Biographical Sketch

Prior to joining the Arizona State University faculty in 1961, Calvin Straub maintained a successful practice in California and taught at the University of Southern California. In the Los Angeles area alone, he designed nearly fifty homes during his career. Straub's philosophy that architecture is place, culture, and climate is evident in his work. For more than twenty-five years at ASU, Straub taught multi-culturalism in architecture. In addition to his teaching skills, his designs, which stressed structure, function, and simplicity of form, earned him more than thirty awards during his professional career. Straub retired from ASU 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. The collection was donated to ASU's Architectural and Environmental Design Library (now the Design Library) in June of 1993 and the Summer of 1995 by Calvin Straub.

Description

SERIES ONE–DRAWINGS, c. 1952-1991

Location: Map Case 153G R3 D1
Folder 1 Mr. & Mrs. Richard Andeen Residence, 1963
Folder 1A Mr. & Mrs. Richard Andeen Residence, 1963
Folder 2 Mr. & Mrs. Peter Bidstrup Residence Addition, 1987
Folder 3 Mr. & Mrs. George E. Brandow Residence, 1953
Folder 3A Mr. & Mrs. George E. Brandow Residence, Remodeling Duplicates and study for studio bedroom remodeling (trace over blue prints), 1953
Folder 4 Mr. and Mrs. Charles Butler Residence, 1968
Folder 5 Mr. and Mrs. Paul Caler Residence, 1952
Folder 6 Cardio-Pulmonary Associates Medical Facility, 1970
Folder 7 Crippled Childrens' Society/Regional Center, 1966-67

Location: Map Case 153G R3 D2
Folder 8 Mr. and Mrs. Craig Cummins Residence, 1971
Folder 9 Dr. & Mrs. Julius Danto Residence, 1985
Folder 10 Mr. and Mrs. John C. Ellinwood Residence, 1965
Folder 11 Mr. and Mrs. Robert Ellis Residence, 1985
Folder 12 Mr. & Mrs. Milton Farbstein Residence, 1956
Folder 13 Mr. & Mrs. Paul H. Fischer Residence, 1953
Folder 14 Frank Hall South Campus Dining Facility, 1980
Folder 15 Mr. and Mrs. Richard Frank Residence, 1980
Folder 16 Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Hubble Residence, 1971

Location: Map Case 153G R3 D3
Folder 17 Kaiser Aetna Corporation/Pace Setter House, 1971
Folder 18 Mr. & Mrs. Gerald Labiner Residence, 1956
Folder 19 Lawry's Foods Inc., 1966
Folder 20 Mr. & Mrs. C.E. Mello Residence, 1956
Folder 21 Mr. & Mrs. Carter Norris Residence, 1964
Folder 22 Mr. & Mrs. John J. O'Connor III Residence, 1964
Folder 23 Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Parsons Residence, 1st Preliminary, 1990
Folder 24 Pomona College Administrative Facility, 1985
Folder 25 Rim Institute, 1983

Location: Map Case 153G R3 D4
Folder 26 Salvation Army Day Nursery Playground, 1954
Folder 27 Simon Residence, 1961-1962
Folder 27A Simon Residence Duplicates, 1961-1962
Folder 28 Mr. and Mrs. Calvin C. Straub Residence, 1963
Folder 29 Additions and Remodeling to a Residence for Mrs. Jean Sun, 1983
Folder 30 Mr. and Mrs. William C. Taylor Residence, 1962
Folder 31 Mr. & Mrs. James Toland Residence, 1952
Folder 32 Tonio's #3 Restaurant, 1971-1972
Folder 33 Western Savings and Loan Association #1, 1971
Folder 34 Western Savings and Loan Association #2, 1972
Folder 35 Mr. & Mrs. Marcus Whiffen Residence, 1963

