
Collection number: 2001-6

Environmental Design Archives

University of California, Berkeley
Berkeley, California

Contact Information:

Environmental Design Archives
College of Environmental Design
230 Wurster Hall #1820
University of California, Berkeley
Berkeley, California, 94720-1820
Phone: (510) 642-5124
Fax: (510) 642-2824
Email: archives@socrates.berkeley.edu
URL: http://www.ced.berkeley.edu/cedarchives/

Processed by:
Shelly L. Irving
Date Completed:
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Encoded by:
Environmental Design Archives staff
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Descriptive Summary

Title: George T. Rockrise collection,
Date (inclusive): 1935-1991
Date (bulk): (bulk 1950-1972)
Collection number: 2001-6
Creator: Rockrise, George T., 1917-2000
Extent: 5 boxes, 1 flat box, 2 flat file drawers.
Repository: Environmental Design Archives. College of Environmental Design.
University of California, Berkeley.

Abstract: The George T. Rockrise collection contains some personal documents, such as letters sent to family during Rockrise’s years as a Fulbright Scholar in Italy, holiday cards and travel sketches, but is mostly comprised of professional papers, office records and project records. The documents in the professional papers series reveals Rockris’s diverse interests, active involvement and success in all aspects of environmental design. The majority of projects in the office and project records series were completed by Rockrise as a sole practitioner, often collaborating with landscape architects on projects such as the Donnell Pool House with Thomas Church.

Physical location: For current information on the location of these materials, please consult the library’s online catalog.
Language: English.

Access
Collection is 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**


**Acquisition Information**

This material was acquired in 2001.

**Funding**

Arrangement and description of this collection was funded by a grant from the LEF Foundation.

**Access Points**

Architects -- California.
Architects -- Travel.
Architecture -- California.
Architecture -- 20th Century -- California -- San Francisco Bay Area.
Architecture, Domestic -- California -- San Francisco Bay Area.
Dewey Donnell garden (El Novillero) (Calif.) -- Buildings, structures, etc.
Landscape architecture -- California.
Braun, Ernest
Church, Thomas D.
Halprin, Lawrence
Rockrise, Thomas S.
ROMA Architects
Royston, Hanamoto & Mayes
Online Archive of California

**Biographical Note**

George T. Rockrise (1917-2000)

George T. Rockrise, born in New York City in 1917, was the only child of Agnes Asbury and Thomas S. Rockrise, A.I.A. Thomas S. Rockrise, a 1912 graduate of Syracuse University's School of Architecture, was a successful architect in New York City.

Rockrise also attended Syracuse University's School of Architecture, receiving his undergraduate degree in 1930. Upon graduation he worked for several small architectural and construction firms before being named University Fellow in Architecture at Columbia University in 1940. He graduated with his M.S. in Architecture from Columbia in 1941.

The Panama Canal Service recruited Rockrise immediately after graduation and he began working in Panama that year as an architect for the Canal, the U.S. Navy and the Corps of Engineers Office of the Caribbean Defense Command. Returning to the United States in 1945, Rockrise first worked with Edward Stone in NYC (where he first collaborated with landscape architect, Thomas Church) and then transferred to the office of Skidmore, Owings & Merrill where he worked directly with Le Corbusier, Niemayer, Markelius and others as a staff architect on the United Nations Headquarters Building. In 1947 Thomas Church invited Rockrise to move to San Francisco and become an associate of his internationally known landscape architecture firm. In San Francisco Rockrise worked along side Larry Halprin and June Meehan on projects including the Dewey Donnell Garden in Sonoma County. He also began teaching architectural design at the U.C. Berkeley and Stanford University.

In 1949, Rockrise opened his own practice in the San Francisco Bay Area. Notable projects include his joint venture proposal with L. Halprin and L. Livingston for SPUR titled "What to do About Market Street," Married Student Housing projects for both U.C. San Francisco and U.C. Davis, the U.S. Consulate Building in Fukuoka, Japan.

