

Guide to the Louis Isadore Kahn Collection

MS 1345



preliminary inventory prepared by Tawny Ryan Nelb

August 1982

Yale University Library
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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Manuscripts and Archives
Yale University Library
P.O. Box 208240
New Haven, CT 06520-8240
(203) 432-1735
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CALL NUMBER: MS 1345

CREATOR: Kahn, Louis I., 1901-1974

TITLE: Louis Isadore Kahn collection

DATES: 1951-1978

BULK DATES: 1962-1977

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 8.5 linear feet

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: The collection consists of publications on or by Louis Kahn and photographs of structures designed by Kahn.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.1345>

Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Manuscripts and Archives reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.1345>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please go to http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/ifr_copy_order.html. The information you will need to submit an order includes: the collection call number, collection title, series or accession number, box number, and folder number or name.

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b. box

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Transferred from the Yale Center for British Art, 1978, 1997; transferred from the Art and Architecture Library, 1999. Gift of Dale Gibbs, 2004. Gift of Nurur Rahman Kahn, 2005.

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

Copyright status for collection materials is unknown. Transmission or reproduction of materials protected by U.S. Copyright Law (Title 17, U.S.C.) beyond that allowed by fair use requires the written permission of the copyright owners. Works not in the public domain cannot be commercially exploited without permission of the copyright owners. Responsibility for any use rests exclusively with the user.

Preferred Citation

Louis Isadore Kahn Collection (MS 1345). Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

Biographical / Historical

Architect; b. Island of Osel, Russia, brought to U.S., 1905, naturalized, 1915; B. Arch., U. Pa., 1924; private practice architecture, 1953-1974; prof. architecture, U. Pa., 1957-1974, named to Paul Philippe Cret chair in architecture, 1966-1971, emeritus, 1971-1974; prof. architecture, Yale, 1952-1957; among his principal works are the Yale Art Gallery and the Yale Center for British Art.

Scope and Contents

This material was collected by the Librarian of the British Art Center at Yale University in the years following the Center's construction. It was transferred to Manuscripts and Archives in 1978 along with 930 prints of architectural drawings of the British Art Center and several original Kahn sketches which were put into the Architectural Archives Collection (YRG 46A).

This unprocessed material is made up largely of publications on or by Louis Kahn covering a span from 1962-1975. The books and articles discuss Kahn's life, art, buildings, and his architecture and design theories.

In addition there is some miscellaneous correspondence and photographs of the Exeter Library, Louis Kahn, British Art Center construction, models, and interiors and a substantial number of photographs of architectural drawings, many of which were used in the production of Jules Prown's book *The Architecture of the Yale Center for British Art* (1977). The copyright to these photographs is unclear.

Collection Contents

Original accession

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| b.1 | Publications on/by Kahn |
| b.1 | "Building with Spent Light," <i>Time</i> . 15 january 1973, pp. 60-65.
English |
| b.1 | "Within the Folds of Construction," <i>The Architectural Forum</i> . october 1973, pp. 27-35.
English |
| b.1 | Entire issue devoted to Kahn, <i>The Architectural Forum</i> . july/august 1972 |
| b.1 | "Lighting Starts with Daylight," <i>Progressive Architecture</i> . september 1973, pp. 82-85.
English |
| b.1 | News release, Yale University News Bureau, by Jules D. Prown. 27 october 1969. "Structure and Form," Louis I. Kahn. <i>The Voice of America Forum Architecture Lecture Series</i> . no date. |
| b.1 | "Kahn's Kimbell: A building in praise of nature and light," pp. 84-91, no date nor publication indicated.
English |
| b.1 | Copy of speech given by Louis I. Kahn on the occasion of presentation of the AIA 1971 Gold Medal, 24 June 1971. |
| b.1 | Entire issue devoted to Kahn, <i>Global Architecture</i> , 1971. |
| b.1 | Wurman, Richard Saul and Feldman, Eugene, eds. and designers. <i>The Notebooks and Drawings of Louis I. Kahn</i> . Philadelphia: The Falcon Press, 1962. |
| b.1A | Ronner, Heinz; Jhaveri, Sharad and Vasella, Alessandro. <i>Louis I. Kahn, Complete Work 1935-1974</i> . Zurich: Institute for the History and Theory of Architecture, The Swiss Federal Institute of Technology, 1977. |
| | Publications on/by Kahn |
| b.2 | Entire issue devoted to Kahn, <i>l'architecture aujourd'hui Louis I. Kahn</i> february/march 1969. |
| b.2 | Entire issue devoted to Kahn, <i>Global Architecture</i> , no date, no. 35 in a series. |
| b.2 | "Louis I. Kahn Silence and Light," <i>A&U Architecture and Urbanism</i> . vol. 3, no date.
English |
| b.2 | "The Room, the Street and Human Agreement," Louis I. Kahn. <i>AIA Journal</i> . september 1971, pp. 33-34.
English |
| b.2 | "Louis Kahn's Yale University Centre for British Art and British Studies," Peer Smithson. <i>RIBA Journal</i> . april 1976, pp. 149-151. <i>Yale Revue</i> . 5 february 1975, p. 12.
English |

