Donald A. Wexler Collection

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Palm Springs Art Museum
101 Museum Dr.
Palm Springs, California 92263
(760) 322-4833
flopez@psmuseum.org
http://www.psmuseum.org/
2019
Donald A. Wexler Collection

Descriptive Summary

Title: Donald A. Wexler Collection


Collection Number: 30-2011 ; 30-2012

Creator/Collector: Donald A. Wexler

Extent: 2 linear feet and flat file drawers

Repository: Palm Springs Art Museum
Palm Springs, California 92263

Abstract: Donald A. Wexler FAIA was born in South Dakota in 1926. He remains one of the most influential and famous architects to leave his mark on modern and midcentury architecture in the Palm Springs area. He is known for pioneering the use of steel in residential design. After working for a year in William Cody’s office, Wexler joined Richard Harrison to form their practice. Wexler and Harrison became widely recognized for their Steel Development Houses. Wexler’s practice began with the design of prefabricated houses and portable classrooms constructed of light gauge steel. The extremes of the desert climate forced Wexler to develop a sustainable architecture, which was not only successful functionally, but achieved a timeless aesthetic appeal. He pioneered commercial and residential construction using steel and prefabrication. He applied his groundbreaking techniques and unique style to projects for clients such as Dinah Shore, Frank Sinatra, the Alexander Construction Company, and Walt Disney World Resort. During his career, he designed numerous houses and condominium complexes, as well as banks, office parks, and schools. The Palm Springs Municipal Airport commission, designed in 1963-1964, when he was in solo practice, was a major milestone in his career. He practiced architecture in Palm Springs during what he calls the “golden years” of California architecture. Wexler passed away in Palm Springs in 2015.

Language of Material: English

Access
The collection is open to qualified researchers by appointment only.

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Preferred Citation
Donald A. Wexler Collection. Palm Springs Art Museum

Acquisition Information
Gift of Donald A. Wexler.

Scope and Content of Collection
The materials were donated by Donald A. Wexler and contain two series – Drawings and Research Files.

Indexing Terms
Architecture – California - Palm Springs
Palm Springs - Buildings, structures, etc.
Wexler, Donald A. (1926-2015) - Archives
Palm Springs, California
Architects - California - Palm Springs

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