

CRANBROOK

ARCHIVES

Saarinen-Swanson Reunion Records, 1995-2001

2.5 linear ft.

Acquisition Number: 2001-14

Acquisition: Records were generated by Cranbrook Archives.

Access: Access to the collection is unrestricted.

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Preferred Citation: Saarinen-Swanson Reunion Records, Cranbrook Archives, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan.

Photographs: Moved to Photograph Special File; Negatives moved to CEC Negatives.

Audiotapes: Moved to Audio Cassette Tape Collection (1990-09).

Videotapes: Moved to Videotape Collection (1990-35).

Index: See end of finding aid.

Processing: Isabel S. Hansen, April 2004



History

Eliel Saarinen, along with his wife Loja, son Eero, daughter Pipsan, and son-in-law J. Robert F. Swanson, founded a creative tradition at Cranbrook that endures to this day. The Saarinens' fame and design philosophies attracted many of the brightest talents in the architectural, design, and planning fields to study at Cranbrook or to work for their businesses --- known variously as Saarinen and Swanson; Saarinen and Saarinen; Saarinen, Swanson, and Saarinen; Swanson Associates; and Eero Saarinen & Associates, depending upon the shifting union of the principals.

Recognizing that these associates possessed a wealth of information about the architectural practices of Eliel and Eero Saarinen and the Swansons, the Cranbrook Archives, under the direction of Mark Coir, organized a reunion of more than fifty architects, model makers, draftsmen, and other members of the Saarinen circle at Cranbrook. The reunion, held over the weekend of August 11-13, 1995, was the first concerted attempt to capture recollections in a unified way, and it produced more than eight hours of recorded reminiscences. Edited versions of these memories, along with profiles of the attendees and archival photographs, are included in the reunion proceedings.

Scope and Content of Collection

The collection consists of a variety of formats, including printed materials, audiotapes and videotapes, computer disks and photographic materials. The collection is arranged in three series: **Correspondence**, **Reunion**, and **Proceedings**.

The **Correspondence** series is alphabetically arranged and contains correspondence of individuals who were invited to the reunion, who were connected to those invitees, or who were involved in the planning of the reunion. Along with correspondence, the files may include résumés, edited transcripts of remarks made during the reunion and returned to Cranbrook as requested, and original or photocopied articles or other publications. Of particular note is the file (1:20) containing personal correspondence of Eero Saarinen. Photos included with correspondence were removed to the photograph collection, and negatives are filed in the negative collection.

The **Reunion** series is chronologically arranged into subseries, and alphabetically arranged within these subseries. It includes materials that directly relate to the planning, execution, and funding for the reunion event itself. Fundraising and planning correspondence; meeting agendas and notes; registration forms; attendees lists; financial records; publicity materials; and post-reunion notes and publications are included in this series.

The **Proceedings** series is chronologically arranged into subseries and alphabetically arranged within these subseries. It consists of items concerned with the publication of the *Saarinen Swanson Reunion Proceedings*. Grant information, applications and related correspondence; transcripts of audio commentary from the reunion; biographies of reunion speakers; financial records; page mockups and proofs; and copies of the book are included.

Audiotapes of attendees' remarks are located on four tapes located in the Audio Cassette Tape Collection (1990-09). Fourteen U-Matic videotapes recorded during the reunion are located in the Videotape Collection (1990-35), as is one VHS tape containing a post-reunion production featuring archival photos, videotaped remarks by attendees, and footage of Cranbrook. A CDROM contains electronic copies of some reunion correspondence, fundraising, and the various edited drafts of the transcriptions. Also of note on the CD is a file of the list of attendees with their dates of employment and a list of major projects they worked on.

Related Collections

In addition to the listed established collections, Saarinen-related materials donated by attendees and used in an exhibition at the reunion, as well as materials donated after the reunion by attendees and non-attendees were arranged as distinct collections and are included below.

- George Gough Booth Papers (1981-01)
- Cranbrook Academy of Art President's Papers (1981-09)
- Cranbrook Architecture Office (1989-01)
- Swanson, J. Robert F. and Pipsan Saarinen Swanson Papers (1990-01)
- Saarinen Family Papers (1990-08)
- S. Glen Paulsen Papers (1991-25)
- Olav Hammarström Collection of Eero Saarinen & Associates Materials (1995-19)
- Jack M. Goldman Collection of Eero Saarinen & Associates Materials (1995-46)
- Richard Lopacki Photo Collection of Eero Saarinen & Associates (1995-48)
- Lewis Zurlo Collection of Eero Saarinen & Associates Materials (1995-66)
- John Mesick Collection of Eero Saarinen & Associates Materials (1995-67)
- Claude DeForest Collection of Eero Saarinen & Associates Materials (1995-68)
- L. Glen Abels Collection of Eero Saarinen & Associates Materials (1995-69)
- Astrid Sampe Collection of Eero Saarinen Correspondence (1995-87)
- Robert Ziegelman Slide Collection of Eero Saarinen & Associates (1995-92)
- Maurice Allen Collection of Eero Saarinen & Associates Materials (1996-34)
- Roger Johnson Collection of Eero Saarinen & Associates Materials (1998-03)
- Richard Shirk Collection of Eero Saarinen & Associates Materials

