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## **Inventory of the Jack Robbins Collection, 1955-2007**

Processed by Emma Keefe

Environmental Design Archives

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## Inventory of the Jack Robbins Collection, 1955-2007

### Collection number: 2010-11

Environmental Design Archives  
University of California, Berkeley  
Berkeley, California

Processed by:

Emma Keefe

Date Completed:

September 2010

Encoded by:

Emma Keefe

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### Descriptive Summary

**Title:** Jack Robbins Collection

**Dates:** 1955-2007

**Collection number:** 2010-11

**Creator:** Robbins, Jack, 1923- ; Ream, James, 1923-2010

**Collector:** Environmental Design Archives

**Collection Size:** 6 cartons, 2 tubes

**Repository:** Environmental Design Archives. College of Environmental Design.  
University of California, Berkeley.

Berkeley, California

**Abstract:** The Robbins Collection contains drawings, personal papers, awards submission binders, completed project photographs, slides, newspaper clippings, correspondence, notes, contracts specifications, and preliminary sketches from Robbins career, spanning 1955 to 2007. The records come from Robbins work as the Director of City Planning and Community Development for the City of Fremont, as well as from work he did independently, and during his tenure with various architecture firms, including Robbins & Ream.

**Physical location:** Environmental Design Archives

University of California

Berkeley, California, 94720-1820

**Languages:** Languages represented in the collection: English

### Access

Collection open for research.

### 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], Jack Robbins collection, 2010-11, Environmental Design Archives. College of Environmental Design. University of California, Berkeley. Berkeley, California.

### Biographical Note

Jacob (Jack) Robbins was born in 1923 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and earned his degree in architecture from Harvard in 1953. From 1952 to 1955, he operated Robbins & Associates with offices in San Francisco and Boston, where he designed a number of residences. From 1955-1961, he designed a residence with Goetz and Hansen Architects, a number of elementary schools around the Bay Area with John Lyon Reid and Partners (including the Santa Margarita School, which received a Citation from the American Association of School Administrators), and eight buildings with Gerald M. McCue & Associates, including the Cyclotron Building (which won the Award of Merit from the Bay Region Honor Awards in 1962), the Health Physics Laboratory at Lawrence Laboratory at UC Berkeley, Metallurgical Laboratories at Lockheed in Sunnyvale,

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and various engineering and laboratories in Richmond, California.

In 1955 Robbins designed his own home in the Oakland hills, which won an Award of Merit from AIA/Sunset Western Home, was written up in Architectural Record in 1962, and was featured in Architectural Guide to the Bay Area in 1962 and 1973.

In 1961 Robbins re-opened Jack Robbins & Associates in Oakland, California. From 1961-1967 Jack Robbins & Associates designed a number of high-end residences and apartment buildings in the Oakland hills, Berkeley, Marin County and Squaw Valley. In 1967, Robbins joined Skidmore, Owings and Merrill, based in San Francisco, for a series of projects until 1972. His designs with the firm include San Jose City College Master Plan, Evergreen Valley College Master Plan and Phase I Buildings in San Jose, Feather River College Master Plan and Phase I Buildings in Quincy, and Mills College Residence and Dining Halls in Oakland.

In 1972, Robbins became the Director of City Planning and Community Development for the City of Fremont, California. During his four years as Director he oversaw more than a dozen major projects, including the Civic Center Master Plan, Open Space Plan, Seismic Safety Plan, BART Area Plan, and the Walnut Knolls, Northpointe and Mission Valley neighborhoods.

Robbins founded Robbins and Ream, Architects, together with James Ream in 1977 in San Francisco. From 1977 to 1983, they worked on residences, offices buildings, colleges, parking structures, and a church. Their designs include Third Baptist Church Center in San Francisco, World College West Master Plan and Phase I Buildings in Marin County, and Oakmead Terraces Office Buildings in Sunnyvale, which was featured in Architectural Review as well as Architectural Record in 1979 and 1978, respectively.

Robbins returned to solo work in 1984 under the company name Jack Robbins FAIA Architect, Urban Design, Inc. From 1984 to 2007, Robbins designed more homes in the East Bay, a home in Los Angeles, two condominium buildings in San Francisco, Crocker Bank in Sonora, and a biomedical research building in Zimbabwe. He became a Fellow of the AIA in 1975.

Robbins retired in 1993.

Sources:

CV provided by J. Robbins

Biographical listing in 1962 American Architects Directory

Biographical listing in 1970 American Architects Directory

#### **Scope and Content of Collection**

The Collection consists of three Series: Professional Papers, Office Records, and Project Records. Professional Papers contain primarily Robbins work as the Director of City Planning and Community Development for the City of Fremont, from 1972-1976. Also included are records related to Robbins tenure as Commissioner and then Chairman of the Oakland City Planning Commission. Office Records is comprised of awards submission binders and completed project photographs, drawings, slides and newspaper clippings from a wide range of Robbins projects. The Project Records Series contains financial records, contracts, correspondence, notes, preliminary sketches, and specifications from 1962-2007 as well as working drawings for project dating from 1955-2007.

