NEWS AND CURRENT EVENTS

upcoming exhibit...

A Handful of Clay: The Legacy of Edith Heath

Edith Heath, circa 1955

From just a handful of clay, ceramicist Edith Heath pioneered a design aesthetic that continues to inspire today and earned her a rare AIA gold medal for a non-architect. Her focus on simplicity, functionality, and durability blends the line between daily use and Sunday best and continues to have a lasting impact on the design community. Heath products, from tile to stoneware, have been recognized internationally for their quality and vision. The exhibition explores her life as an artist and ceramicist, as well as her collaborations with architects. Materials come from the Environmental Design Archives, the Brian and Edith Heath Foundation, and Heath Ceramics.

On view from:
May 22, 2014 - September 19, 2014

Lecture by Heath biographer Jennifer Doublet followed by a panel discussion Thursday, May 22 at 7:00pm.

Exhibit and Lecture
Environmental Design Library
Volkmann Reading Room
210 Wurster Hall, University of California, Berkeley

Curators: Jessie Durant & Emily Vigor

ARCHIVES HONORED BY AIA-SF

The Environmental Design Archives was honored with a Special Commendation at the 2014 AIA –SF annual Awards Gala. Received by Curator Waverly Lowell, the presenter stated “The UC Berkeley Environmental Design Archives houses Northern California’s premiere collection of historic architecture and landscape architecture records. It is always sharing information, whether through its archives or exhibitions such as Unbuilt San Francisco: Ambition and Imagination and Planning with Nature: 100 Years of Landscape Architecture at UC Berkeley. The jury commended the Environmental Design Archives as a valuable and fully accessible resource for both professionals and students.”

WELCOME
CHRIS MARINO

The Environmental Design Archives (EDA) happily welcomed Chris Marino as the new Reference & Outreach Archivist. She comes to Berkeley from the Architecture and Design Collection at UC Santa Barbara where she worked as the Project Archivist. Hailing originally from Los Angeles, Chris received her Masters of Library and Information Science degree with specialization in Archival Studies from UCLA. She holds a Bachelor’s degree from UC San Diego in Ethnic Studies.

Chris brings her passion for architectural records, research, access, and education, as well as two years of experience processing collections, providing research assistance, and curating the exhibitions Year of Rebellion: The 1970 Isla Vista Riots, Photographs by Joseph S. Melchione. (Art, Design & Architecture Museum, UC Santa Barbara), and Unbuilt Santa Barbara (Jane Deering Gallery, UCSB).
EDA ON DISPLAY/ IN PRINT

- The LACMA exhibit Living in a Modern Way: California Design, 1930-1965 which includes a number of EDA objects is presently showing at the Peabody Museum in Salem, MA.

- Photographs and drawings from the Beatrix Farrand Collection were loaned to the New York Botanical Gardens for their exhibit entitled Groundbreakers: Great American Gardens & The Women Who Designed Them, and will also be featured in the accompanying catalog.

- Images from the Douglas and Maggie Baylis Collection, the Philip Fein Collection, Thomas D. Church Collection, and the Garett Eckbo collection were featured in CA-Modern Magazine in an article entitled “Six Pioneers of Outdoor living.”

- Images from the George Rockrise Collection will be in the 2014 Venice Biennale exhibition within the American Pavilion and the accompanying catalog.

- Valencia Gardens General Site Plan, from the William Wurster Collection, was published in More than Shelter: Activism and Community in San Francisco Public Housing by Amy L. Howard.

- Plans and photographs of Easter Hill Village in Richmond, California designed by Vernon DeMars and Donald L. Hardison was published in the journal of the International Confederation of Architectural Museums icam print 05 publication, which focused in part on social housing.

FROM THE CURATOR

Dear Friends,

The Archives is fully staffed these days more than at any time in the past 15 years as a result of a few very generous gifts from our supporters and collection donors. We are delighted to have Chris Marino, our new Reference and Outreach Archivist, and continued contributions from Emily Vigor, Collections Archivist and Cailin Swarm, Assistant Archivist and In-house designer.

The Archives launched a fabulous new website. More exciting and visual than the one we have used since – believe it or not – 2000, we have updated the helpful and useful aspects of the old one, divided the list of collections to facilitate locating designers, added lots of new images, and added special features including a monthly staff blog, a highlighted collection, and breaking news.

http://archives.ced.berkeley.edu/
We’ve all been very busy working with Cathy Simon and Karen Alschuler to transfer the SMWM records to the Archives and we have also been working with designers Ron Herman, Jim Jennings, and the families of Donald Hisaka and Don Hardison to transfer their records to the Archives. We’re also lucky to still have archivist Jessie Durant working part-time on the Edith Heath Collection, and students Fiona Brodie and Andrew Manuel.

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

Thank you,
Waverly Lowell, Curator

NEW ACQUISITIONS

Architects John Field and Claude Stoller have generously donated records from their long practices to the Archives.

The family of architect Tallie Maul has also graciously donated material from his design practice.

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.

A Japanese archivist working in the office of Kenzo Tange visited the EDA to see how we manage our architectural records.

• A PhD candidate from Politechnique School of Architecture in Madrid Spain visited the Archives to research Eichler homes in the Oakland & Imada Collection.

• An undergraduate student from the University of Hawaii came to the Archives to view the Thomas Church Collection for a class paper.

• Staff from the Fine Arts Museum of San Francisco came to look at drawings and ephemera relating to the 1915 Panama Pacific International Exposition for an upcoming exhibit.

VISUAL RESOURCE CENTER

The CED Visual Resources Center (VRC) is currently working on rehousing and organizing slides from the Robert Royston Collection that document projects from the 1960s -1980s. Of particular interest are views of California towns and places before and after being designed by RHAA, aerial views of Santa Barbara, and town plazas, civic parks, and educational campuses in California and Western states. The VRC is also moving digital images from the SPIRO website to the UC Shared Shelf website that uses the ARTstor image library platform. This move will result in greater exposure, enhanced searching, and easier use, for the more than 90,000 digital images in the collection.
CED Visual Resources Librarian Jason Miller continues assisting faculty and students, and managing the digitizing of legacy slides and items from the Archives. He also is serving as the affiliated library representative on the Executive Board of the Librarians Association of UC Berkeley (LAUC-B).

Collections Archivist Emily Vigor and Assistant Archivist Cailin Swarm have been processing the Timothy L. Pflueger papers which are held by the Bancroft Library. Vigor recently received a Digital Archives Specialist (DAS) certification through the Society of American Archivists, and will use this to appraise, preserve, and provide access to electronic records in EDA collections. She will be presenting a paper about the EDA’s “Is This Your Eichler” crowdfunding campaign at the annual meeting of the Society of American Archivists. She is also serving on the LAUC-B professional development committee.

Assistant Archivist Cailin Swarm selected the images and made other elegant contributions to the new EDA Website. We congratulate her and T.J. on their upcoming wedding. Along with Chris and Emily, she will be attending the Society of California Archivists meeting this Spring.


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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 at designarchives@berkeley.edu.

THANKS!