She is happy to report that nearly 100 students have toured the Archives this semester and have left inspired! She is also serving as a member of the Society of American Archivists’ Reference, Access and Outreach Section’s Access to Electronic Records Working Group.

Assistant Archivist Cailin Swarm, now Cailin Trimble, spent her July honeymoon in Europe. In August she attended the SAA Annual Meeting. She has also processed the George H. Kelley Papers and put the finding aid on the Online Archive of California, and is currently updating the Mai Arbegast Collection. She has completed posting the online exhibit commemorating the Centennial of Department of Landscape Architecture and Environmental Planning as well as the Peace Garden virtual exhibit. http://exhibits.ced.berkeley.edu/

THE ARCHIVES WELCOMES THREE NEW STUDENT WORKERS....

Alison Ecker
Alison is a Master of City Planning student with a concentration in Urban Design. Prior to making her way to UC Berkeley, she spent a few years working on community development issues in New Orleans, and working with a road safety organization in Vietnam.

Sben Korsh
Sben is a first year in the M.S. Architecture History program. He has interned with several architecture nonprofits in New York, where he recently graduated with a B.A. in Architecture History from the City University of New York.

Brandon Wolinsky
Brandon is a senior, originally from Los Angeles, pursuing an Urban Studies and Environmental Economics & Policy double major.

NOT INVITED?

We missed seeing many of you at the recent exhibit lectures. As we become increasingly conscious of our environmental impact, we are sending out invitations to events via e-mail. Please let us know your current e-mail address by sending an e-mail to the archives: designarchives@berkeley.edu

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Thanks!