



DESIGN AND THE ARTS SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

CALVIN STRAUB COLLECTION

Collection #: MS MSS 14

Location: DESIGN AND THE ARTS SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

Drawings, manuscripts, videos: c. 1940s-1990s

No. of Items: 38 oversize folders, 57 oversize panels, 4 boxes, c. 10 In. ft.

Biographical Note

Calvin C. Straub was born on March 16, 1920 in Macon, Georgia. His family moved frequently when he was young, at times living in Georgia, New York, and California. After graduating high school, he attended Pasadena Junior College in California and then Texas A & M University. Just before War World II, Straub married Sylvia Gates (1920–1974), a granddaughter of William Day Gates, founder of the American Terracotta company. During the war, Straub enrolled in the V-12 Navy College Training Program, which allowed him to finish his education while awaiting active deployment in the military. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in architecture from the University of Southern California in 1943 and deployed with the U.S. Navy the following year.

Following the war, Straub returned to California and accepted a teaching position at his alma mater, the University of Southern California, in 1946. He remained at the school until 1961, eventually becoming dean of the College of Architecture and establishing a successful architectural career as a partner in the firm Buff, Straub & Hensman, 1954-1960. His designs in

California reflected both artisan and midcentury modern styles and became widely known through the architectural photography of Julius Shulman.

In 1961, Straub accepted a teaching position in the College of Architecture at Arizona State University and established his own architectural practice in Arizona. His work in Arizona was a bridge between the California arts and crafts architects and the desert modernists. While at Arizona State University, Straub authored the book *The Man-made Environment: An Introduction to World Architecture and Design*, published in 1983. He also travelled the world extensively for his world architecture lecture course, attended by over 12,000 students over his tenure at the university. Straub retired from Arizona State University in 1988 and died in 1998.

Scope and Content Note

The collection, which represents mostly residential projects, reflects Straub's design activities in both Arizona and California. It is comprised of 39 folders of drawings, 3 stacks of oversize panels, and four boxes comprised of textual records, plaques, and video tapes. The bulk of the collection consists of oversize materials, mostly construction documents including perspectives, plans, elevations, sections, and details organized by project sets in individual folders and arranged alphabetically by client name. Most of the drawings are pencil on vellum or ink on mylar, including some sets which are diazo prints. For some projects, oversize specification documents are included with the drawings. Of particular note is the photo panels series (Series Two) which includes photo prints of various Straub works. Most of the photos are the work of prominent architectural photographer Julius Shulman. Others are by Henry Hoag. The prints are generally mounted on boards that measure 40" by 40." A miscellaneous textual records series (Series Five) includes biographical information about Mr. Straub and his lengthy career. Some artifacts such as plaques are also contained within the holdings.

Provenance

The collection was donated to ASU's Architectural and Environmental Design Library (now the Design and the Arts Library) in 1993 and 1995 by Calvin Straub. Additional drawings and sketches of the Danto Residence were donated by Todd Voelker in 2019.

Container List

Series 1: Drawings, c. 1952-1991

Location: Map Case 153G R3 D1

Folder 1 Mr. & Mrs. Richard Andeen Residence, Mummy Mountain, Paradise Valley, AZ, 1963, 10 sheets

Folder 1A Mr. & Mrs. Richard Andeen Residence, Mummy Mountain, Paradise Valley, AZ, 1963, 29 sheets

Folder 2 Mr. & Mrs. Peter Bidstrup Residence Addition, Lot No. 4 Las Casas Escondidos, North 4th Street, Paradise Valley, AZ, 1987, 16 sheets

Folder 3 Mr. & Mrs. George E. Brandow Residence, Virginia Road, San Marino, CA, 1953, 20 sheets

Folder 3A Mr. & Mrs. George E. Brandow Residence, Remodeling Duplicates and study for studio bedroom remodeling (trace over blue prints), Virginia Road, San Marino, CA, 1953, 3 sheets

Folder 4 Mr. and Mrs. Charles Butler Residence, North 39th Street, Paradise Valley, AZ, 1968, 17 sheets

Folder 5 Mr. and Mrs. Paul Caler Residence, Altura Avenue, Glendale, CA, 1952, 8 sheets

Folder 6 Cardio-Pulmonary Associates Medical Facility, 915 East Willetta, Phoenix, AZ, 1970, 17 sheets

Folder 7 Crippled Childrens' Society/Regional Center, Del Mar Boulevard at Kinneloa Avenue, Pasadena, CA, 1966-68, 31 sheets

