Guide to the T. J. Kent papers, 1910-1993

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Note
History --History, University of California --History, UC BerkeleyGeographical (by Place) --University of California --University of California BerkeleySocial Sciences --Urban Planning and EnvironmentGeographical (by Place) --California --Bay Area
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Collection number: BANC MSS 99/33 c

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Date Completed:
July 1998
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Collection Summary
Collection Title: T. J. Kent Papers,
Date (inclusive): 1910-1993
Collection Number: BANC MSS 99/33 c
Creator: Kent, T. J.
Extent: Number of containers: 5 boxes, 1 oversize folder.Linear feet: 2
Repository: The Bancroft Library.
Berkeley, California 94720-6000
Physical Location: For current information on the location of these materials, please consult the Library's online catalog.
Abstract: The T.J. "Jack" Kent papers selectively cover a career in urban and regional planning that lasted over 50 years. The collection includes correspondence (primarily professional rather than personal), research notes, drafts of essays and talks, published books and articles, UC Berkeley course notes, and early records from Kent's work in the UC Berkeley department of City and Regional Planning (DCRP). The collection also contains newsletters, reports, and memoranda of the various government and civic planning organizations of which Kent was a member, including the Berkeley City Council, People for Open Space, the San Francisco Department of City Planning, and Telesis. Also includes a small amount of material on the University loyalty oath.
Languages Represented: English
Access
Collection is open for research.

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[Identification of item], T. J. Kent papers, BANC MSS 99/33 c, The Bancroft Library, University of California, Berkeley.

Title: Dorothy Ward Erskine Papers,
Identifier/Call Number: BANC MSS 83/79 c
Title: Telesis Group Archives,
Identifier/Call Number: BANC MSS 99/48 c

One photograph has been transferred to University Archives in The Bancroft Library.

Acquisition Information
The T. J. Kent Papers were given to The Bancroft Library by Thomas "Jack" Kent on March 8, 1998.

Scope and Content
The T.J. "Jack" Kent papers selectively cover a career in urban and regional planning that lasted over 50 years. The collection includes correspondence (primarily professional rather than personal), research notes, drafts of essays and talks, published books and articles, UC Berkeley course notes, and early records from Kent's work in the UC Berkeley department of City and Regional Planning (DCRP). The collection also contains newsletters, reports, and memoranda of the various government and civic planning organizations of which Kent was a member, including the Berkeley City Council, People for Open Space, the San Francisco Department of City Planning, and Telesis. Also includes a small amount of material on the University loyalty oath.

1917-1933: Thomas "Jack" Kent is born in Oakland on January 30, 1917 to Thomas and Belinda Kent. His family moves to San Francisco where father is a practicing architect. Kent attends Commodore Sloat Grammar School and Lowell High School.

1934-1938: Earns a B.A. in Architecture at U.C. Berkeley. While on campus, he wins a school medal for professional leadership, is chair of the Campus Judicial Committee, a member of the Stiles Hall Student Cabinet and captain of the first Cal championship water polo team.

1938-1939: Studies with Lewis Mumford while in Europe on a traveling fellowship sponsored by his fraternity, Beta Theta Pi.

1939: Founding member of Telesis, an organization of young urban planners dedicated to making the Bay Area a more livable and healthier environment.

1939: Begins friendship with Dorothy Ward Erskine, a citizen activist, conservationist and Telesis supporter. Over the next forty years, they work together in several organizations, including People for Open Space.

1939-1940: Junior planning assistant, Marin County Planning Commission.


1940-1941: Works as a planning assistant in the office of I. S. Shattuck, a traffic and planning consultant in Oakland, California.

1940-1942: Assistant planning technician, Pacific Southwest Regional Office of the National Resources Planning Board.

1941: Marries Mary Chace Tolman, the daughter of U.C. Berkeley Professor Edward Tolman and Kathleen Tolman.

1942-1943: Earns the Master of City Planning degree at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

1942-1949: Three sons are born.

1943: Associate City Planner, San Francisco City Planning Commission.

1943-1945: Is drafted into the United States Army. He serves in Washington, D.C.

1945-1946: In September, 1945, Kent is assigned to the Office of Military Government for Berlin, where he remains until March, 1946.

1946-1948: Director of City Planning for San Francisco under Mayor Roger D. Lapham.


1948-1957: Member of the Berkeley City Planning Commission.

1949-1955: Active member of faculty group opposing the U.C. Loyalty Oath.


