Albert Frey Collection

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**Descriptive Summary**

**Title:** Albert Frey Collection  
**Dates:** 1940’s to 1990’s (bulk 1950-1970)  
**Collection Number:** 55-1999.2  
**Creator/Collector:** Albert Frey  
**Extent:** 100 linear feet plus flat file drawers  
**Repository:** Palm Springs Art Museum  
Palm Springs, California 92263

**Abstract:** Albert Frey, FAIA, was born 1903 in Switzerland, and earned his architecture diploma there in 1924. He moved to Paris in 1928 to work for Le Corbusier, on projects including the Villa Savoye. Moving to New York in 1930, Frey was the first Corbusier disciple to work in the U.S. There, he became partners with architect A. Lawrence Kocher, who was also managing editor of Architectural Record magazine. Together they published numerous articles on urban planning, the modernist aesthetic, and technology. Kocher and Frey also designed four buildings, including the acclaimed Aluminaire House, a demonstration house designed for the Exhibition of the Architectural League in New York, 1931. In 1934, Frey came to Palm Springs to supervise construction of the Kocher-Samson Building, a mixed-use building for his partner’s brother, J.J. Kocher. Frey fell in love with the area, and worked with John Porter Clark for two years under the offices of Van Pelt and Lind as neither architect was yet licensed in California. Returning to New York in 1937 to work on the Museum of Modern Art, Frey moved back to Palm Springs permanently two years later. Rejoining Clark in a partnership, Frey went onto design a body of work including residential, commercial, institutional and civic buildings. Many of these buildings are preserved today including Raymond Loewy House (1946-47), Palm Springs City Hall (1952), Palm Springs Aerial Tramway Valley Station (1963) and Frey House II (1963-64) and the most recently restored North Shore Yacht Club at the Salton Sea (1958). Frey lived in Palm Springs until his death in 1998. As Palm Springs’ first full-time, resident architect, Frey is known as one of the founders of Desert Modernism.

**Language of Material:** English

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

**Publication Rights**  
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**Preferred Citation**  
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**Acquisition Information**  
At the bequest of Albert Frey upon his death, his second residence in Palm Springs, 686 Palisades Drive (Frey House II), and the contents of the residence were donated to the museum.

**Scope and Content of Collection**  
The collection contains drawings, slides, negatives, scrapbooks, books, magazines, codes, standards, professional association materials, artifacts and vendor samples and catalogs, correspondence, and household items. The collection is organized into 14 series each of which is described below: Series I: Correspondence - Active Series II: Correspondence - Inactive Series III: Finances Series IV: Personal Files, Miscellaneous Series V: Architectural Files, Miscellaneous Series VI: Architectural Projects Series VII: Personal and Architectural Photographs Series VIII: Blueprints, Drawings, and Maps Series IX: Books Series X: Magazines /Periodicals and Clippings Series XI: Vendor Catalogs and Codes, Standards, etc. Series XII: Memorabilia + Artifacts Series XIII: Household Items Series XIV: Frey House II

**Indexing Terms**  
Palm Springs – Buildings, structures, etc.  
Architecture – California - Palm Springs  
Frey, Albert (1903-1998) - Archives  
Palm Springs, California  
Architects – California - Palm Springs

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