Walter Thomas Brooks Collection 2009-13

Finding aid prepared by Emily Vigor
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Contributing Institution: University of California, Berkeley. College of Environmental Design. Environmental Design Archives
Title: Walter Thomas Brooks Collection
creator: Brooks, Walter Thomas, 1927-
Identifier/Call Number: 2009-13
Physical Description: 0.5 Cubic Feet - 1 box
Date (inclusive): 1950-2009
Abstract: The Walter Thomas Brooks collection is comprised of one box of materials primarily consisting of project records created by Brooks and presented in an unbound catalog spanning his career. The majority of these projects are private residences in California, although designs for community centers, civic centers, and museum submittals are also included.
Access Statement
Collection is open for research. Many of the Environmental Design Archives collections are stored offsite and advance notice is required for use.
Publication Rights
All requests for permission to publish, reproduce, or quote from materials in the collection should be discussed with the Curator.
Preferred Citation
[Identification of Item], Walter Thomas Brooks Collection, Environmental Design Archives, University of California, Berkeley.
Biographical Note
Walter Thomas Brooks (April 7, 1927, Lake Forest, Illinois) was a student at Lake Forest College, Illinois, University of Illinois, and the University of California. He apprenticed with various architectural firms between 1950-1960, including Skidmore, Owings & Merrill, Mario Corbett, Anshen & Allen, and Wurster, Bernardi & Emmons. He became a registered architect in the State of California in 1956. With a career spanning more than 50 years, Brooks’ private practice has included projects in California, Florida, and Hawaii.
Brooks has received awards from the American Institute of Architects and the University of California, as well as recognition from Life and Newsweek Magazine for his residential designs.
Sources:
Brooks, Walter Thomas, Curriculum Vita
System of Arrangement
This collection is organized into three series: Personal Papers, Office Records, and Project Records.
Scope and Contents
The Walter Thomas Brooks collection is comprised of one box of materials primarily consisting of project records created by Brooks and presented in an unbound catalog spanning his career. The majority of these projects are private residences in California, although designs for community centers, civic centers, and museum submittals are also included. Many projects were never realized in their physical form and are presented as designs only. This collection also contains designs highlighting Brooks’ ideas about natural forms in architecture, focusing on the physical environment and the organic growth of natural forms.
Custodial History
This collection was received as organized records from Walter Thomas Brooks.
Project Index
The following is a list of architectural projects from the Walter Thomas Brooks Collection. For more complete information about collection contents for each project download the complete Project Index in an Excel spreadsheet format by going to Walter Thomas Brooks i-Page. For instructions on interpreting the Project Index, see The Guide to the Project Index.
The project list below, derived from the Project Index, is arranged alphabetically by Project/Client Name and contains information, where available, about the location, date, project type, collaborators, photographers, and formats for each project in the collection.
Project/Client Name (location, date, project type) [Format - Ms=Manuscripts, Dr=Drawings]
  • 800 sq. ft. House (unknown; 1985; residential) [Ms, Dr]
  • Alameda Beach Boardwalk (Alameda, CA; 1970; recreational) [Ms, Dr]
• Ammomite Information Shell (unknown; n.d.; educational) [Ms, Dr]  
• Barnes Petal (Richmond, CA; 1966; residential) [Ms, Dr]  
• Barr Petal (Napa, CA; 1960; residential) [Ms, Dr]  
• Barton Residence (Modesto, CA; 1970-1985; residential) [Ms, Dr]  
• Berm (South Berkeley, CA; n.d.; residential) [Ms, Dr]  
• Botanical Garden Glasshouse Proposal (Berkeley, CA; n.d.; recreational) [Ms, Dr]  
• Botanical Garden Master Plan and Entrance Gate (Berkeley, CA; n.d.; recreational) [Ms, Dr]  
• Competition: Cowboy Hall of Fame (unknown, OK; 1954; planning) [Ms, Dr]  
• Competition: Roosevelt Memorial (Washington, D.C.; ca. 1960; planning) [Ms, Dr]  
• Competition: San Pablo Civic Center (San Pablo, CA; 1980, 1985; governmental) [Ms, Dr]  
• Competition: University of California Art Museum (Berkeley, CA; 1958; planning) [Ms, Dr]  
• Cowboy Hall of Fame Competition (unknown, OK; 1954; planning) [Ms, Dr]  
• The Crystal Lumiere (Point Richmond, CA; 1972-2008; residential) [Ms, Dr]  
• Dean Earthshelter (Brentwood, CA; 1975; residential) [Ms, Dr]  
• Devere Pyramid Residence (Berkeley, CA; n.d.; residential) [Ms, Dr]  
• Donchin Residence (Orinda, CA; 1958; residential) [Ms, Dr]  
• Glassey Petal (Berkeley, CA; 1968; residential) [Ms, Dr]  
• Godfrey Pyramid Residence (Kauai, HI; n.d.; residential) [Ms, Dr]  
• Greenlife, The Earth City Tennessee Exposition (Middle, CA; 1985; planning) [Ms, Dr]  
• Heather Farms Community Center (Walnut Creek, CA; 1971; recreational) [Ms, Dr]  
• Kallison (Point Richmond, CA; n.d.; residential) [Ms, Dr]  
• Lafayette Reservoir Boathouse (Lafayette, CA; n.d.; recreational) [Ms, Dr]  
• Little Chapel of Light (unknown; ca. 1950; religious) [Ms, Dr]  
• Livingston Residence (Modesto, CA; 1970-1985; residential) [Ms, Dr]  
• Lubratich Residence (Fresno, CA; ca. 1950; residential) [Ms, Dr]  
• Lumiere (Point Richmond, CA; 1972-2008; residential) [Ms, Dr]  
• Owen Residence (Napa, CA; n.d.; residential) [Ms, Dr]  
• Pickett Earthshelter (Berkeley, CA; 1975; residential) [Ms, Dr]  
• Pond House (Orinda, CA; 1958; planning) [Ms, Dr]  
• Ramshorn Information Shell (unknown; 1998-2009; cultural) [Ms, Dr]  
• Robinson Residence (Modesto, CA; 1970-1985; residential) [Ms, Dr]  
• Rodden Residence (Oakley, CA; 1970-1985; residential) [Ms, Dr]  
• Roosevelt Memorial Competition (unbuilt) (Washington, D.C.; ca. 1960; planning) [Ms, Dr]  
• San Pablo Civic Center Competition (San Pablo, CA; 1980, 1985; governmental) [Ms, Dr]  
• Sand Castle (Monterey, CA; 1980; residential) [Ms, Dr]  
• Schumacher Tower House (Benicia, CA; n.d.; residential) [Ms, Dr]  
• Sequoia Lodge Community Center (Oakland, CA; 1966; recreational) [Ms, Dr]  
• Shannon Park Community Center (Dublin, CA; n.d.; recreational) [Ms, Dr]  
• Taj Crystal (unknown; n.d.; residential) [Ms, Dr]  
• Thoreau Earth Shelter (unknown; n.d.; residential) [Ms, Dr]  
• Tocalino Residence (Modesto, CA; 1970-1985; residential) [Ms, Dr]  
• Unitarian Church (Davis, CA; n.d.; religious) [Ms, Dr]  
• University of California Art Museum Competition (unbuilt) (Berkeley, CA; 1958; planning) [Ms, Dr]  
• Waiss Residence (Point Richmond, CA; 1980; residential) [Ms, Dr]  
• Walker Art Center, Sculpture Museum submittal (Minneapolis, MN; n.d.; planning) [Ms, Dr]  