#### **Indexing Terms**

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library's online public access catalog.

#### **Subjects**

Architects--California.

Architecture--California.

Architectural firms--California.

Architecture--California--San Francisco Bay Area--20th century.

Architecture--Domestic--California--San Francisco Bay Area.

#### **Genres and Forms of Material**

Architectural records.

Photographs.

Architectural drawings.

Architectural photographs.

Clippings.

Slides.

#### **Index Terms Related to this Collection**

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Robbins, Jack.

Ream, James.

[Records of James Ream, 2001-10.](#) Environmental Design Archives.

### Project Index

The following is a list of architectural projects from the Jack Robbins Collection. For more complete information about collection contents for each project, as well as shelf location and microfilming status, download the complete **Project Index** in an Excel spreadsheet format by going to <http://www.ced.berkeley.edu/cedarchives/pindex/robbins.xls> . For instructions on interpreting the Project Index, see **The Guide to the Project Index** at <http://www.ced.berkeley.edu/cedarchives/pindex/guide.htm> .

The Project Index list is arranged alphabetically by Project/Client Name and contains information, where available, about the location, date, project type, architect, collaborators, photographers, and formats for each project in the collection.

### **Project/Client Name (location, date, project type) Collaborator (role), Photographer [Format - Ms=Manuscripts, Dr=Drawings, Ph=Photographs]**

- 2239 Blake St. ( Berkeley , CA ; 1965 ; residential - multi ) [Ms, Dr]
- 2410 California Street ( San Francisco , CA ; 1987 ; commercial ) Collaborator: Jack Robbins FAIA Architect, Urban Design, Inc. [Dr]
- 2495 California Street ( San Francisco , CA ; 1986 ; commercial ) Collaborator: Jack Robbins FAIA Architect, Urban Design, Inc. [Dr]
- Armstrong, Bastow and Potter (APB) Office Building ( San Jose , CA ; 1983 ; commercial ) Collaborator: Ream, James (architect) [Ph]
- Baer Matsunga ( Berkeley , CA ; 1965 ; medical ) [Dr]
- Broderick St. Condominiums ( San Francisco , CA ; 1987 ; residential-multi ) Collaborator: Jack Robbins FAIA Architect, Urban Design, Inc. [Ms, Dr]
- Brundage, Albert ( San Mateo , CA ; 1955 ; residential ) [Dr]
- Central Avenue ( El Cerrito , CA ; 1962 ; residential - multi ) [Dr]
- Colby Ave ( Los Angeles , CA ; 2007 ; residential ) Collaborator: Jack Robbins FAIA Architect, Urban Design, Inc. [Ms, Dr, Ph]
- Crocker Bank at Oakmead Offices ( Sunnyvale , CA ; 1979 ; commercial ) Collaborator: Ream, James (architect) [Ph]
- Crocker Bank Danville ( Danville , CA ; 1984 ; commercial ) Collaborator: Ream, James (architect) [Dr]
- Crocker Bank Sonora ( Sonora , CA ; 1985 ; commercial ) Collaborator: Jack Robbins FAIA Architect, Urban Design, Inc. [Dr, Ph]
- Davenport, Charles ( Berkeley , CA ; 1965 ; residential ) [Dr]
- Dixon, Oliver ( Oakland , CA ; 1965 ; residential-multi ) [Dr]
- Dwight House ( Berkeley , CA ; 1962 ; residential - multi ) [Ms, Dr, Ph]
- Escher, Earl ( Sausalito , CA ; 1962 ; residential ) [Ms, Dr, Ph]
- Evergreen Valley College ( San Jose , CA ; 1971 ; educational ) Collaborator: Skidmore, Owings, Merrill [Ph]
- Feather Ridge River College ( Quincy , CA ; 1969 ; educational ) Collaborator: Skidmore, Owings, Merrill [Ph]
- Joy St. (Hansen, Donald) ( San Francisco , CA ; 2000 ; residential ) Collaborator: Jack Robbins FAIA Architect, Urban Design, Inc. [Ms, Dr, Ph]
- King, James ( Berkeley , CA ; 1959 ; residential ) [Ms, Dr, Ph]
- KSP Lakeside ( Sunnyvale , CA ; 1981 ; commercial ) Collaborator: Ream, James (architect) [Dr, Ph]
- Longridge Road Houses ( Orinda , CA ; 1977 ; residential ) Collaborator: Ream, James (architect) [Ms, Dr]
- McLaughlin, Edwin ( El Cerrito , CA ; 1962 ; residential ) [Ms, Dr, Ph]
- Mills College ( Oakland , CA ; 1967 ; educational ) Collaborator: Skidmore, Owings, Merrill [Dr, Ph]
- Oakmead Offices ( Sunnyvale , CA ; 1978 ; commercial ) Collaborator: Ream, James (architect) [Dr, Ph]
- Placzek, Frederick ( Squaw Valley , CA ; 1963 ; residential ) [Ms, Dr]
- Proposal for Office Building and Hotels ( 1983 ; commercial ) Collaborator: Wynne Corporation Port St. Lucie, FL [Ph]
- Research Facilities ( 1959-1961 ; educational ) Collaborator: McCue and Assoc. [Ph]