Location: Map Case 153G R3 D2

Folder 8 Mr. and Mrs. Craig Cummins Residence, 333 North Westwood Street, Mesa, AZ, 1971, 14 sheets

Folder 9 Dr. & Mrs. Julius Danto Residence, Lot #4, Conejo Estates, Arlington Road, Scottsdale, AZ, 1985, 20 sheets

Folder 10 Mr. and Mrs. John C. Ellinwood Residence, Homestead Lane, Paradise Valley, AZ, 1965, 14 sheets

Folder 11 Mr. and Mrs. Robert Ellis Residence, Lot #6 'The Peak' Development, Grand Vista Drive, Scottsdale, AZ, 1985, 14 sheets

Folder 12 Mr. & Mrs. Milton Farbstein Residence, Los Angeles County, CA, 1956, 11 sheets

Folder 13 Mr. & Mrs. Paul H. Fischer Residence, 21 Mandeville Canyon Road, Los Angeles, CA, 1953, 12 sheets

Folder 14 Frank Hall South Campus Dining Facility, Pomona College, Claremont, CA, 1980, 16 sheets (3 of which are duplicates/reproductions)

Folder 15 Mr. and Mrs. Richard Frank Residence, Parcel 2, Access via 820 Hillside Terrace, Pasadena, CA, 1980, 24 sheets

Folder 16 Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Hubble Residence, 1944 Ocean Way, Laguna Beach, CA, 1971, 13 sheets

Location: Map Case 153G R3 D3

Folder 17 Kaiser Aetna Corporation/Pace Setter House, 7001 North Scottsdale Road, Scottsdale, AZ, 1971, 15 sheets

Folder 18 Mr. & Mrs. Gerald Labiner Residence, 1501 Rising Glen Road, Los Angeles, CA, 1956, 11 sheets

Folder 19 Lawry's Foods Inc., 568 San Fernando Road, Los Angeles, CA, 1966, 19 sheets

Folder 20 Mr. & Mrs. C.E. Mello Residence, 541 Fremont Drive, Pasadena, CA, 1956, 10 sheets

Folder 21 Mr. & Mrs. Carter Norris Residence, Paradise Hills, Phoenix, AZ, 1964, 30 sheets (13 of which are duplicates/reproductions)

Folder 22 Mr. & Mrs. John J. O'Connor III Residence, 3651 East Denton Lane, Phoenix, AZ, 1964, 4 sheets

Folder 23 Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Parsons Residence, 1st Preliminary, Santa Rosa, CA, 1990, 9 sheets

Folder 24 Pomona College Administrative Facility, Claremont, CA, 1985, 3 sheets

Folder 25 Rim Institute, Young-Colcord Road, Payson, AZ, 1983, 8 sheets

Location: Map Case 153G R3 D4

Folder 26 Salvation Army Day Nursery Playground, 836 South Stanford Street, Los Angeles, CA, 1954, 5 sheets

Folder 27 Simon Residence, Friendly Hills, Whittier, CA, 1961-1962, 22 sheets

Folder 27A Simon Residence Duplicates, Friendly, Hills, Whittier, CA, 1961-1962, 6 sheets

Folder 28 Mr. and Mrs. Calvin C. Straub Residence, Phoenix, AZ, 1963, 8 sheets

Folder 29 Additions and Remodeling to a Residence for Mrs. Jean Sun, 4129 East Sandy Mountain Road, Clearwater Hills #2, Paradise Valley, AZ, 1983, 5 sheets

Folder 30 Mr. and Mrs. William C. Taylor Residence, Los Angeles, CA, 1962, 14 sheets

Folder 31 Mr. & Mrs. James Toland Residence, Cheltenham Drive, Los Angeles, CA, 1952, 7 sheets

Folder 32 Tonio's #3 Restaurant, Newport Center, Newport Beach, CA, 1971-1972, 17 sheets

Folder 33 Western Savings and Loan Association #1, 44th Street and Camelback Road Branch, Phoenix, AZ, 1971, 23 sheets

Folder 34 Western Savings and Loan Association #2, Fashion Square North, Scottsdale, AZ, 1972, 17 sheets

Folder 35 Mr. & Mrs. Marcus Whiffen Residence, East Exeter Boulevard, Phoenix, AZ, 1963, 13 sheets

Series 2: Photo Panels, 1947-1993

Items 1-7 The Architecture of Calvin Straub—Retrospective Exhibit of Work, 1947–1987 (Housed in Map Case 153G R7 D14)

Item 8 Early Work: The Straub Cottage, 1947, and Kenneth and Patty Brown House, 1948 (Housed in Map Case 153G R3 Oversize)

