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## **Finding aid for the Haralamb H. Georgescu papers, 1907-1992**

Finding aid prepared by Mitchell Erzinger

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## Descriptive Summary

**Title:** Haralamb H. Georgescu papers

**Date (inclusive):** 1907-1992, bulk 1931-1977

**Number:** 2008.M.35

**Creator/Collector:** Georgescu, Haralamb H., 1908-1977

**Physical Description:** 7.8 linear feet(6 boxes, 2 flatfile folders)

### Repository:

The Getty Research Institute

Special Collections

1200 Getty Center Drive, Suite 1100

Los Angeles, California, 90049-1688

(310) 440-7390

**Abstract:** The collection documents the professional career of Romanian-born architect Haralamb H. Georgescu. While incomplete, these papers shed light on the prevalence of modernism and its European sources while further broadening the understanding of twentieth-century California modernism.

**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 Romanian.

### Biographical/Historical Note

Born in Pitești, Romania in 1908, Haralamb H. Georgescu became a well-known modernist architect in his native country. He graduated from the Polytechnic Institute of the University of Bucharest in 1933 and returned as professor from 1940 until his immigration to America in 1947. His work, especially the buildings designed with Horia Creangă, is cited in the standard works on twentieth-century architecture in Romania. Among his best known projects are the ARO Motion Picture Theater (Bucharest, 1934), the ARO Palace Hotel (Brașov, 1938), and the Pescăruș Restaurant (Bucharest, 1939). Georgescu also built several projects for King Michael of Romania, including his residence in Eforie Nord.

In September of 1947, Georgescu fled to the United States, due to conflicts with Romania's Communist regime. After a short stay in New York, he was hired in 1948 by the School of Architecture of the University of Nebraska, Lincoln to teach drawing and urban planning. Wanting to return to architectural practice, Georgescu (who Americanized his name to Harlan Georgesco) moved to Los Angeles in 1951, where he worked for a series of architects and designers including, Paul László, McAllister and Wagner, and Kenneth Lind. In 1957, Georgescu was able to start a firm in partnership with James Larson, and then in 1959 began working with Howard Lapham on projects in Palm Springs. Georgescu received his California architect license in 1964 and established his own practice in Century City, which he continued until his premature death in 1977.

Georgescu's best-known work in the United States is the house he designed in Beverly Hills for UCLA professor Pier Maria Pasinetti (1958). In addition to the Pasinetti House, he built many houses in Palm Springs, and designed several convalescent hospitals in the Los Angeles area. He also developed a visionary plan for 640 feet high towers consisting of vertical streets and suspended houselots termed Skylots (1965) - an integrated, sustaining environment intended to solve the congestion problem in Los Angeles. Though never realized, and it remains ahead of its time in terms of ecological and environmental concerns.

### Access

Open for use by qualified researchers, with the exception of un-reformatted microfilm.

### Publication Rights

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### Preferred Citation

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<http://hdl.handle.net/10020/cifa2008m35>

### Acquisition Information

Gift of Christopher Georgesco. Acquired in 2008.

### Processing History

Initial processing conducted by Vladimira Stefura in 2008. In 2012 Mitchell Erzinger conducted final processing, arrangement, and description of the collection. Descriptive notes were derived from curatorial sources.

### Scope and Content of Collection

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The Haralamb H. Georgescu papers document the career of this architect who had prominent careers in both Romania and the United States. Trained in Bucharest, Georgescu contributed substantially to Romanian modernism before immigrating to America, where he began a new career and continued to expand his Modernist vocabulary, particularly in the Los Angeles area. Most of the papers relate to Georgescu's American projects, but there are also photographic prints and negatives, in addition to some drawings and publications that show the highly modernist work he did in Romania in collaboration with Horia Creangă prior to his immigration to America.

Series I contains materials relating to Georgescu's architectural projects, in both Romania and America, consisting primarily of photographic prints and negatives while also including some original drawings and reproductions, documentation, articles, and microfilm. Also included are photographic prints of projects executed by Horia Creangă prior to, or without, the collaborative relationship with Georgescu.

Series II includes other materials relating to Georgescu's professional career, in addition to personal materials. Included are immigration files consisting of correspondence and original Romanian documentation, correspondence relating to Georgescu's teaching career, personal histories, publicity including both Romanian and American articles, and some personal photographs.

Bulk dates represent the majority of the materials in the collection, with inclusive dates representing early family photographs and later extant publications referencing Georgescu's work.