Subjects and Indexing Terms
Architects--California
Architects -- California -- San Francisco Bay Area.
SERIES I. PERSONAL PAPERS n.d.
Physical Description: 0.5 Cubic Feet - Box 1

A. Biographical Information
Scope and Contents
This series consists of the curriculum vitae for Walter Thomas Brooks.

Box 1, Folder 1
Curriculum Vitae n.d.

SERIES II. OFFICE RECORDS 2009
Physical Description: 0.5 Cubic Feet - Box 1

A. Catalog Materials
Scope and Contents
This series contains the index for Brooks’ catalog along with a collection summary, and a layout list outlining the position of archival photos and drawings within the catalog. A 16 GB USB flash drive contains the catalog in its digital form. Many of the files are Quark and will need to be opened with the appropriate program. Also included are several duplicate pages that have had varnish applied to allow an observation of how the varnish may protect the paper over time.

Box 1, Folder 2
Selection guide for catalog, collection summary, 16 GB USB flash drive 2009
Box 1, folder 3
Layout list of archival photos and drawings 2009
Box 1, Folder 4
Pages with archival fixative (duplicates) 2009

SERIES III. PROJECT RECORDS ca. 1950-2009
Arrangement
Arranged numerically by page number of catalog.

A. Specifications
Scope and Contents
Contains project records from Brooks’ career. Most records contain site specifications with drawings of projects and related notes.

See Also
Project Index