William A. Peschelt Collection

Finding aid prepared by Erin Chase.
The Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens
Architecture Collections
The Huntington Library
1151 Oxford Road
San Marino, California 91108
Phone: (626) 405-2191
Email: reference@huntington.org
URL: http://www.huntington.org
© 2011
The Huntington Library. All rights reserved.
Descriptive Summary
Title: William A. Peschelt Collection
Dates: c. 1905-1912
Collection Number: archPeschelt
Creator: Peschelt, William A.
Extent: 1 flat folder
Repository: The Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens. Architecture Collections
1151 Oxford Road
San Marino, California 91108
Phone: (626) 405-2191
Email: reference@huntington.org
URL: http://www.huntington.org
Abstract: The collection documents the landscape work of landscape designer William A. Peschelt during the early part of the 20th century, with a focus on his work for Arthur Letts' Holmby Park residence in Los Angeles, California.
Language of Material: The records are in English.
Access
Open to qualified researchers by prior application through the Reader Services Department. For more information, contact Reader Services.
Publication Rights
The Huntington Library does not require that researchers request permission to quote from or publish images of this material, nor does it charge fees for such activities. The responsibility for identifying the copyright holder, if there is one, and obtaining permission rests with the researcher.
Preferred Citation
[Identification of item], William A. Peschelt Collection, The Huntington Library, San Marino, California.
Acquisition Information
This collection was purchased in 2009.
Biography
William Peschelt was born in Berlin, Germany in 1853, and came to Los Angeles in 1880 at the beginning of the population boom. Not much is known about the early part of his career, but in the first decade of the century he went into private business with Adolph Scheffler as a nurseryman and landscape designer. By 1905, Peschelt had likely gained a reputation as a landscape designer and ornamental horticulturalist because in the same year he was hired to work on possibly the largest and most elaborate residential garden in the city of Los Angeles. In 1904, English born Arthur Letts (1862-1923), founder of the Broadway Department Store, purchased 60 acres in the Los Feliz area, built his residence Holmby House, and began transforming the landscape. His collection of trees, plants, shrubs, and succulents was unrivaled, and his formal garden with deodor-lined roads, fountains, statuary, terraces, and sweeping lawns made it one of the most beautiful in Los Angeles. In addition to the Letts estate, Peschelt created a residential garden plan for Isaac Millbank of Santa Monica, and an elaborate cemetery plan for Inglewood Park Cemetery.
Scope and Content
Collection consists of five renderings in total, including three of the Letts residence. In addition to the Letts estate, Peschelt created a residential garden plan for Isaac Millbank of Santa Monica, and an elaborate cemetery plan for Inglewood Park Cemetery.
Personal Names
Peschelt, William A.
Subjects
Landscape Architects -- California.
Landscape Architecture -- California -- Los Angeles.
Landscape Architecture -- Designs and plans.
Genre
Architectural drawings.
Folder 1

I. PROJECT PLANS AND DRAWINGS, 1905-1912

Physical Description: 1 flat folder

Original Map for Sunken Garden at Holmby Park [home of Arthur Letts], c. 1905.
Original Contour Map for Holmby Residence of Arthur Letts, Esq., c. 1905-1907
Inglewood Park Cemetery, 1912.
Plot plan for house and drive for I. Millbank at Palisades, Santa Monica, 1911.