

Guide to the Richard Gamble Knight Papers

MS 1999



Compiled by Suzanne Noruschat and Christine Connolly

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Manuscripts and Archives
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CALL NUMBER: MS 1999

CREATOR: Knight, Richard Gamble

TITLE: Richard Gamble Knight papers

DATES: Circa 1952-2003

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 1.09 linear feet (9 boxes)

LANGUAGE: The material is in English.

SUMMARY: The papers comprise images captured during Richard Gamble Knight's tenure from 1957 to 1961 as an employee of the architectural firm Eero Saarinen and Associates, and during other periods of Knight's life, such as his student years. Consisting of photographic prints, negatives, and slides, the images range from projects designed by Saarinen and Associates (including Dulles International Airport, John Deere and Company, Trans World Flight Center, and CBS Building in New York), to candid shots of Saarinen and his employees at work and socializing, to photographic studies of architectural forms and details. Also included in the papers are audio recordings of interviews Knight conducted with five former Saarinen employees for his book, *Saarinen's Quest: A Memoir*, published in 2008.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.1999>

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.1999>.

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
f. folder

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of Judith Ann Lynch, 2013.

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Original audiovisual materials, as well as preservation and duplicating masters, may not be played. Researchers must consult use copies, or if none exist must pay for a use copy, which is retained by the repository. Researchers wishing to obtain an additional copy of non-commercially produced items for their personal use should consult the ordering reproductions information on the Manuscripts and Archives web site.

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Preferred Citation

Richard Gamble Knight Papers (MS 1999). Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

Related Materials

Eero Saarinen Collection (MS 593).

Biographical / Historical

Born in Flint, Michigan, on November 29, 1926, Richard Gamble Knight studied engineering and architecture at the University of Michigan (BS Engineering, 1951), the Cranbrook Academy of Art, and Lawrence Technical University (BS Architecture, 1957) in Southfield, Michigan. In 1957, Knight was hired as a junior architectural designer at Eero Saarinen and Associates in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, where he worked until Saarinen's death in 1961. A budding photographer as well as an architect, Knight succeeded Balthazar Korab as the firm's "court photographer," documenting the design process for clients and creating a visual record of the firm's activities and creative output. After Saarinen's death in 1961, Knight continued his career as an architect, and also took on roles as a graphic and interior designer, an instructor of design, a writer, and a prolific multimedia artist whose works were exhibited regularly. In 2008, Knight published *Saarinen's Quest: A Memoir* (San Francisco: William Stout Publishers), which focuses on Knight's time at Eero Saarinen and Associates, and features many of the photographs Knight took while employed at the firm. Knight died on December 16, 2008, in Alameda, California.

Scope and Contents

The papers comprise images captured during Richard Gamble Knight's tenure from 1957 to 1961 as an employee of the architectural firm Eero Saarinen and Associates, and during other periods of Knight's life, such as his student years. Consisting of photographic prints, negatives, and slides, the images range from projects designed by Saarinen and Associates (including Dulles International Airport, John Deere and Company, Trans World Flight Center, CBS Building in New York, and Morse and Stiles Colleges at Yale University), to candid shots of Saarinen and his employees at work and socializing, to photographic studies of architectural forms and details. Also included in the papers are audio recordings of interviews Knight conducted with five former Saarinen employees for his book, *Saarinen's Quest: A Memoir*, published in 2008.

Arrangement

The records are arranged in two series: I. Images: prints, negatives, and slides, circa 1952-circa 1979. II. Interviews conducted for *Saarinen's Quest: A Memoir*, 2001-2003.