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- Robbins, Daniel and Marianna ( Oakland , CA ; 1993 ; residential ) Collaborator: Jack Robbins FAIA Architect, Urban Design, Inc. [Ms, Dr, Ph]
  - Robbins, Jack - Residence ( Oakland , CA ; 1958-1965 ; residential ) [Ms]
  - Schools with John Lyon Reid and Partners ( 1956-1958 ; educational ) Collaborator: Jack Robbins FAIA Architect, Urban Design, Inc. [Ph]
  - Shapiro, Irwin and Anetta ( Berkeley , CA ; 1967 ; residential ) [Ms, Dr, Ph]
  - Simon Mazoradze Medical Research Building ( Harare , Zimbabwe ; 1988-1991 ; medical ) Collaborator: Jack Robbins FAIA Architect, Urban Design, Inc. [Dr, Ph]
  - Singh, RKJ ( Berkeley , CA ; 1967 ; residential ) [Ms, Dr]
  - Soscol Trancas ( Napa , CA ; 1977 ; residential - multi ) [Dr]
  - Steiner, William ( Oakland , CA ; 1972 ; residential ) [Ph]
  - Third Baptist Church ( San Francisco , CA ; 1982 ; religious ) Collaborator: Ream, James (architect) [Ms, Dr, Ph]
  - Towne Residence ( Piedmont , CA ; 1955 ; residential ) Collaborator: Goetz and Hansen Architects [Dr, Ph]
  - Wahrhaftig, Jack ( Oakland , CA ; 1962 ; residential ) [Ms, Dr, Ph]
  - Webster St. Condominiums ( San Francisco , CA ; 1987 ; residential - multi ) Collaborator: Jack Robbins FAIA Architect, Urban Design, Inc. [Ms, Dr]
  - World College West ( Marin , CA ; 1978 ; educational ) Collaborator: Ream, James (architect) [Dr, Ph]
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## I. Professional Papers 1963-1978

### Series Scope and Content Summary

Memoranda, plans, and administrative documents from Robbins time as the Director of City Planning and Community Development for the City of Fremont, from 1972-1976. The single correspondence folder spans 1963-1967, and includes letters to architecture and home magazines, committees, and colleagues, written during Robbins tenure as Commissioner and then Chairman of the Oakland City Planning Commission, as well as during his time at Jacob Robbins and Associates.

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### A. Notes and Correspondence

Box 1, Folder 1a	<b>Correspondence 1963-1967</b>
Box 1, Folder 1b	<b>Robbins C.V n.d.</b>

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### B. City of Fremont: Administrative and Planning Documents

Box 1, Folder 2	<b>City Manager Briefing 1973-1974</b>
Box 1, Folder 3	<b>Civic Center Misc. n.d.</b>
Box 1, Folder 4	<b>Files Development Policies 1975</b>
Box 1, Folder 5	<b>Files Development Regulations (1 of 2) 1975</b>
Box 1, Folder 6	<b>Files Development Regulations (2 of 2) n.d.</b>
Box 1, Folder 7	<b>General Plan 1975</b>
Box 1, Folder 8	<b>General Plan Elements (1 of 2) 1975</b>
Box 1, Folder 9	<b>General Plan Elements (2 of 2) 1973</b>
Box 1, Folder 10	<b>MBO File 1973-1975</b>
Box 1, Folder 11	<b>Photographs and Slides 1977-1978</b>
Box 1, Folder 12	<b>Staff Organization 1973-1974</b>
Box 1, Folder 13	<b>Subdivisions n.d.</b>
Box 1, Folder 14	<b>Target Plans 1973-1974</b>

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**II. Office Records 1959-2007**

**Series Scope and Content Summary**

Awards submissions and completed project photographs, drawings, slides and newspaper clippings from a wide range of Robbins projects, including Evergreen Valley College master plan, Mills College Residence and Dining Halls, Oakmead Office Buildings, and the James King residences.

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**A. Photographs/Presentation Materials**

**\*\*See Project Index**

**III. Project Records 1955-2007**

**Series Scope and Content Summary**

Contains financial records, contracts, correspondence, notes, preliminary sketches, and specifications from 1962-2007 as well as working drawings for project dating from 1955-2007.

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**A. Files**

**\*\*See Project Index**

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**B. Drawings**

**\*\*See Project Index**

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