Overview of the Collection

Title: Albert A. Dorskind Collection of Universal City Photographs

Dates (inclusive): approximately 1910s - 1994

Bulk dates: 1950s-1970s

Collection Number: photCL 240

Collector: Dorskind, Albert A.

Extent: 6 boxes and 1 oversize folder

Repository: The Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens. Photo Archives

1151 Oxford Road
San Marino, California 91108
Phone: (626) 405-2191
Email: reference@huntington.org
URL: http://www.huntington.org

Abstract: This collection chiefly contains studio-produced press photographs of the development of the Universal Pictures movie studio, MCA-Universal Studios, the Universal Studios Tour, and Universal City in the San Fernando Valley of Los Angeles, California, 1910s - 1990s.

Language: English.

Access

Open to qualified researchers by prior application through the Reader Services Department. For more information, contact Reader Services.

Publication Rights

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Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], Albert A. Dorskind Collection of Universal City Photographs, The Huntington Library, San Marino, California.

Provenance


Biographical Note

Albert A. Dorskind (1922-2004) was a former executive at MCA Inc. who created the modern Universal Studios Tour and guided the construction and growth of Universal City in Los Angeles, California.

Scope and Content

This collection chiefly contains studio-produced press photographs covering the development of Universal Pictures, MCA Inc. and Universal Studios, the Universal Studios Tour, and photographs and materials showing the development of Universal City, California in the late 1950s-1970s. These materials were acquired and collected by Albert A. Dorskind (1922-2004) during his tenure as an executive at MCA Inc. While many of the photographs depict locations and events of the 1910s-1960s, they are all 8x10-inch reproduction photographs most likely made in the 1970s-1990s. The images include views of early filmmaking, street sets and backlots, studio facilities and buildings, personnel, and photographs of architectural drawings.

The collection includes a portfolio of photographs of concept designs and models by William L. Pereira Associates for the MCA Sheraton Hotel No. 2 (later known as the Sheraton Premiere Hotel) in Universal City. When it was built in 1984, the hotel was considered among the most luxurious in Los Angeles, according to an article in the Los Angeles Times, July 11, 1986. There is also a bound book of photographs of Universal Studios backlot locations, and five VHS-format audiovisual cassette tapes of Universal Studios history and 80th Anniversary celebrations (1985; 1994).

- Albert A. Dorskind Papers. (Call number: 605999)

Arrangement

The collection is arranged in the following order:

- Box 1: Photographs
- Box 2: Universal City Studios location site book (Volume 1); loose photographs (duplicates)
Box 3: Ephemera; Photographs; Reports (Volumes 4-5)
Box 4: Loose photographs (chiefly duplicates)
Box 5: William L. Pereira Associates, MCA Sheraton Hotel No. 2, Universal City, California [presentation portfolio]
Box 6: VHS cassette tapes
Oversize folder

**Indexing Terms**
The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the [Huntington Library's Online Catalog](https://www.huntington.org/).

**Subjects**
Dorskind, Albert A.
MCA Inc.
MCA Inc -- Photographs.
Universal Pictures (Firm) -- Photographs.
Universal City Studios -- Photographs.
Hotels -- California -- Universal City.
Motion picture industry -- California -- Universal City -- Photographs.
Motion picture industry -- United States -- History -- 20th century.
Motion picture studios -- California -- Universal City -- Photographs.
Tourism -- California -- Universal City.
Universal City (Calif.) -- Photographs.
Universal Studios Hollywood (Los Angeles, Calif.) -- Photographs.

**Forms/Genres**
Photographs.
Ephemera.
VHS.

**Contributors**
MCA Inc.
Universal Pictures (Firm)
William L. Pereira Associates-Planners-Architects-Engineers

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**Photographs, ephemera and bound portfolios**

**Box 1**

Items 1-168

*Various views of Universal Pictures studios, backlots, filmmaking, and environs. 1916-1980s*

All 8 x 10-inch black-and-white publicity photographs. All have the imprint: "© Universal Pictures" and a "UC-" photograph number written on the image. Includes images of Carl Laemmle, Lew Wasserman and other personnel, and scenes of the development of Universal City Plaza in 1964.

Items 73-93

*Early views of Universal Studios studio personnel and various buildings on the lot [reproductions]. Bulk approximately 1910s*

8 x 10-inch black-and-white publicity photographs chiefly made in the 1970s-1980s of early views. All have the imprint: "© Universal Pictures" and a "UC-" photograph number written on the image.

Items 94-105

*Construction views of Universal Studios backlot. Approximately 1950s-1960s*
Items 106-131

**Various buildings in and around Universal Studios. 1960s-1970s**

- Item 106. Railway of Universal City Studios trolley
- Items 107-118. Promotional color photographs of Victoria Station railroad themed restaurant. 1970s
- Items 119-123. Architectural models and drawings
- Items 124-128. Bank of America
- Item 129. Lankershim Boulevard near Cahuenga Boulevard
- Item 130. Sheraton-Universal building.
- Item 131. Contact sheet of views of Universal City

Items 132-168

**Aerial views of Universal City and Universal Studios, the freeways, and surrounding areas. Approximately 1950s-1960s**

- 8 x 10-inch chiefly black-and-white publicity photographs with imprint: "© Universal Pictures" and a "UC-" photograph number written on the image. Items 151-168 are color photographs.

**Box 2**

**Volumes 1-2**

**Volume 1**

Universal City Studios: back lot and front lot location sites. Over 400 acres comprised of various streets, stages, office and recreational areas, lakes and open country photographed in progression from east to west end of lot.

Approximately 1970s

Bound volume containing various views of location sites.

**Volume 2**

Early views of Universal Studios various buildings on the lot [reproductions]. Bulk approximately 1910s

Thirty-four 8 x 10-inch black-and-white publicity photographs of aerial views of buildings and grounds. Many duplicates of Items 21-40.

**Box 3**

**Volumes 3-5 and Ephemera**

Ephemera and brochures. 1968-1978


**Volume 3**

Aerial and various views of Universal City and the surrounding area.

Approximately 1954-1981

Previously a bound volume with additional photographs at end.

**Volume 4**

Universal City Recreation Development Report. 1957

**Volume 5**

Master Plan for Universal City Plaza - South Tower. 1960s

Contains aerial maps and photographic views of Bank of America and the MCA tower.

**Box 4**

Miscellaneous loose photographs (chiefly duplicating content in Box 1)

Approximately 150 8 x 10-inch black-and-white publicity photographs.

**Box 5**

William L. Pereira Associates, MCA Sheraton Hotel No. 2, Universal City, California.

Approximately 1980

Scope and Content Note

Presentation portfolio for William L. Pereira Associates, MCA Sheraton Hotel No. 2, Universal City, California, containing 28 8 x 10-inch prints of models and architectural renderings and drawings of the hotel.
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<td><em>Los Angeles Daily Times</em> article &quot;Universal City Opens.&quot;</td>
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