Finding aid for the Coop Himmelblau architectural models and drawings for five projects, 1983-1995

Sara McGillivray
Descriptive Summary

Title: Coop Himmelblau architectural models and drawings for five projects

Date (inclusive): 1983-1995

Number: 2002.M.2

Creator/Collector: Coop Himmelblau

Physical Description: 138.21 Linear Feet (33 boxes and 1 flatfile folder)

Repository:
The Getty Research Institute
Special Collections
1200 Getty Center Drive, Suite 1100
Los Angeles 90049-1688
reference@getty.edu
URL: http://hdl.handle.net/10020/askref
(310) 440-7390

Abstract: This collection consists of architectural models and drawings for five projects designed by the architectural firm Coop Himmelblau from 1983 to 1995. The five projects are: Open House, Malibu, California, 1983-circa 1990; Rooftop Office Remodeling, Vienna, 1983-1989; City Plan for Melun Sénart, France, 1987; Rehak House, Malibu, California, 1990-circa 1995; and Anselm Kiefer Studios, Buchen, Germany, 1990 and Barjac, France, 1992. The firm name is also presented as Coop Himmelb(l)au.

Request Materials: Request access to the physical materials described in this inventory through the catalog record for this collection. Click here for the access policy.

Language: Collection material is in English with some German

Biographical / Historical

Coop Himmelblau is a Viennese architectural firm founded in 1968 by Wolf D. Prix, Helmut Swiczinsky, and Michael Holzer. Holzer left the firm in 1971, and Prix and Swiczinsky continued working as partners until Swiczinsky's retirement in the early 2000s. The name Coop Himmelblau translates to Blue Sky Cooperative and reflects the firm's focus on designing structures that reach towards the sky and endeavor to leave the ground. The firm's early work was rooted in theory and performance art, and by the 1980s had developed into experimentations with structure and design processes. Prix and Swiczinsky explored architectural tectonics and the visual expression of tension through structural materials. They pushed their design process by cycling back and forth between sketching and modeling, and by sketching with their eyes closed.

The materials in this collection date from the 1980s to early 1990s as the firm's work was gaining international recognition. The Rooftop Office Remodeling project brought the firm attention, and the firm was included in the 1988 exhibition Deconstructivist Architecture at the New York Museum of Modern Art.

Coop Himmelblau opened a Los Angeles office in the late 1980s, where they would develop such unbuilt projects as Open House and Rehak House.

In the mid 1990s, the firm began to concentrate on built work, and also began to present the firm name as Coop Himmelb(l)au to emphasize the role of construction in their practice.

Bibliography:

Coop Himmelblau website; coop-himmelblau.at


Conditions Governing Access

Open for use by qualified researchers. Contact the repository for information regarding access to the architectural models.

Publication Rights

Contact Library Reproductions and Permissions.

Preferred Citation


http://hdl.handle.net/10020/cifa2002m2

Immediate Source of Acquisition
Acquired in 2002.

**Processing Information**

The collection was rehoused upon receipt. In 2017, Sara McGillivray rehoused the drawings and wrote the finding aid.

**Scope and Content of Collection**

This collection comprises architectural models and drawings related to five projects designed by the architectural firm Coop Himmelblau from 1983 to 1995. There are 27 models in the collection, including conceptual and sketch models, site models, and finished models. The drawings consist of 38 computer generated negatives, 41 prints printed directly from the negatives, nine computer generated prints, 16 original drawings, and two color photocopies. Materials for each project include both models and drawings.


Open House began as a paradigmatic design in 1983, and was later developed for a New York-based client, to be built on a site in Malibu. The double-skinned structure was conceived as a shell only, with an open floor plan balanced above the ground plane. The project was not realized.

The design for Rooftop Office Remodeling began in 1983, and was further developed and constructed between 1987 and 1989. The project consists of an addition to an existing building on Falkenstrasse in Vienna for the law firm Schuppich, Sporn, Winischhofer, Schuppich. The cantilevered structure houses a meeting room and office space.

The firm’s City Plan for Melun Sénart is a master plan study that responds to urban sprawl in an area outside Paris.

Rehak House is an unbuilt project sited in Malibu. Material for this project includes 15 models at various stages of the design process.

The firm designed studios for the German artist Anselm Kiefer in two different locations, neither of which were realized.

**Arrangement**

This archive is arranged by project in rough chronological order guided by the job numbers assigned to each project by the firm.

**Subjects - Topics**

Architecture, Modern -- 20th century

**Genres and Forms of Material**

Architectural models

Architectural drawings -- 20th century

**Contributors**

Coop Himmelblau

Prix, Wolf D.