Item 9 Idyllwild School of Music and the Arts, Idyllwild, CA, 1949 (Housed in Map Case 153G R3 Oversize)

Item 10 Sedlachek House, 1949 (Housed in Map Case 153G R3 Oversize)

Items 11-12 Calvin and Sylvia Straub Residence, Altadena, CA, 1951 (Housed in Map Case 153G R3 Oversize)

Item 13 Mr. and Mrs. George Brandow Residence, San Marino, CA, 1953 (Housed in Map Case 153G R3 Oversize)

Item 14 Mr. and Mrs. George Brandow Residence, San Marino, CA, 1953 (Housed in Map Case 153G R7 D14)

Item 15 Mrs. Virginia Fischer Residence, Pacific Palisades, CA, 1954 (Housed in Map Case 153G R3 Oversize)

Item 16 Mr. and Mrs. Richard Frank Residence, Pasadena, CA, 1956 (Housed in Map Case 153G R3 Oversize)

Item 17 Mr. and Mrs. Walter Van de Kamp Residence, Beverly Hills, CA, 1957 (Housed in Map Case 153G R3 Oversize)

Items 18-19 Lawry's Foods, Inc. California Center, Los Angeles, CA, 1958 (Housed in Map Case 153G R3 Oversize)

- Item 20 Mr. and Mrs. Duffy Edwards Residence, Beverly Hills, CA, 1958 (Housed in Map Case 153G R3 Oversize)
- Item 21 Jack Thompson Residence, Pasadena, CA, 1959 (Housed in Map Case 153G R3 Oversize)
- Item 22 Jack Thompson Residence, Pasadena, CA, 1959 (Housed in Map Case 153G WR Oversize)
- Items 23-26 Mr. and Mrs. Donald Simon Residence, Whittier, CA, 1961 (Housed in Map Case 153G R3 Oversize)
- Item 26A Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Parsons residence, Kenwood, CA, 1992 (Housed in Map Case 153G R3 Oversize)
- Items 27-28 Mr. and Mrs. Marcus Whiffen Residence, Phoenix, AZ, 1963 (Housed in Map Case 153G WR Oversize)
- Item 29 Mr. and Mrs. Richard Andeen Residence, Paradise Valley, AZ, 1963 (Housed in Map Case 153G WR Oversize)
- Item 30 Mr. and Mrs. Richard Andeen Residence, Paradise Valley, AZ, 1963 (Housed in Map Case 153G WR Oversize)
- Items 31-32 Mr. and Mrs. Carter Norris Residence, Paradise Valley, AZ, photos and drawings, 1964 (Housed in Map Case 153G WR Oversize)
- Item 33 “Calvin Straub Advocates Worldly-Wise Architecture” enlargement of article from ASU Insight, 1993 (Housed in Map Case 153G WR Oversize)
- Item 34 Mr. and Mrs. Carter Norris Residence, Paradise Valley, AZ, electrical plan, 1964 (Housed in Map Case 153G WR Oversize)
- Item 35 Photo collage of Straub and house interior, undated (Housed in Map Case 153G WR Oversize)
- Item 36 Newspaper article and letter: “Dr. Salerno, Calvin Straub Are Faculty Award Winners,” enlargement of newspaper article; enlargement of letter from D. Hershberger to Sylvia Straub, 1971 (Housed in Map Case 153G WR Oversize)
- Item 37 Andeen House drawing, undated (Housed in Map Case 153G WR Oversize)
- Item 38 “Architect Will Join ASU Faculty,” enlargement of newspaper article, undated (Housed in Map Case 153G WR Oversize)
- Item 39A Enlargement of California State Board of Architectural Examiners license to practice architecture, 1956 (Housed in Map Case 153G WR Oversize)

Item 39B American Institute of Architects and Sunset Magazine Western Home Awards honor award to Buff, Straub & Hensman for the Jack Thompson House, Pasadena, California, 1961-62 (Housed in Map Case 153G WR Oversize)

Item 39C Award of Honor from the Pasadena Chapter of The American Institute of Architects to Dr. Walter Thompson, Jr. (owner and builder) and Buff, Straub & Hensman (architects) for the Dr. Walter Thompson Residence, San Marino, CA 1962 (Housed in Map Case 153G WR Oversize)

Item 39D Certificate of Fellowship from The American Institute of Architects, 1969 (Housed in Map Case 153G WR Oversize)

Item 40 Western Savings and Loan Association Branch Savings Office, Phoenix, AZ, 1971 (Housed in Map Case 153G R3 Oversize)