**Arrangement**

Arranged in two series: ; .Series I. Project records, 1934-1977Series II. Other professional and personal papers, 1907-1992

**Subjects - Names**

Creangă, Horia, 1892-1943

Georgescu, Haralamb H., 1908-1977

**Subjects - Topics**

Architects--California--Los Angeles--20th Century

Architects--Romania--20th century

Architecture, Modern--20th century--California, Southern

Architecture, Modern--20th century--Romania

Architecture--California--Los Angeles--20th century

Architecture--Romania

Modern movement (Architecture)--California

Modern movement (Architecture)--Romania

**Subjects - Places**

Bucharest (Romania)--Buildings, structures, etc.--20th century

Los Angeles (Calif.)--Buildings, structures, etc.--20th century

**Genres and Forms of Material**

Architectural drawings (visual works)

Black-and-white prints (photographs)

Microfilm

Negatives

Photographic prints--20th century

**Contributors**

Creangă, Horia, 1892-1943

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**Series I. Project records, 1931-1975, undated**

**Physical Description:** 7.4 linear feet(5 boxes, 2 flatfile folders)

**Scope and Content Note**

Black-and-white photographic prints documenting Georgescu's projects comprise the bulk of Series I. Also included are original drawings and reproductions, microfilm, and documentation such as correspondence and specifications. Drawing reproductions include photostats, photocopies, prints and line negatives of plans and renderings.

For each project, location and date are provided, when known. The dates listed are project dates derived from various sources, including catalogues, publications and Georgescu's personal histories, and represent a combination of initial planning and completion dates. For American projects, locations are in California unless otherwise noted.

**Arrangement note**

This series is separated into Romanian and American projects, and then arranged in chronological order by project date. Undated and unidentified projects appear at the end of both respective sections. Romanian projects headed by Horia Creangă are placed after the primary Georgescu projects.

**Projects in Romania, 1931-1939, undated**

Box 1, Folder 2B  
Box 1, Folder 2

**Apartment building, 16-18 Dr. Lister Street (Bucharest, 1933)**

**ARO motion picture theater (Bucharest, 1934)**

**Scope and Content Note**

Addition to ARO building (1931); collaboration with Horia Creangă, original architect.

**Pipe factory, Malaxa Industries (Bucharest, 1935)**

**Scope and Content Note**

Collaboration with Horia Creangă.

Box 1, Folder 1  
Box 3, Folder 6  
Box 1, Folder 2A

**Photographic prints**

**Negatives**

**Apartment building, 19 Rome Street (Bucharest, 1935)**

**ARO apartment building, 91-93 Calea Victoriei (Bucharest, 1936)**

**Photographic prints**

**Negatives**

**Concordia engine factory (Ploiești, 1936)**

**Photographic prints**

**Negatives**

Box 1, Folder 9  
Box 3, Folder 6

**Obor food market (Bucharest, 1937)**

**Photographic prints**

**Negatives**

Box 1, Folder 4  
Box 3, Folder 6

**Villa of the Great Voivode Mihai (Eforie Nord, 1937)**

**Scope and Content Note**

Horia Creangă original architect.

Box 1, Folder 5  
Box 3, Folder 6

**Photographic prints**

**Negatives**

**ARO hotel (Brașov, 1938)**

**Scope and Content Note**

Collaboration with Horia Creangă.

Box 1, Folder 6  
Box 3, Folder 6

**Photographic prints**

**Negatives**

**Pescăruș restaurant (Herăstrău Lake, Bucharest, 1939)**

**Scope and Content Note**

Collaboration with Horia Creangă.