Swiczinsky, Helmut, 1944-

**P.8301 Open House (Malibu, California), 1983-circa 1990**

**Drawings**

- box 1, folder 1  Negatives
- box 2, folder 1  Prints
- box 3*, folder 1  Original drawings

**Models**

- box 4**  Site model,
  - Physical Description: 9 1/2 x 36 x 27 inches;
  - Physical Description: corrugated board, paper, foamcore, and metal wire

- box 5**- 8**  Model,
  - Physical Description: 12 3/8 x 36 x 25 inches;
  - Physical Description: plywood, plexiglass, cardboard, board, corrugated board
P.8401 Rooftop Office Remodeling (Vienna, Austria), 1983-1989
Drawings
box 1, folder 2 Negatives
box 2, folder 2 Prints
box 3*, folder 2 Original drawings
Models
box 10** Site model,
   Physical Description: 23 1/2 x 33 1/4 x 18 3/4 inches;
   Physical Description: board, wire, paper, and plastic sheet

box 11** Model,
   Physical Description: 23 x 39 3/4 x 44 inches;
   Physical Description: wood, metal wire and rod, plexiglass, paper, and foamcore

W.8602 City Plan for Melun Sénart, France, 1987
Drawings
box 1, folder 3 Negatives
box 2, folder 3 Prints
Flatfile 1** Original drawings
Flatfile 1** Color photocopies
Models
"Dissipation of our Bodies" (sketch models)
box 12** Model A,
   Physical Description: 12 x 22 x 15 inches;
   Physical Description: wood, metal, wire, rubber band, foamcore, paper, and tape

box 12** Model B,
   Physical Description: 12 x 22 x 15 inches;
   Physical Description: wire, foamcore, paper, rubber band, metal, wood, and tape

box 13** Conceptual model,
   Physical Description: 3 1/2 x 40 x 28 inches;
   Physical Description: board, paper, plexiglass, wood, metal wire, rubber band, and foamcore

box 14** Model,
   Physical Description: 7 3/8 x 46 x 34 1/8 inches;
   Physical Description: paper, foamcore, wire and sculpting foam, and plexiglass case

Presentation model
box 15** Part 1,
   Physical Description: 10 x 79 3/4 x 41 3/8 inches;
   Physical Description: painted board, metal wire, and plexiglass

box 16** Part 2,
   Physical Description: 11 x 79 3/4 x 41 inches;
   Physical Description: painted board, glass, metal wire, and plexiglass
Part 3,

P.9009 Rehak House (Malibu, California), 1990-circa 1995

Drawings

box 1, folder 4
Negatives

box 2, folder 4
Prints

box 3*, folder 3
Original drawings

Models

box 18**
Study model with base,

Physical Description: 33 3/4 x 50 1/2 x 17 3/4 inches;
Physical Description: paper, wood, and plastic sheet on plywood base

box 19**
Study model,

Physical Description: 8 1/4 x 17 1/4 x 11 inches;
Physical Description: foamcore, paper, metal pins, and corrugated cardboard

box 20**-21
Study model,

Physical Description: 15 x 18 x 11 inches;
Physical Description: paper, wood, blackline print, cellophane tape, and plastic sheet

box 22**
Topographical model,

Physical Description: 2 1/2 x 18 x 9 1/2 inches;
Physical Description: foamcore, paper, and metal pins

box 22**
Study model,

Physical Description: 16 x 20 x 18 inches;
Physical Description: plexiglass, corrugated cardboard, and wood

box 23**
Study model, 3/8" scale,

Physical Description: 56 1/2 x 50 1/2 x 38 1/2 inches;
Physical Description: foamcore, white paper and plexiglass, wire, white board, cellophane tape, and metal pins

box 24**
Site model,

Physical Description: 8 1/4 x 39 x 18 3/4 inches;
Physical Description: plaster, wood, cardboard, and metal pins

box 25**
Site study model, Main and Guest House,

Physical Description: 13 x 16 3/4 x 17 inches;
Physical Description: foamcore, plexiglass, paper, and wood base

box 26**
Structural model,

Physical Description: 27 1/2 x 33 x 52 1/2 inches;
Physical Description: plaster base on wood, wood, and board

box 27**
Model "A" (site model),

Physical Description: 14 1/2 x 39 3/4 x 19 1/4 inches;
Physical Description: foamcore, paper, wire, photographic plastic film mounted on plexiglass sheet inside case
Container List

box 28**  
Model "B",  
Physical Description: 26 3/4 x 21 x 16 5/8 inches;  
Physical Description: cardboard, metal, and wood

box 29**  
Model "C",  
Physical Description: 20 x 17 1/2 x 16 3/4 inches;  
Physical Description: board, plexiglass, wood, and plastic

box 29**  
Model "D",  
Physical Description: 20 x 17 1/2 x 16 3/4 inches;  
Physical Description: plexiglass, plywood, wood, plastic, metal wire, and paper

box 29**  
Model "E",  
Physical Description: 20 x 17 1/2 x 16 3/4 inches;  
Physical Description: foamcore, paper, wood, and plastic

box 30**  
Model "F",  
Physical Description: 30 x 50 3/4 x 17 3/4 inches;  
Physical Description: board, plexiglass, cardboard, wood, plastic, and metal wire

box 31**  
Model "G",  
Physical Description: 53 x 53 1/2 x 50 1/4 inches;  
Physical Description: plywood, foamcore, paper, plexiglass, and metal wire

box 19**  
Unidentified base,  
Physical Description: 8 1/4 x 18 x 11 inches;  
Physical Description: wood

VP_9013 Anselm Kiefer Studios (Buchen, Germany, and Barjac, France), 1990, 1992
Drawings
box 1, folder 5  
Negatives
box 2, folder 5  
Prints
box 3*, folder 4  
Original drawings
Models
box 32**  
Model I,  
Physical Description: 10 1/2 x 39 3/4 x 83 inches  
Physical Description: paper, masking tape, wood, metal, and plexiglass

box 33**  
Model II,  
Physical Description: 18 x 65 1/4 x 71 inches  
Physical Description: wood, masonite (or particle board?) base, corrugated board, plexiglass, and metal