Box Number--Description

Box 1

- SERIES I CORRESPONDENCE**
1. Maurice Allen, Apr 1995-Apr 1999
 2. Edmund Bacon, Apr 1995-Mar 1999
 3. Doris Bassett, Jul 2000
 4. Lillian Bauder, 1995
 5. Raymond Bean, May 1999
 6. Gunnar Birkerts, Mar 1995
 7. Thomas Bosworth, May-Jun 1999
 8. Gary Brown, May 1999
 9. John Buenz, May-Aug 1999
 10. Brian Carter, May 1999-Mar 2000
 11. Neville Clouten, Apr-May 1999
 12. Mark Coir, Dec 1995-June 1999
 13. W. Kent Cooper, Jul 1995
 14. Claude DeForest, Jul 1995
 15. Allan Dehar, Aug 1995-Jun 1999
 16. Jack Goldman, Apr 1995-Aug 1999
 17. David Hoedemaker, n.d.
 18. Nobuo Hozumi, May 1995-2001
 19. Wes Janz, Jul 1995
 20. Mark Jaroszewicz, May 1995-May 1999
 21. John Jickling, May 1999
 22. Roger Johnson, Apr 1995-Apr 1999
 23. Kay Kaiser, Aug 1995-Feb 1998
 24. Balthazar Korab, Feb 1996
 25. Mary-Louise Lacy, Apr 1995-Jan 1996
 26. H  l  ne Lipstadt, Apr-May 1995
 27. George Matsumoto, Spring 1997-May 1999
 28. Nancy Mechigian, Jan 1996-May 1997
 29. Anthony Moody, Mar 1999-May 1999
 30. Peter Papademetriou, Jun 1995-Oct 1997
 31. Kamille T.H. Parkinson, Aug 1998
 32. Glen Paulsen, Aug 1995-Oct 2001
 33. C  sar Pelli, Apr 1995-Oct 2001
 34. Norman Perttula, May 1995-Jun 1999
 35. Ralph Rapson, Aug 1995
 36. Harold Roth, Aug 1995-Sep 2001
 37. Lynn Smith, Jun 1997

Box 2

1. Robert Saarinen Swanson, Apr 1999
2. Merle Westlake, Apr 1999
3. Gregory Wittkopp, Jun 1995-Dec 1998
4. Robert Ziegelman, May 1995-Jul 1999
5. Lewis Zurlo, Apr 1995-1999
6. General Correspondence, A-L, Apr 1995-Oct 2001
7. General Correspondence, M-Z, Apr 1995-Aug 1995

SERIES II REUNION

8. Financial Records. Budget, 1995
9. Financial Records. Purchase Orders, Invoices, Payment Requisitions, Jul-Oct 1995
10. Planning. Arrangements, Aug 1995
11. Planning. Attendees Lists, 1995
12. Planning. Committee Meeting Agendas and Notes, May-Jun 1995
13. Planning. Committee Members List, 1995
14. Planning. Correspondence, Mark Coir, Apr-Aug 1995
15. Planning. Exhibit, n.d.
16. Planning. Fundraising Correspondence, Jun 1995-Jul 1995
17. Planning. Notes, Mark Coir, Feb 1995
18. Planning. Notes, Mark Coir, n.d.
19. Planning. Publicity, Aug 1995
20. Planning. Registration Forms, 1995
21. Planning. Staff Lists, 1995
22. Event Program, Aug 1995
23. Post-reunion Notes, Mark Coir, Jan 1996
24. Post-reunion Notes, Mark Coir, n.d.
25. Post-reunion Publications, Oct 1995-Apr 1996

SERIES III SAARINEN-SWANSON REUNION PROCEEDINGS

26. Fundraising. Correspondence, Graham Foundation, Dec 1995-Sep 2001
27. Fundraising. Correspondence, Mark Coir, Nov 1995-Sep 2001
28. Fundraising. Grant Application, Guidelines, 1997-98
29. Fundraising. Grant Application, Proposal to Publish, 1996

Box 3

1. Fundraising. Notes, Mark Coir, n.d.
2. Financial Records. Invoices, Apr 1996-Apr 1999
3. Financial Records. Purchase Requisitions, Purchase Orders, Mar 1998-Aug 2001
4. Financial Records. Quotations, 1996-2001
5. Publication Correspondence, Mark Coir, Jun 1997-Aug 2001
6. Publication Distribution List, n.d.

Box 3 (cont'd)

7. Publication Final Proof, Aug 2001

SERIES III SAARINEN-SWANSON REUNION PROCEEDINGS

8. Publication Group Photo, Aug 1995
9. Publication Notes, Mark Coir, 1999
10. Publication Page Mockups, n.d.
11. Publication Participant Biographies, n.d.
12. Publication Printed Copies, 2001
13. Publication Proof, May 2001
14. Publication Proof, May 2001
15. Publication Transcripts, Organized by Speaker, Edited, n.d.
16. Publication Transcripts, Organized by Speaker, n.d.
17. Publication Transcripts, Thematically Arranged (unedited)
18. Publication Transcripts, Thematically Arranged (edited), Jul 2000
19. Transcripts (unedited) of Reunion, 1995
20. Multimedia

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