Guide to the William L. Pereira and Associates Project Workbooks for the University of California, Irvine Campus

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Descriptive Summary

Title: William L. Pereira and Associates project workbooks for the University of California, Irvine campus
Date: 1962
Collection Number: AS-127
Creator: William L. Pereira and Associates
Extent: 1.6 linear feet (3 boxes)
Languages: The collection is in English.
Repository: University of California, Irvine. Library. Special Collections and Archives.
Irvine, California 92623-9557

Abstract: This collection comprises five project workbooks documenting the preliminary planning of the University of California, Irvine campus by the architectural firm William L. Pereira and Associates. Pereira and Associates presented the workbooks to the University of California Regents in 1962 for final approval of the campus plan. The workbooks show the evolution of concepts for the campus's layout. They contain status reports, maps, schematic and architectural plans, and drawings.

Access
The collection is open for research.

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Preferred Citation

Acquisition Information
Source and date unknown.

Processing History

Historical Background
In the late 1950s, Architect William Pereira was hired by the University of California (UC) Regents to help identify a suitable site in the Southeast Los Angeles-Orange County area for the next UC campus. The site chosen was the 93,000 acre Irvine Ranch, 1,000 acres of which were dedicated to the new campus. Pereira was hired to be the master architect of both the UC Irvine (UCI) campus and the City of Irvine.

With input from UCI Chancellor Daniel Aldrich and UC President Clark Kerr, Pereira conceived of the campus as two concentric rings around which buildings would stand, with a park at the center. This circular design would allow student residence halls to be near the academic buildings and keep the time to walk from building to building under ten minutes. Buildings were grouped together by function and academic discipline. The library, administration, and student union were situated on the north side of campus, adjacent to the humanities and fine arts. The science buildings were placed on the south side.

Pereira presented his campus plan to the UC Regents at two meetings in October and December 1962, where it passed with only one dissenter's vote.

William L. Pereira was born on April 25, 1909 in Chicago, Illinois. He earned a degree in architecture from the University of Illinois in 1930, after which he was hired by the Chicago firm Holabird & Root. Pereira left the firm in 1932 to practice privately. At the Chicago 1933 exposition, he won 22 out of 25 industrial-design competitions. Pereira moved to Los Angeles in 1938 and was hired to design a new studio for Paramount Pictures. He also taught in the architecture department at the University of Southern California and designed the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, the Los Angeles International Airport, the Transamerica Pyramid in San Francisco, several buildings on the UC Santa Barbara campus, the UC San Diego library, and CBS Television City, among others. He died on November 13, 1985 in Los Angeles.

Biography/Organization History
1961
January 20. UC Regents formally accepted the gift of 1,000 acres in Orange County from The Irvine Company.
1961 December  UC Regents' New Campus Planning Committee approved request of $1 million for site preparation, utilities, roads, and planting.
1962 January 19  UCI Chancellor Aldrich appointed.
1962 January 23  Pereira delivered a progress report on the campus planning to President Kerr, Chancellor Aldrich and Irvine Company President Charles Thomas.
1962 March  Regents announce intent to negotiate for purchase of the "Inclusion Area," which was land surrounding the campus to be reserved primarily for affordable campus housing and services to support the campus community.
1962 March 22  Pereira delivered progress report to the UC Regents Grounds and Buildings Committee.
1962 March 26  Pereira team met with President Kerr, Chancellor Aldrich, and Regent Donald McLaughlin to review planning process. Gained approval for the central park, five major quad areas, uses planned for the outer campus, and three Inclusion Area "village centers" adjacent to the campus.
1962 March 30  Landscaping contract awarded to Hahn & Hoffman of Sierra Madre. Fred Lang of Laguna Beach and Robert Carter of Los Angeles selected to act as landscaping consultants.
1962 May 9  Pereira team met with President Kerr, Chancellor Aldrich, and Regent McLaughlin and obtained approval for the ring and circular form, and an additional quad for the School of Engineering.
1962 May 17  Final plan approved by Regents.
1963 December  The Irvine Company sold an additional 510 acres to UC.
1964 June 20  UCI campus dedicated by President Lyndon B. Johnson.
1965 June 20  The first eight permanent buildings opened on UCI's main campus: Campus Hall (now Crawford Hall), Central Plant, Science Lecture Hall (now Schneiderman Hall), Biological Sciences I, Main Library (now Langson Library), Humanities/Social Sciences (now Krieger Hall), Commons (now Gateway Study Center) and Humanities Hall.


Collection Scope and Content Summary
This collection comprises five project workbooks documenting the preliminary planning of the University of California, Irvine campus by the architectural firm William L. Pereira and Associates. Pereira and Associates presented the workbooks to the University of California Regents in 1962 for final approval of the campus plan. The workbooks show the evolution of concepts for the campus's layout. They contain status reports, maps, schematic and architectural plans, and drawings. Each workbook is bound in black leather and is 13 by 14.75 inches. The collection also contains one folder of photographs, an offprint of an article on the progress of the campus planning, and a letter to Chancellor Aldrich. Handwritten notes within the workbooks indicate that copies given to the Chancellor's office contained diagrams that are absent from this set of workbooks.

Collection Arrangement
The notebooks are arranged in the order imposed by the creator.

Indexing Terms
The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library’s online public access catalog.

**Subjects**
- William L. Pereira and Associates -- Archives.
- University of California, Irvine -- Archives.
- University of California, Irvine -- Planning -- Archives.
- University of California (System) -- Planning -- Archives.
- Campus planning -- California -- Irvine -- Archives.
- Land use -- California -- Irvine -- Archives.
- City planning -- California -- Orange County -- Archives.
- City planning -- California -- Irvine -- Archives.

**Genres and Formats of Materials**
- Aerial photographs -- California -- Orange County -- Irvine -- 20th century.
- Architectural drawings -- California -- Orange County -- Irvine -- 20th century.
- Architectural records -- California -- Orange County -- Irvine -- 20th century.
- Maps -- California -- Orange County -- Irvine -- 20th century.

**Occupations**
- Architects.