Collection Contents

Series I: Images: prints, negatives, and slides, Circa 1952-circa 1979

Projects		
b. 1, f. 1	General contact sheets Images of the CBS Building, Jefferson National Expansion Memorial (St. Louis Gateway Arch), TWA terminal in New York, U.S. Embassy in London, and Yale University's Morse and Stiles residential colleges and the David Ingalls Rink.	Circa 1959
b. 1, f. 2	Bell Labs, Holmdel, New Jersey	1958, undated
b. 1, f. 3	CBS Building, New York, New York	1961, undated
b. 1, f. 4-5	Dulles International Airport, Washington D.C.	1959-1961, undated
b. 1, f. 6	General Motors Technical Center, Warren, Michigan	1955, undated
b. 1, f. 7	International Business Machines (IBM), Rochester, Minnesota, and Yorktown, New York	1958-1959, undated
b. 1, f. 8-9	Jefferson National Expansion Museum, St. Louis, Missouri This project is commonly referred to as the St. Louis Gateway Arch.	1960, undated
b. 1, f. 10	John Deere and Company Administrative Headquarters, Moline, Illinois	1958-1959, undated
b. 1, f. 11	Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) Chapel and Kresge Auditorium, Cambridge, Massachusetts	Circa 1957
b. 1, f. 12	Miller, J. Irwin, residence, Columbus, Indiana	Circa 1958
b. 1, f. 13	Milwaukee County War Memorial, Milwaukee, Wisconsin	Circa 1957
b. 1, f. 14	North Christian Church, Columbus, Indiana	1961, undated
b. 1, f. 15-16	Trans World Flight Center (TWA Terminal 5), JFK Airport, New York, New York	1958-1961, undated
b. 1, f. 17	United States Embassy, London, England	1958, undated
b. 1, f. 18	United States Embassy, Oslo, Norway	1958, undated
b. 2, f. 1	University of Pennsylvania, Women's Residence Hall, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania	1958, undated
b. 2, f. 2	Vassar College, Poughkeepsie, New York	Circa 1958
b. 2, f. 3	Vivian Beaumont Repertory Theater and Library Museum, New York, New York	1960
	Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut	
b. 2, f. 4	David S. Ingalls Hockey Rink	Circa 1959

Projects > Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut (continued)

b. 2, f. 5-9	New Colleges (Samuel F. B. Morse and Ezra Stiles Colleges)	1959-1965, undated
Eero Saarinen and Associates		
b. 2, f. 10	Bloomfield Hills office	Circa 1957
b. 2, f. 11	Eero Saarinen candid shots	Circa 1958
b. 2, f. 12	Office life	1959, undated
b. 2, f. 13	Office party (for Tony Lumsden?)	1959
b. 2, f. 14	Office staff for scale figures	1958
b. 2, f. 15	Saarinen house	Circa 1958
Personal		
Unidentified images in this series may have been projects Knight pursued as a student.		
b. 2, f. 16	Backgrounds	Circa 1952-circa 1979
b. 2, f. 17	Drawings	Circa 1952-circa 1979
b. 2, f. 18	Furniture	Circa 1952-circa 1979
b. 2, f. 19	Graphics and artwork, unidentified	Circa 1952-circa 1979
b. 2, f. 20	Illustrations for <i>Saarinen's Quest: A Memoir</i>	1959-1961
b. 2, f. 21	Jane Knight fiber art	Circa 1952-circa 1979
b. 2, f. 22	Miscellaneous architectural detail	1978-1981
b. 2, f. 23	Models, unidentified	Circa 1952-circa 1979
b. 2, f. 24	People, unidentified	1960s?
b. 2, f. 25	School projects	1950s
b. 2, f. 26	Sculpture and pottery	Circa 1952-circa 1979
b. 2, f. 27	Texture studies	Circa 1952-circa 1979

Series II: Interviews conducted for *Saarinen's Quest: A Memoir*, 2001-2003

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b. 3	Knorr, Don <i>1 Audiocassette</i>	2001 October 16
b. 4-5	Paulsen, Glen <i>2 Audiocassettes</i>	2002 August 8
b. 6	Pelli, Cesar <i>1 Audiocassette</i> Interview at his office, 1056 Chapel Street, New Haven, Connecticut.	2003 June 2
b. 8, 7	Pudists, Ruth Clements <i>2 Audiocassettes</i>	2002 August 12
b. 9	Roth, Harold <i>1 Audiocassette</i> Interview at his office, Roth & Moore Architects, 65 Audubon Street, New Haven, Connecticut.	2003 May 31

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

Architecture, American -- 20th Century
Architecture, Modern -- 20th Century
Architecture -- 20th Century -- United States

Genres / Formats

Architectural drawings (visual works)
Architectural records

Names

Knight, Richard Gamble
Pelli, Cesar
Saarinen, Eero, 1910-1961

Corporate Bodies

CBS Building (New York, N.Y.)
Trans World Airlines Terminal (New York, N.Y.)