Publications on/by Kahn (continued)

- b. 2 "Architecture: Silence and Light," Louis I. Kahn. *On the Future of the Art*. New York: The Viking Press, 1970, pp. 21-35.
English
-
- b. 2 "How am I doing, wonder? Reflections on Louis Kahn," Richard Weinstein and Charles Moore. *The New Journal*. 22 april 1974, pp. 6-8.
English
-
- b. 2 "Quality shops planned for Mellon Center," *The Yale Graduate/Professional*. 24 January 1974, pp. 3 and 8.
English
-
- b. 2 "Mellon Center: Art Treasure...", *Yale Daily News*. 10 october 1973, p. 4.
English
-
- b. 2 "Louis I. Kahn, Foremost American Architect, Dies," Paul Goldberger; "Kahn's Buildings Blended Logic, Power and Grace," Ada Louise Huxtable, *The New York Times*, 21 march 1974, p. 46.
English
-
- Books, publications of/by Louis Kahn:
- b. 3 *The Architectural Review* January 1974
-
- b. 3 "The University Museum: Accidental past, purposeful future," John R. Spencer, *Art in America*, jul/aug 1971, pp. 84-90.
English
-
- b. 3 *Modern Design and Construction*. publication of the George B.H. Macomber Company, may 1969 and june 1973.
English
-
- b. 3 *Global Architecture*. Louis I. Kahn--Yale University Art Gallery and Kimbell Art Museum. 1976.
English
-
- b. 3 "Edison Price: his name is no accident," Stanley Abercrombie. *Architecture Plus*, august 1973, pp. 35-43.
English
-
- b. 3 "Louis Kahn: Greatest of His Time," *The New Haven Register*. 31 march 1974, p. F5.
English
-
- b. 3 "The Meaning of a Wall," Ada Louise Huxtable. *The New York Times*. 7 april 1974, no page number.
English
-
- b. 3 "Louis I. Kahn (1901-1974): education and inspiration," Vincent J. Scully, Jr., *Yale Daily News*. 15 april 1974, p. 2.
English
-
- b. 3 *Almanac*. The University of Pennsylvania, 26 march 1974, p. 2. Nilsson, Sten. *The New Capitals of India, Pakistan and Bangladesh*. Sweden: Scandinavian Institute of Asian Studies Monograph Series, 1973, pp. 183-219.
English

Books, publications of/by Louis Kahn: (continued)

- b. 3 *Carlo Scarpa*. Exhibition, Royal Institute of British Architects. feb-apr 1974, poem by Louis Kahn prefaces catalogue.
English
-
- b. 3 Cook, John W. and Klotz, Heinrich. *Conversation with Architects*. New York: Praeger Publishers, 1973, pp. 178-219.
-
- b. 3 "The Architect and the Building," *Bryn Mawr Alumnae Bulletin*. summer, 1962, pp. 2-5.
English
-
- b. 3 "Architecture Alive on Campus: Erdman Hall," *Bryn Mawr Alumnae Bulletin*. fall 1965, pp. 2-9.
English
-
- b. 3 "Debts Imperil Future of Kahn's Archives," Paul Goldberger. *The New York Times*. 8 may 1974, no page number.
English
-
- b. 3 *The Salk Institute*. 1968.
-
- b. 3 "Postscript: Kahn, Penn and the Philadelphia School," Mimi Lobell, *Oppositions* 4. october 1974, pp. 63-64; "The Space Between," Alison and Peter Smithson, pp. 75-78.
English
-
- b. 3 Memorial to Louis I. Kahn 1901-1974, program for a tribute to Louis Kahn on 12 may 1974, copy of remarks by Jules D. Prown.
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- b. 3 "Kahn: a singular passion for architecture,"Carolynn Meinhardt, *The Westsider*. 28 march 1974, p. 8.
English
-
- b. 3 "The Museum Explosion," Douglas Davis. *Newsweek*. 17 september 1973, pp. 88-89. *Louis I. Kahn, Architect. Richards Medical Research Building*. Museum of Modern Art Bulletin, 1961.
English
-
- b. 3 "At the University," Scott R, Herhold, *Yale Alumni Magazine*. april 1972, pp. 30-31 Brawne, Michael. *The New Museum*. New York: Praeger Press, 1965, pp. 10, 14, 16, 20, 27, 133-134.
English
-
- b. 3 "Kahn," Norman Rice. *Architecture*. may/June 1974, pp. 102-107.
English
-
- b. 3 "British Center at Yale: End of the Beginning," Michael Lassell. *The New Haven Register*, 4 january 1976, pp. 1D and 4D.
English
-
- b. 3 L'héritage de Louis Kahn, Jacques Michel. *Le Monde*. 14 march 1975, p. 26. *The American Academy of Arts and Letters and The National Institute of Arts and Letters Exhibition of work by newly elected members and recipients of honors and awards*. may/june 1973.
-
- b. 3 Harrison, Laurence S. *Report on the Deteriorating Effects of Modern Light Sources*. no date.