1952: Helps organize the Berkeley Grassrooters, an early and subsequently influential Democratic Club.
1955: One of the principal authors of Berkeley's first master plan.
1958: One of the founders of People for Open Space, a Bay Area citizens' regional planning and conservation group. (At the time, the organization was called Citizens for Regional Recreation and Parks.)
1961: One of the leaders of Berkeley City Council's first liberal Democratic majority.
1961: Helps organize the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG).
1962: Leader on the City Council for the Berkeley Fair Housing Ordinance and the Save the Bay campaign.
1963: *City and Regional Planning for the Metropolitan San Francisco Bay Area* is published.
1964: Kent's influential text, *The Urban General Plan*, is published.
1965: Chair of the newly created U.C. Berkeley Academic Senate Committee on Senate Policy. Presented "A State of the Campus" message to the Academic Senate in October 1965.
1966-1968: Serves as Development Coordinator of San Francisco under Mayor John Shelley.
1970: Publication of an essay, "Open Space for the San Francisco Bay Area: Organizing to Guide Metropolitan Growth."
1972-1974: Member of the Berkeley Charter Review Committee.
1974: Becomes Professor Emeritus of the U.C. Berkeley Department of City and Regional Planning and receives U.C.'s Berkeley Citation.
1974-1978: President of People for Open Space.
1974-1997: Active in the affairs of the U.C. Berkeley Department of City and Regional Planning and in Berkeley civic and political activities.
1975: Receives the National Gold Medal Award of the American Society of Planning Officials.
1978: Initiates the writing of and contributes an essay to *Experiment and Change in Berkeley: Essays on City Politics, 1950-75*.
1983: Is honored by People for Open Space for his 25 years of involvement with that group.
1989: Receives the Historic Planning Landmarks Award of the California Chapter of the American Planning Association.

**Scope and Content**

The T. J. "Jack" Kent papers selectively cover a career in urban and regional planning that lasted over 50 years. The collection includes correspondence (primarily professional rather than personal in nature), research notes, drafts of essays and talks, published books and articles, U.C. Berkeley course notes and early records from Kent's work in the Berkeley Department of City and Regional Planning (DCRP). The collection also contains newsletters, reports and memoranda of the various government and civic planning organizations of which Kent was a member, including the Berkeley City Council, People for Open Space, the San Francisco Department of City Planning and Telesis.

The greater part of the collection is divided between Kent's research notes, essay outlines and drafts and official institutional records. Wherever possible, these papers have been separated into series and folders by subject. The subject files, which comprise Series 1-4, also contain the bulk of Kent's correspondence and clippings. Biographical writings, including resumes and oral histories, along with awards and miscellaneous writings, are in Series 5. Correspondence and clippings that would not fit into the subject files were separated into Series 6 and 7, respectively.

Woven through the collection are examples of how Kent operated in his roles as city planner, university professor and administrator, city councilman and community activist. In Series 1, two folders titled "The Future of the San Francisco Bay Area" contain outlines and drafts showing the steps Kent took to prepare a public presentation. In the U.C. Berkeley records of Series 2, Kent's strategies for working with the administration and building a department can be seen. Also in Series 2, his attitude toward students is illuminated through clippings and correspondence concerning his work with master's degree candidate Kathleen Van Velsor in the late 1980s. In Series 4, a sequence of folders on urban planning in Copenhagen provides insight into his approach to research and essay writing. And although personal correspondence is lacking, his relationship with friends and coworkers becomes a little clearer in Series 5, which contains drafts of letters written for a 1983 T. J. Kent Testimonial Dinner, hosted by Berkeley Citizens' Action.

Despite these examples, however, entire areas of Kent's work and life are barely represented: his influential 1964 text, *The Urban General Plan*, his involvement with the Bay Area Rapid Transit District, his Presidency of the American Society of Planning Officials (1969-1970), and his term as president of the regional planning and conservation organization, People for Open Space (1974-78), are barely mentioned. However, Kent's oral history, created through the Center for Environmental Design Research of the College of Environmental Design and found in Series 5, fills in some of these gaps by providing Kent's perspective on his own achievements and on institutions involved in Bay Area city and regional planning.
SERIES 1: URBAN PLANNING AND POLITICS IN CALIFORNIA, 1940-1989

Scope and Content Note
Arranged alphabetically by folder title, then chronologically within folders. Contains research notes, essay and presentation drafts, correspondence, official planning documents, course notes and clippings pertaining to urban and regional planning and politics in Berkeley, Los Angeles, San Francisco and the Bay Area.