Rockrise expanded his practice in 1968 to include his associates, Robert Odermatt, Robert Mountjoy and James Amis. They established ROMA, an architecture and planning firm, in 1980. The partnership resulted in several successful projects including Sun River Lodge in Oregon, the Inn at Bodega Bay, and many residences. They were also asked to design the New American Embassy in Manama Bahrain. In 1985 Rockrise retired from ROMA, but continued to work as a consultant and independent practitioner.
In addition to his architectural practice, Rockrise's career was distinguished by his continual and active involvement in several local and Federal public associations and his leadership roles in civic and professional organizations. Rockrise served as a consultant to the U.S. State Department for diplomatic facilities in Brazil, Germany, Saudi Arabia, and Venezuela, advised the first secretary of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, lectured at over 20 domestic and international universities, received the Senior Fulbright Scholarship for Urban Design, living in Italy from 1978-79, sat on numerous national and regional honor awards juries and received several grants from the National Endowment for the Arts.

In the early 1990s Rockrise moved with his family to Glen Ellen in Sonoma County where he passed away in 2000.

Note

Rockrise, G.T. Biography
San Francisco Chronicle, July 14, 2000 Obituary.

Scope and Contents Note
The George T. Rockrise collection spans the dates 1935 - 1991 with the bulk of the records dating between 1950 and 1972. The collection contains some personal documents, such as letters sent to family during Rockrise's years as a Fulbright Scholar in Italy, holiday cards and travel sketches, but is mostly comprised of professional papers, office records and project records.

The documents in the professional papers series reveals Rockrise's diverse interests, active involvement and success in all aspects of environmental design. The majority of projects in the office and project records series were completed by Rockrise as a sole practitioner, often collaborating with landscape architects on projects such as the Donnell Pool House with Thomas Church. These projects range from residences to office buildings, churches, and urban planning projects. The collection contains some work from his time with ROMA, mainly the Charbonneau Development in Wilsonville, Oregon. Rockrise worked with several notable Bay Area photographers, including Ernest Braun, Morley Baer, Rondal Partridge, Phillip Fein, and Karl H. Riek.

Project Index
The following is a list of architectural projects from the Rockrise Collection. For more complete information about collection contents for each project, as well as shelf location and microfilming status, download the complete http://www.ced.berkeley.edu/cedarchives/pindex/rockrise.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 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) Collaborator (role), Photographer [Format - Ms=Manuscripts, Dr=Drawings, Ph=Photographs]

- * Acorn Redevelopment Project (Oakland, CA; n.d.; planning) [Dr, Ph]
- * Algarve New Town Plan (Algarve, Portugal; n.d.; planning) [Ph]
- * Allen & Rice (Marin County, CA; 1953-1954; residential) Photographer: Braun, E. [Dr, Ph]
- * American Consulate Office Building (Fukuoka, Japan; 1957; governmental) Photographer: Ratto, A.G. [Dr, Ph]
- * Aptos Seascape Recreation Center (Aptos, CA; 1964; recreational) Collaborator: Watson, W.J. (architect) [Dr]
- * Ashland Redevelopment (Ashland, OR; n.d.; planning) [Dr]
- * Bell, Harmon (Piedmont, CA; 1964; residential) Collaborator: Watson, W.J. (architect) [Dr]
- * BEQ Modernization Naval Air Station (Alameda, CA; n.d.; governmental) Collaborator: ROMA (architect) [Ph]
- * Bergin (Sausalito, CA; n.d.; residential) Photographer: San Francisco Examiner [Ph]
- * Bomberger, Bruce (Kent Woodlands, CA; 1955-1957; residential) Collaborator: Halprin, L. (landscape architect), Mountjoy, R.C. (architect); Photographer: Baer, M., Stone, D. and Steccati, H., Kerr, D. [Dr, Ph]
- * Brown (Belvedere, CA; n.d.; residential) [Ph]
- * Bulotti Machinery Company (San Francisco, CA; 1961; commercial) [Dr]
- * Calvary Presbyterian Church (San Francisco, CA; 1968; religious) Collaborator: Johnson [Ms, Dr]
- * Carpenter Root Development (Medford, OR; 1967; planning) Collaborator: Royston, Hanamoto, Mayes & Beck (landscape architect), Watson, W.J. (architect) [Ms, Dr, Ph]
- * Carpenter, Dunbar (Medford, CA; 1953; residential) Collaborator: Halprin, L. (landscape architect); Photographer: Braun, E. [Dr, Ph]