SERIES TWO—PHOTO PANELS, 1947-1993

Location: Map Case 153F WR
PHOTO PANELS STACK 1
Items 1-7 The Architecture of Calvin Straub - Retrospective Exhibit of Work, 1947-1987 (photos and text)
Item 8 Early Work: The Straub Cottage (1947) and Kenneth and Patty Brown House (1948)
Item 9 Idyllwild School of Music and the Arts, Idyllwild, CA, 1949
Item 10 Sedlachek House, 1949
Items 11-12 Calvin and Sylvia Straub Residence, Altadena, CA, 1951
Items 13-14 Mr. and Mrs. George Brandow Residence, San Marino, CA, 1953
Item 15 Mrs. Virginia Fischer Residence, Pacific Palisades, CA, 1954
Item 16 Mr. and Mrs. Richard Frank Residence, Pasadena, CA, 1956
Item 17 Mr. and Mrs. Walter Van de Kamp Residence, Beverly Hills, CA, 1957

Location: Map Case 153G R3

PHOTO PANELS STACK 2

Items 18-19 Lawry's Foods, Inc. California Center, Los Angeles, CA, 1958
Item 20 Mr. and Mrs. Duffy Edwards Residence, Beverly Hills, CA, 1958
Items 21-22 Jack Thompson Residence, Pasadena, CA, 1959
Items 23-26 Mr. and Mrs. Donald Simon Residence, Whittier, CA, 1961
Item 26A Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Parsons residence, Kenwood, CA, 1992
Items 27-28 Mr. and Mrs. Marcus Whiffen Residence, Phoenix, AZ, 1963
Items 29-30 Mr. and Mrs. Richard Andeen Residence, Paradise Valley, AZ, 1963
Items 31-32 Mr. and Mrs. Carter Norris Residence, Paradise Valley, AZ, 1964 (photos and drawings)
Item 33 “Calvin Straub Advocates Worldly-Wise Architecture” enlargement of article from ASU Insight, 1993
Item 34 Mr. and Mrs. Carter Norris Residence, Paradise Valley, AZ, 1964 (electrical plan)
Item 35 Photo collage (Shows Straub and house interior, no date)
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
Item 37 Andeen House drawing, no date
Item 38 “Architect Will Join ASU Faculty,” enlargement of newspaper article, no date
Item 39A License (Enlargement of California State Board of Architectural Examiners license to practice architecture, 1956)
Item 39B Jack Thompson House Award (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)

Item 39C Walter Thompson Residence Award (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)

Item 39D Certificate of Fellowship from The American Institute of Architects, 1969

Location: Map Case 153H R4

PHOTO PANELS STACK 3

Item 40 Western Savings and Loan Association Branch Savings Office, Phoenix, AZ, 1971

Item 41 *Design Process and Communications: A Case Study*, second edition, (Panel features book by Calvin Straub), 1982

Items 42, 43, 43A Bidstrup Residence, Paradise Valley, AZ, 1983

Item 44 Frank Hall Student Dining Facility at Pomona College, Pomona, CA 1983

Item 45 Dr. and Mrs. Julius Danto Residence, Scottsdale, AZ, 1986

Item 46 Mr. and Mrs. Robert Ellis Residence, Scottsdale, AZ, 1987

Item 47 "Village Housing" - Village at Camelback, n.d.

Items 48-49 The Case Study House Program of *Arts and Architecture* Magazine, 1945-1962 (information panels)

Items 50-53 Case Study House #20, Altadena, CA, 1959

Item 54 Alex Mosely Residence, Pasadena, CA, n.d.

Item 55 William Taylor Residence, Sierra Madre, CA, n.d.

Items 56-57 Cal Straub and Partners (Buff, Straub, and Hensman), 1974

SERIES THREE—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 FOUR—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 FIVE—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 SIX—OVERSIZE MISCELLANY, 1950s-1980s
BOX 2
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 SEVEN—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
SERIES EIGHT—VIDEOS, 1980s

Box 4


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


Updated by Harold Housley (May 2016)