Box 1, folder 1
Association of Bay Area Governments 1966
Association of Bay Area Governments 1966-1968
Association of Bay Area Governments [ca. 1975]
Berkeley City Council 1957-1986
Berkeley city planning: Berkeley Initiates and Approves a Master Plan 1975
Berkeley city planning: clippings 1983
Berkeley city planning: course notes and student papers 1949-1968
Berkeley city planning: writings and talks 1955-1988
California: planning history 1965-1970
Experiment and Change in Berkeley: Essays on City Politics, 1950-1975 1978
Los Angeles: clippings 1940-1982
Marin: countywide plan 1972
Marin: People for Open Space report on farmlands 1982
"Marin: The Place that Lasted" (student paper) 1974-1985
Marin: planning [ca. 1940]
Marin: "Selective Analysis and Commentary" (student paper) 1970
Open Space for the San Francisco Bay Area: Organizing to Guide Metropolitan Growth 1970
San Francisco Bay Area regional planning: course notes 1961-1989
San Francisco Bay Area regional planning: essay outlines 1978-1981
San Francisco Bay Area regional planning: essays, publications, talks 1959-1968
San Francisco Bay Area regional planning: names and contacts 1941
San Francisco Bay Area regional planning: official reports 1954
San Francisco Bay Area regional planning: official reports 1956
San Francisco Bay Area regional planning: student papers 1972-1984
San Francisco Bay Area's future: "Planners and Policy Analysts" 1987
San Francisco Bay Area's future: presentation drafts 1987
San Francisco Bay Area's future: presentation outlines 1987
San Francisco city planning: American Institute of Architects forum 1989
San Francisco city planning: clippings 1941-1988
San Francisco city planning: memoranda 1948-1967
San Francisco city planning: Progress in City Planning 1948
San Francisco city planning: student papers 1964
San Francisco city planning: Traffic, Transit and Thoroughfare 1947
Telesis: clippings and interviews 1974-1987
Telesis: the group and the first exhibit ca. 1940
Telesis: the second exhibit 1949-1950

Box 2, folder 1
San Francisco Bay Area regional planning: clippings 1940-1982
San Francisco Bay Area regional planning: essays, publications, talks 1959-1968
San Francisco Bay Area regional planning: names and contacts 1941
San Francisco Bay Area regional planning: official reports 1954
San Francisco Bay Area regional planning: official reports 1956
San Francisco Bay Area regional planning: student papers 1972-1984
San Francisco Bay Area's future: "Planners and Policy Analysts" 1987
San Francisco Bay Area's future: presentation drafts 1987
San Francisco Bay Area's future: presentation outlines 1987
San Francisco city planning: American Institute of Architects forum 1989
San Francisco city planning: clippings 1941-1988
San Francisco city planning: memoranda 1948-1967
San Francisco city planning: Progress in City Planning 1948
San Francisco city planning: student papers 1964
San Francisco city planning: Traffic, Transit and Thoroughfare 1947
Telesis: clippings and interviews 1974-1987
Telesis: the group and the first exhibit ca. 1940
Telesis: the second exhibit 1949-1950

SERIES 2: U.C. BERKELEY CAMPUS AFFAIRS, 1948-1989

Scope and Content Note
Arranged alphabetically by title, then chronologically within folders. Memoranda, correspondence and records related to the various issues, committees and students Kent worked with during his tenure as Professor and Professor Emeritus of City Planning.

Box 3, folder 1
College of Environmental Design: the first 25 years 1984
College of Environmental Design: founding proposals 1957-1959
Committee on Senate Policy 1965
Department of City and Regional Planning: clippings 1950; n.d.
Department of City and Regional Planning: founding 1948
Department of City and Regional Planning: history [ca. 1957]
SERIES 2: U.C. BERKELEY CAMPUS AFFAIRS, 1948-1989

Guide to the T. J. Kent papers, 1910-1993

SERIES 2: U.C. BERKELEY CAMPUS AFFAIRS, 1948-1989

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oversize Oversize, Box 5, folder 1A
folder 3 Diploma awarded by U.C. Berkeley Department of Architecture 1938
folder 4 Oral history 1981-1982
folder 5 T. J. Kent testimonial dinner: draft statements for the program book 1983
folder 6 T. J. Kent testimonial dinner: miscellaneous 1983
folder 7 T. J. Kent testimonial dinner: program book 1983
folder 8 Urban Action interview 1987
folder 9 Writings: miscellaneous 1938-1984

Box 5

SERIES 6: CLIPPINGS, 1963-1993
Scope and Content Note
Newspaper, magazine and book clippings related to various research interests and teaching topics are arranged alphabetically by title and chronologically within folders.

Box 5, folder 9
folder 10 Civic Life 1966-1989
folder 11 Master plan 1987
folder 13 The Urban General Plan (reviews) 1964-1993
folder 14 Urban Sprawl 1963-1989

Box 5

SERIES 7: GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE, 1910-1989
Scope and Content Note
Incoming and outgoing correspondence, both personal and professional, is interfiled chronologically. Correspondence neither to nor from Kent is in a separate folder. These folders contain only a little of his correspondence; most of it is filed in the appropriate subject series.

Box 5, folder 14
folder 15 Incoming and outgoing 1939-1989
folder 16 Neither to nor from Kent 1910-1974