• *Charbonneau Contract 513 (Wilsonville, OR; 1972; residential-multi) Collaborator: ROMA (architect)
  Balsinger-Peterson & Associates (architect) Mitchell McArthur Gardner O’Kane (landscape architect) [Dr]
• *Charbonneau Neighborhood L (Wilsonville, OR; 1978; residential-multi) Collaborator: ROMA (architect) [Dr]
• *Charbonneau Neighborhood M (Wilsonville, OR; 1977; residential-multi) Collaborator: ROMA (architect) [Dr]
• *Charbonneau Neighborhood Q (Wilsonville, OR; 1979; residential-multi) Collaborator: ROMA (architect) [Dr]
• *Charbonneau Neighborhoods F & G (Wilsonville, OR; 1971; residential-multi) Collaborator: ROMA (architect) [Dr]
• *Charbonneau Section I (Wilsonville, OR; 1971; residential-multi) Collaborator: ROMA (architect)
  Balsinger-Peterson & Associates (architect) Mitchell McArthur Gardner O’Kane (landscape architect) [Dr]
• *Coit Drapery Cleaning Plant (Burlingame, CA; 1961; industrial) Collaborator: Watson, W.J. (architect) [Dr]
• *Donnell (Sonoma, CA; 1949; residential) Collaborator: Church, T.D. (landscape architect); Photographer: Partridge, R. [Ph]
• *Ehrman (Rafael, CA; 1959; residential) [Dr]
• *Fahrney, Paul (Kent Woodlands, CA; n.d.; residential) Collaborator: Church, T.D. (landscape architect); Photographer: Braun, E. [Dr, Ph]
• *Fairman, Derek (Belvedere, CA; 1953; residential) Photographer: Braun, E. [Dr, Ph]
• *Garden Apartments (Menlo Park, CA; 1953; residential-multi) [Dr]
• *Gilman, P.K. (Kent Woodlands, CA; 1952-1953; residential) Photographer: Braun, E. [Ph]
• *Hoover (Upper Napa Valley, CA; 1955; residential) [Dr]
• *Kimball (Woodside, CA; 1967; residential) Collaborator: Ossidoff, V. (architect) [Dr]
• *Kuzell Lodge (Squaw Valley, CA; 1959; residential) [Dr]
• *Laguer (Monterey N.L., Mexico; 1965; residential) [Ms, Dr]
• *Lapham, Rodger D., lodge (Pebble Beach, CA; n.d.; residential) Collaborator: Watson, W.J. (architect); Photographer: Baer, M. [Dr, Ph]
• *Magowan, Robert (San Francisco, CA; 1961; residential) Collaborator: Ruegg, T.G. (architect), Halprin, L. (landscape architect); Photographer: Baer, M. [Dr, Ph]
• *Marion (Los Gatos, CA; 1950; residential) [Dr]
• *Matzinger, Merrill (Belvedere, CA; n.d.; residential) Photographer: Baer, M. [Dr, Ph]
• *Mauney, Guy (Floras Lake, OR; 1950; residential) [Dr]
• *Mohler (n.d.; residential) Photographer: Molino, K. (Ph)
• *Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church (Moraga, CA; 1963; religious) Collaborator: ROMA (architect) [Ms, Dr, Ph]
• *Moss, John M. (Walnut Creek, CA; 1955-1956; residential) [Dr, Ph]
• *Murphy, Jack (San Francisco, CA; n.d.; residential) Collaborator: William B. Gilbert & Associates (engineer); Photographer: Riek, K.H. [Dr, Ph]
• *Newell Garden Apartments (n.d.; residential-multi) Photographer: Fein, Philip (photographer) [Ph]
• *Novato General Hospital (Novato, CA; 1972; medical) Collaborator: ROMA, Lawrence Halprin & Assoc. (landscape architects); Photographer: Baer, M. [Dr, Ph]
• *Paradise Ridge Winery (Santa Rosa, CA; n.d.; commercial) Collaborator: Lufrin & Macnair (landscape architect) [Ms, Dr, Ph]
• *Paxton, Glen V. (Sausalito, CA; 1953; residential) Photographer: Partridge, R. [Ph]
• *Perlman, David (Squaw Valley, CA; 1954; residential) Photographer: Braun, E. [Ms, Dr, Ph]
• *Post (Kentfield, CA; 1952; residential) [Dr]
• *Riley, William T. (Atherton, CA; 1956-1957; residential) Collaborator: Royston, Hanamoto & Mayes (landscape architect) Braun, E. [Ms, Dr, Ph]
• *Rockrise, George T. (Squaw Valley, CA; 1956; residential) Braun, E. [Ms, Dr, Ph]