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<p>Box 1, Folder 7 Box 3, Folder 6</p>	<p><b>Photographic prints</b> <b>Negatives</b> <b>Exhibition buildings (Herăstrău Park, Bucharest, 1939)</b> <b>Scope and Content Note</b> Collaboration with Horia Creangă.</p>
<p>Box 1, Folder 8 Box 3, Folder 6</p>	<p><b>Photographic prints</b> <b>Negatives</b> <b>Horia Creangă projects, 1931-1937</b> <b>Scope and Content Note</b> Projects executed prior to, or without, collaborative relationship with Haralamb H. Georgescu.</p>
<p>Box 1, Folder 10 Box 1, Folder 11 Box 1, Folder 12 Box 1, Folder 13 Box 1, Folder 14 Box 1, Folder 15 Box 1, Folder 16</p>	<p><b>ARO building (Bucharest, 1931)</b> <b>Anton Davidoglu apartment building, Dacia Boulevard (Bucharest, 1932)</b> <b>Bunescu villa, 12 Alexandru Alley (Bucharest, 1932)</b> <b>Dulfu villa, Bateriilor Street (Bucharest, 1933)</b> <b>Elisabeta Cantacuzino villa, 15 Alexandru Alley (Bucharest, 1934)</b> <b>Burileanu Malaxa apartment building (Bucharest, 1935)</b> <b>Palatul Cultural (Cernăuți, 1937)</b> <b>Miscellaneous/unidentified Romanian projects</b></p>
<p>Box 1, Folder 17 Box 3, Folder 6</p>	<p><b>Photographic prints</b> <b>Negatives</b> <b>Projects in the United States, 1956-1975, undated</b></p>
<p>Box 1, Folder 18 Box 1, Folder 19</p>	<p><b>Chi Chi Starlite Room (Palm Springs, 1956)</b> <b>St. George Romanian Orthodox Cathedral (Southfield, MI, 1957)</b> <b>St. Mary's Romanian Orthodox Church (Cleveland, OH, 1957)</b></p>
<p>Box 1, Folder 21-23 Flatfile 1** Box 1, Folder 20 Box 1, Folder 24</p>	<p><b>Documentation</b>  <b>Drawings</b> <b>Photographs</b> <b>Apartment building, Levering St. (Westwood, 1958)</b> <b>Pasinetti House (Beverly Hills, 1958)</b></p>
<p>Box 2, Folder 1 Box 3, Folder 6 Flatfile 2**</p>	<p><b>Photographic prints</b> <b>Negatives</b> <b>Crosby House (Palm Springs, 1959)</b> <b>Scope and Content Note</b> Design includes warehoused parts from Hearst Castle composed and altered to fit specifications for a room addition.</p>
<p>Box 2, Folder 2 Box 3, Folder 6 Box 2, Folder 3</p>	<p><b>Georgescu House (Brentwood, 1963)</b> <b>Photographic prints</b> <b>Negatives</b> <b>Pauker House (Pacific Palisades, 1965)</b> <b>Skylots (Los Angeles, 1965)</b></p>
<p>Box 6*, Folder 1-2 Box 2, Folder 4 Box 3, Folder 1 Box 2, Folder 13 Box 2, Folder 5 Box 2, Folder 13A</p>	<p><b>Drawings</b> <b>Prints</b> <b>Line negatives</b> <b>Grossman House (Brentwood, 1968)</b> <b>Lark-Arrow Apartments (Los Angeles, 1968)</b> <b>Mt. Olympus Competition (Los Angeles, 1969)</b> <b>Lakeview Hospital (Elsinore, 1970)</b></p>
<p>Box 2, Folder 6 Box 3, Folder 2 Box 2, Folder 7</p>	<p><b>Photographic prints of drawings</b> <b>Line negatives</b> <b>Garden Crest Convalescent Hospital (Los Angeles, 1971)</b> <b>California Home for the Aged (Reseda, 1973)</b></p>
<p>Box 2, Folder 8</p>	<p><b>Documentation</b></p>

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Box 2, Folder 9	<b>Prints of drawings</b>
Box 3, Folder 3	<b>Line negatives</b>
Box 4	<b>Microfilm</b>
Box 2, Folder 10	<b>Bucuresti Restaurant (Montrose, 1975)</b>
	<b>Scope and Content Note</b>
	Original color tissue sketches
	<b>Social Sciences and Law School, Washington University (St. Louis, MO)</b>
Box 2, Folder 11	<b>Photographic prints of drawings</b>
Box 3, Folder 4	<b>Negatives</b>
	<b>Youth House, College of Agriculture, University of Nebraska (Lincoln, NE)</b>
Box 2, Folder 12	<b>Photographic prints of drawings</b>
Box 3, Folder 6	<b>Negatives</b>
	<b>Miscellaneous/Unidentified American projects</b>
Box 2, Folder 14	<b>Correspondence and documentation</b>
Box 2, Folder 15	<b>Prints</b>
Box 3, Folder 5	<b>Line negatives</b>
Box 4	<b>Microfilm</b>

Series II. **Other professional and personal papers, 1907-1992, undated**

**Physical Description:** 0.4 linear feet(1 box)

**Scope and Content Note**

Materials relating to Georgescu's professional career and personal life comprise this small series. Included are architectural certificates and diplomas, immigration files consisting of correspondence and Romanian documents, personal histories, teaching files, Romanian and American publications, and personal photographs.

**Arrangement note**

This series is arranged alphabetically by subject, with miscellaneous materials included at the end of the series.

	<b>Certificates and diplomas, 1933-1964</b>
Box 5, Folder 1	<b>Standard</b>
Box 6*, Folder 5	<b>Oversize</b>
Box 5, Folder 11	<b>Georgescu Office, Gateway West Building, Century City</b>
Box 5, Folder 2	<b>Exhibitions, 1971-1992</b>
Box 5, Folder 3	<b>General correspondence, 1947-1951</b>
	<b>Scope and Content Note</b>
	Includes letter from Richard Neutra.
Box 5, Folder 4	<b>Immigration files, 1943-1955, undated</b>
	<b>Scope and Content Note</b>
	Includes original identification documents, transcripts, and correspondence.
Box 5, Folder 5	<b>Obituaries, 1979</b>
Box 5, Folder 6	<b>Personal histories, undated</b>
	<b>Photography, 1907-1949, undated</b>
Box 3, Folder 7	<b>Brasilia slides</b>
Box 5, Folder 12	<b>Other personal photographs</b>
	<b>Publicity, 1938-1992</b>
Box 6*, Folder 3-4	<b>American publications,</b>
Box 5, Folder 7	<b>Romanian publications, 1938-1943</b>
Box 5, Folder 8	<b>Teaching files, 1947-1951</b>
Box 5, Folder 9-10	<b>Miscellaneous personal material, 1947-1954, undated</b>