Guide to the Richard Gamble Knight Papers

MS 1999

Compiled by Suzanne Noruschat and Christine Connolly

July 2014

Yale University Library
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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Manuscripts and Archives
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P.O. Box 208240
New Haven, CT 06520-8240
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http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/

CALL NUMBER: MS 1999

CREATOR: Knight, Richard Gamble

TITLE: Richard Gamble Knight papers

DATES: 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: http://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.1999

Requesting Instructions

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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

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

### Collection Contents

#### Series I. Images: Prints, Negatives, and Slides

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Projects</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 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, Minnesotta, 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 |
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 |
| b. 2, f. 4 | Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut  
Circa 1959 |
| b. 2, f. 5 | David S. Ingalls Hockey Rink  
Circa 1959 |
### Projects > Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut (continued)

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<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Date</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>b. 2, f. 5-9</td>
<td>New Colleges (Samuel F. B. Morse and Ezra Stiles Colleges)</td>
<td>1959–1965, undated</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 2, f. 10</td>
<td>Bloomfield Hills office</td>
<td>Circa 1957</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 2, f. 11</td>
<td>Eero Saarinen candid shots</td>
<td>Circa 1958</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 2, f. 12</td>
<td>Office life</td>
<td>1959, undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 2, f. 13</td>
<td>Office party (for Tony Lumsden?)</td>
<td>1959</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 2, f. 14</td>
<td>Office staff for scale figures</td>
<td>1958</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 2, f. 15</td>
<td>Saarinen house</td>
<td>Circa 1958</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Personal

Unidentified images in this series may have been projects Knight pursued as a student.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>b. 2, f. 16</td>
<td>Backgrounds</td>
<td>Circa 1952–circa 1979</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 2, f. 17</td>
<td>Drawings</td>
<td>Circa 1952–circa 1979</td>
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<td>b. 2, f. 18</td>
<td>Furniture</td>
<td>Circa 1952–circa 1979</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 2, f. 19</td>
<td>Graphics and artwork, unidentified</td>
<td>Circa 1952–circa 1979</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 2, f. 20</td>
<td>Illustrations for Saarinen’s Quest: A Memoir</td>
<td>1959–1961</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 2, f. 21</td>
<td>Jane Knight fiber art</td>
<td>Circa 1952–circa 1979</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 2, f. 22</td>
<td>Miscellaneous architectural detail</td>
<td>1978–1981</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 2, f. 23</td>
<td>Models, unidentified</td>
<td>Circa 1952–circa 1979</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 2, f. 24</td>
<td>People, unidentified</td>
<td>1960s?</td>
</tr>
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<td>b. 2, f. 25</td>
<td>School projects</td>
<td>1950s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 2, f. 26</td>
<td>Sculpture and pottery</td>
<td>Circa 1952–circa 1979</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 2, f. 27</td>
<td>Texture studies</td>
<td>Circa 1952–circa 1979</td>
</tr>
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**Series II. Interviews conducted for *Saarinen’s Quest: A Memoir***

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 for their personal use should consult Copying Services information on the Manuscripts and Archives web site.

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<tr>
<th>b. 3</th>
<th>Knorr, Don</th>
<th>1 Audiocassette</th>
<th>2001 October 16</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>b. 4-5</td>
<td>Paulsen, Glen</td>
<td>2 Audiocassettes</td>
<td>2002 August 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 6</td>
<td>Pelli, Cesar</td>
<td>1 Audiocassette</td>
<td>2003 June 2</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Interview at his office, 1056 Chapel Street, New Haven, Connecticut.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 7-8</td>
<td>Pudists, Ruth Clements</td>
<td>2 Audiocassettes</td>
<td>2002 August 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 9</td>
<td>Roth, Harold</td>
<td>1 Audiocassette</td>
<td>2003 May 31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Interview at his office, Roth &amp; Moore Architects, 65 Audubon Street, New Haven, Connecticut.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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 -- 20th Century -- United States
Architecture, American -- 20th Century
Architecture, Modern -- 20th Century

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.)