



**Archivist's Annual Report
September 6, 1997 - September 23, 1998**

**Reported to the International Archive of Women in Architecture
Annual Board of Advisors Meeting**

This year the Special Collections Department increased its efforts to bring order to unprocessed collections in the International Archive of Women in Architecture and to make in-depth levels of information about it accessible on the Internet. The department assumed responsibility for the IAWA Biographical Database, updating existing and adding new biographies. At the request of the Office of University Development, we submitted a grant proposal to AlliedSignal Corporation for \$25,000 to support the extension, preservation, organization, and use of the archive.

Acquisitions

From September 1997 to September 1998 the archive grew with the accession of six new collections (see below), bringing the total number of collections to 165. Six existing collections received significant additions this year. The physical dimensions of the archive grew to 328 cubic feet, with all but 90 cu.ft. housed in Newman Library.

Noteworthy donations included the papers of Audrey Emmons, an architect of Sausalito, California, and Dina Stancheva of Sofia, Bulgaria. Additions to existing collections were made to the papers of Abbye Gorin, the Milka Bliznakov, and Rebecca Binder.

The library purchased four new titles this year: *A Hut of One's Own* by Ann Cline; *Architecture Anyone? Cautionary Tales of the Building Art* by Ada Louise Huxtable; *Invisible Images* by Beverly Willis; and *Women in American Architecture: A Historic and Contemporary Perspective* by Susanna Torre (two copies).

Collection Processing

This year the department focused on organizing the larger existing collections in addition to the recently received collections. Staff thoroughly processed the papers of Sigrid Rupp (107 cu. ft.), in addition to those of Audrey Emmons (1.5 cu. ft.) and Dina Stancheva (3 cu. ft.). The collections of Blanche Lemco van Ginkel and Melita Rodeck grew modestly through donations of additional materials.

The IAWA inventories at <http://scholar2.lib.vt.edu/spec/iawaspec/iawaguid.htm> grew by eight this year, bringing the total to 16 now available online. Added this year were the inventories of the Emmons, Stancheva, Rupp, van Ginkel, and Rodeck collections, as well as inventories for Sarah Harkness, Helene Koller-Buchwieser, and Han Schroeder. Images of the architects and their works now enhance the Gottlieb, Emmons and Schroeder inventories.

The Manuscripts Curator spent more than fifty hours creating, editing, and making the inventories Internet accessible. Her student assistants spent an estimated eighty hours more in processing these collections.

Reference Contacts

This year the Manuscripts Curator answered 70 reference questions specifically related to the archive and architecture via mail, telephone, e-mail, and walk-ins. (In 1995/96 she answered 30; in 1996/97 she answered 40.) The contacts were overwhelmingly from researchers not affiliated with Virginia Tech. While several of these reference questions resulted in a quick response, many involved aiding the researcher by doing extensive investigation into the collections. Noteworthy reference questions included one from an architecture student in Michigan who requested many copies from the Lois Gottlieb collection and a request from Hilde Westrom for copies of all her drawings for an exhibition of her work in Vienna.

Grant Opportunity

At the request of Tom Hamilton (Associate Director of University Development for Libraries and University Programs), the Archivist and Manuscripts Curator prepared a proposal for the AlliedSignal Special Grants Program at Virginia Tech. Working within a short deadline, we submitted a request for \$25,000. The proposal is entitled "Documenting Women's Contributions to the Field of Architecture: Utilizing and Promoting Resources in the International Archive of Women in Architecture." If successful, the grant will be used (1) to promote research using the materials in Special Collections; (2) to develop the archive including expenses related to shipping materials to the library as well as organizing and preserving the materials; and (3) to improve access to the archive including digitizing drawings and other unique materials (see attached).

Other Activities

- ◆ Special Collections staff, under the supervision of the Manuscripts (Mss) Curator, assumed responsibility for the IAWA Biographical Database and revised old and added new biographies. The database now has 117 biographies--27 new and 80 revised entries.
- ◆ Mss Curator worked with potential donors, including the heirs of Audrey Emmons, Eleanor Pepper of New York City, and Jean Young of California. She also spoke to Eva Vecsei about donating her papers.
- ◆ Mss Curator compiled a list of books available in the University Libraries about women in architecture, originally for a patron's request and subsequently maintained as a reference tool (see attached).
- ◆ The IAWA Archivist and the Mss Curator revised and maintained the IAWA address database for newsletter mailings and distribution to the Board of Advisors, and mailed meeting minutes to the Board.
- ◆ The Mss Curator received and recorded donations to the Friends of the IAWA (largely a result of the fall 1997 *IAWA Newsletter*; see list attached); wrote letters of thanks for each donation; and forwarded donations to the IAWA Treasurer.
- ◆ The Mss Curator revised and maintained the guide to the IAWA collections, including making copies available for distribution at the Special Collections reference desk.
- ◆ The Mss Curator created the exhibit "Women in Architecture writing about Women in Architecture" for the annual IAWA Board meeting.
- ◆ The Mss Curator facilitated access to the collections for the IAWA Board of Advisors. She assisted Anna Marshall-Baker prepare for her March 1998 exhibit about Lois Gottlieb. She also helped Board chair Donna Dunay locate material to illustrate the fall

1998 *IAWA Newsletter* article, "Diversity of Donations: 10 Highlights from the Archive" by Gail McMillan and Dunay.

- ◆ The Mss Curator wrote an article for the fall 1998 *IAWA Newsletter*, "Preserving Personal Papers."

New Collections

Bizios, Georgia

-- curriculum vitae and postcard advertising exhibit of her work at Brooks Hall Gallery of the School of Design, North Carolina State University, in January 1996.

Bo Bardi, Lina (1914-92)

-- press release with biographical information about Bo Bardi for exhibit of her work at the California College of Arts and Crafts in San Francisco

Emmons, Audrey (1921-97)

-- architectural drawings, photographs, slides, and job files for designs Emmons did in San Francisco, Sausalito, and other Northern California locations from the mid-1970s to 1996. Inventory available. Ms97-018 (1974-97, n.d. 1.5 cu. ft.)

Richter, Elizabeth Chu

-- copies of articles written by Richter for the Corpus Christi Caller-Times; literature about her firm Richter Associates Architects, Inc.; a copy of Texas Architect that had information about a design which was awarded the 1997 Texas Society of Architects Design Award; and a copy of Letters for Our Children: Fifty Americans Share Lessons in Living, edited by Erica Goode, which includes an entry by Richter. Ms97-022 (1995-97. 0.1 cu. ft.).

Stancheva, Dina (1925-)

-- photographs and architectural drawings of designs created by Stancheva during her career. Inventory available. Ms97-017 (1963-90. 3.0 cu. ft.).

Vecsei, Eva Hollo

-- curriculum vitae and flyer advertising her firm, Vecsei Architectes of Montreal

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Board of Advisors of the International Archive of Women in Architecture*