Physical Description: Box 1, Flat file
Scope and Content Note
Arrangement
Arranged chronologically within series.
Includes personal letters written during his Fulbright-Hays fellowship in Italy, domestic and international travel sketches and slides and Thomas S. Rockrise's thesis project and professional commissions.

A. Biographical Information

B. Correspondence

C. Education

D. Travel

E. Family Papers

II. PROFESSIONAL PAPERS, 1947-1990

Physical Description: Boxes 1-2, 6, Flat file.
Scope and Content Note
Arrangement
Arranged chronologically within series.

A. Correspondence

B. Papers

C. Presentations

D. Associations and Committees

E. Awards / Licenses

F. Fellowships / Scholarships

III. OFFICE RECORDS, 1949-1972

Physical Description: Box 2, 6, Flat file.
Scope and Content Note
Arrangement
Arranged chronologically within series.

A. Public Relations

B. Presentation Materials

C. Design Awards

IV. PROJECT RECORDS, 1949-1979

Physical Description: Boxes 3-5, Flat files.
Scope and Content Note
Arrangement
Arranged by project/job/client name.
IV. PROJECT RECORDS, 1949-1979

A. Files

B. Specifications

C. Photographs

D. Drawings


A. Biographical Information
  Box/Folder 1 : 1  Biographical Information n.d.

B. Correspondence
  Box/Folder 1 : 2; FF 1  Christmas Card Designs n.d.
  Box/Folder 1 : 3  Personal Correspondence 1978-1979

C. Student work / travel
  Box/Folder 1 : 4  Diplomas and student memberships 1935-1941

D. Travel
  Box/Folder 1 : 5; FF 1  Travel sketches ca. 1957-1991
  Box/Folder 1 : 6  Travel slides ca. 1964-1968

E. Family Papers
  Box/Folder 1 : 7  T.S. Rockrise papers n.d.

SERIES II. PROFESSIONAL PAPERS, 1947-1990

A. Correspondence
  Box/Folder 1 : 1  Professional correspondence 1982
  Box/Folder 1 : 2  Retirement Correspondence 1985

B. Papers
  Box/Folder 1 : 3  Seminar and symposium papers 1967-1968

C. Presentations
  Box/Folder 1 : 4  Speeches / Book IV 1967-1968
  Box/Folder 1 : 5  Speeches 1983
D. Associations and Committees

Box/Folder 1 : 6
Box/Folder 6 : 7
FF 2

E. Awards / Licenses

Box/Folder 6 : 8
Box/Folder 6 : 9

Licenses 1947-1979
Awards and Certificates 1956-1978

F. Fellowships / Scholarships

Box/Folder 1 : 10
Box/Folder 2 : 11-13

American Academy in Rome Mid-Career Fellowship Application 1977
Fulbright-Hays Scholarship 1978-1979

SERIES III. OFFICE RECORDS, 1949-1972

A. Public Relations

Box/Folder 2 : 1
Box/Folder 2 : 2

Rockrise Firm Photographs n.d.
ROMA Brochures n.d.

B. Presentation Materials

Box/Folder 2 : 3
Box/Folder 2 : 4
Box/Folder 2 : 5
Box/Folder 2 : 6
FF 3
Box/Folder 2 : 7
Box/Folder 2 : 8

"Early Houses" n.d.
"A Portfolio of Country Residences" n.d.
"Houses" n.d.
"Institutional and Commercial Projects" n.d.
A/P Small House Competition Entry 1952
Architectural Job Slides n.d.
Planning Job Slides n.d.

C. Design Awards

Box/Folder 6 : 50

Design Awards 1956-1978

SERIES IV. PROJECT RECORDS, 1949-1979

A. Files

** See Project Index

B. Specifications

** See Project Index

C. Photographs

** See Project Index

D. Drawings
** See Project Index