Item 41 Design Process and Communications: A Case Study, second edition, book by Calvin Straub, 1982 (Housed in Map Case 153G WR Oversize)

Item 42 Bidstrup Residence, Paradise Valley, AZ, 1983 (Housed in Map Case 153G WR Oversize)

Items 43-43A Bidstrup Residence, Paradise Valley, AZ, 1983 (Housed in Map Case 153G WR Oversize)

Item 44 Frank Hall Student Dining Facility at Pomona College, Pomona, CA 1983 (Housed in Map Case 153G WR Oversize)

Item 45 Dr. and Mrs. Julius Danto Residence, Scottsdale, AZ, 1986 (Housed in Map Case 153G WR Oversize)

Item 46 Mr. and Mrs. Robert Ellis Residence, Scottsdale, AZ, 1987 (Housed in Map Case 153G WR Oversize)

Item 47 "Village Housing,' Village at Camelback, undated (Housed in Map Case 153G WR Oversize)

Items 48-49 The Case Study House Program of Arts and Architecture Magazine, information panels, 1945-1962 (Housed in Map Case 153G WR Oversize)

Items 50-53 Case Study House #20, Altadena, CA, 1959 (Housed in Map Case 153G WR Oversize)

Item 54 Alex Mosely Residence, Pasadena, CA, undated (Housed in Map Case 153G WR Oversize)

Item 55 William Taylor Residence, Sierra Madre, CA, undated (Housed in Map Case 153G WR Oversize)

Items 56-57 Cal Straub and Partners (Buff, Straub, and Hensman), 1974 (Housed in Map Case 153G WR Oversize)

Series 3: Specifications, 1980s

Box 1

Folder 1 Mr. and Mrs. Robert Ellis Residence, 1987

Folder 2 Dr. and Mrs. Julius L. Danto Residence, 1986

Folder 3 Mr. and Mrs. G. Peter Bidstrup Residence, 1980, 1987

Folder 4 Mr. and Mrs. Richard Frank Residence, 1980-1982

Series 4: Sketches, 1980s

Folder 1 Mexico Sketchbook, 1988

Folder 2 Sketch Illustrations for "World is a Picnic and Man-Made Environment," n.d.

Folder 3 Sketches and Text, "The Ancient Ruins Speak ...," 1989

Series 5: Miscellaneous, 1940s-1990s

Folder 1 Misc. Clippings, 1947-1993

Folder 2 Misc. Instructional Materials, 1980s

Folder 3 Misc. Printed Matter, 1960s-1990s

Folder 4 Miscellany, 1960s-1980s

Folder 5 Taylor Residence Photo Prints, 1962

Series 6: Oversize Miscellany, 1950s-1980s

Box 2

Volume 1 *Design Process & Communications: A Case Study* by Calvin C. Straub, 1975, 1982 (2nd edition, 1982)

Volume 2 *Design Process & Communications: A Case Study* by Calvin C. Straub, 1975

Folder 1 Certificates, 1940s-1990s

Folder 1A Photo Prints (mounted)—Taylor Residence, 1962

Folder 2 Photo Boards—Case Study House #20 (1), #2675 (1), #2675 (9)

Folder 3 Photo Boards—Case Study House #20 (2), #2675 (17)

Folder 4 Photo Boards—Case Study House #20 (3), #2675 (29), #2675 (30)

Folder 5 Photo Boards—Lawry's Foods

Folder 6 Photo Boards—Sheldon Graham Residence, Jeremy Sheel Residence

Folder 7 Photo Boards—Jack Thompson Residence (#3215-8), Frank Hall South Campus Dining Facility (perspective)

Series 7: Plaques, 1971-1994

Box 3

Envelope 1 ASU Faculty Achievement Award, 1971 (incl. news clipping)

Envelope 2 National Higher Education Week Recognition, 1985

Envelope 3 Distinguished Alumnus of the USC School of Architecture, 1994

Envelope 4 ASU Design Review Board, n.d.

Series 8: Videos, 1980s

Box 4

Item 1 "The Case Study House Program," Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, 1989, rec: VHS T-120: 60 min.

Item 2 "Cal Straub's Forty Years of Architecture Party," c. 1987 at Arizona State University, rec: VHS T-120: c. 60 min.

Item 3 Cal Straub Architecture Lectures, c. 1980s, rec: VHS T-120: c. 120 min

Finding aid by Dennis D. Madden, Stephen Rich, Gina M. Sambolin (October 1994 and October 1995)

Updated by Harold Housley (December 2019)