Books, publications of/by Louis Kahn: (continued)

- b. 3 Scully, Vincent, Jr. *Louis I. Kahn*. New York: George Braziller, 1962. Heimsath, Clovis. *Pioneer Texas Buildings, A Geometry Lesson*. Forward by Louis I. Kahn. Austin and London: The University of Texas Press, 1968. Bryan, James and Sauer, Rolf, eds. *Structures Implicit and Explicit*. Philadelphia: The Graduate School of Fine Arts, The University of Pennsylvania, 1973, pp. 158-161.
- b. 3 *Proposals for the Library at the Phillips Exeter Academy*. no date. *Architecture*. The John William Lawrence Memorial Lectures, The Tulane University School of Architecture. Louis Isadore Kahn, 1972.
- b. 3 *Visionary Architects*. The University of St. Thomas, Houston, 1968, pp. 9-10. *Bulletin*. Philadelphia Museum of Art. spring 1974, pp. 56-57.
- b. 3 *Bulletin*. Philadelphia Chapter, AIA. april 1974, pp. 2-7. *Kahn. Louis I. Kahn: Talks with Students*. *Architecture at Rice* 26. Rice University, 1969. English
- b. 3 *The Art of Design Management*. The Tiffany/Wharton Lectures. New York: Tiffany & Co., 1975.
- b. 3 Xeroxes of a bibliography on Kahn
- b. 3 Miscellaneous printed material by/about Louis Kahn, 1954, 1972-1978, n.d.

Photos

- b. 4 Exeter Library
- b. 4 Models of the British Art Centre
- b. 4 Hard hat tour of the BAC in construction: Mellon, Brewster and others.
- b. 4 Construction
- b. 4 Louis Kahn
- b. 4 Presentation drawing of skylight plan, BAC
- b. 4 Finished interior, BAC
- b. 4 Fourth floor elevator lobby and concrete stairwell
- b. 4 BAC site, October 1974
- b. 4 BAC site, August 1972--first day of demolition
- b. 4 [BAC site, July 1972 site before demolition and negatives.](#)
- b. 4 Lighting study for skylight, Richard Kelly, 10 May 1973.
- b. 4 Interiors, lobbies, etc.
- b. 4 Reception desk, theatre, main entrance, stairwell, detail: door, walls.
- b. 4 Second floor reference library
- b. 4 Assorted dignitaries on hard hat tour: Mellon, Kahn Brewster, others.

Photos (continued)

b. 4	Presentation drawings:	
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b. 4	Section/elevation	
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b. 4	Basement plan	
b. 4	Street-floor plan	
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b. 4	Transmittal letters from Pellecchia and Meyers to Marnie Halsey and E.P. Pillsbury, giving figures for final building footage.	
b. 4	1970 photos of Plans for BAC	
b. 4	First project roof garden and court	24 september 1970
b. 4	First project drawings	
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Photos (continued)

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b. 4	1 May 1974	1 May 1974
b. 4	4 June 1974	4 June 1974
b. 4	1 July 1974	1 July 1974
b. 4	1 August 1974	1 August 1974
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b. 4	4 March 1975	4 March 1975
b. 4	4 April 1975	4 April 1975
b. 4	1 May 1975	1 May 1975
b. 4	4 June 1975	4 June 1975
b. 4	10 June 1975	10 June 1975
b. 4	1 July 1975	1 July 1975
b. 4	1 August 1975	1 August 1975
b. 4	4 September 1975	4 September 1975
b. 4	1 October 1975	1 October 1975
b. 4	4 November 1975	4 November 1975
b. 4	5 December 1975	5 December 1975

Photos (continued)

b. 4	6 January 1976 (lecture hall outdoor court)	6 January 1976 (lecture hall outdoor court)
b. 4	Small color photos--construction, Paul Mellon and Louis Kahn with Kingman Brewster and others.	
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b. 5	Fourth floor plan	1971 March 8
b. 5	Second floor plan	1971 March 8
b. 5	Second floor mezzanine plan	1971 March 8
b. 5	Third floor plan	1971 March 8
b. 5	First floor mezzanine plan	1971 March 8
b. 5	First floor plan	1971 March 8
b. 5	Basement floor plan	1971 March 8

Photos and xeroxes > Photographs of second project sketches and plans (continued)

b. 5	West elevation	1971 March 3
b. 5	Elevation renderings	Circa 1971 March 8
b. 5	Drawing of display galleries	
b. 5	Isometric sketch of galleries	
b. 5	Drawing of gallery space	
b. 5	Sketch of gallery space	
b. 5	Models, interior and exterior, BAC	
b. 5	Skylight, construction, roof detail, wall, ceiling molding detail	
b. 5	Unidentified sketches by Louis Kahn (four black/white)	1973, undated

Accession 2005-M-008: Additional Material, 1951 April 28

Also includes Accession 2006-M-003

b.1	Black ink sketch signed and dated by Louis Kahn [possibly entitled "A Religious Place"]	1951 April 28
b.1	Six black and white photographs of the National Assembly complex in Dakha, Bangladesh, signed by Louis Kahn	1undated

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

Subjects

Architects
Architecture, Modern

Genres / Formats

Photographs

Names

Kahn, Louis I., 1901-1974