Descriptive Summary
Languages: English
Contributing Institution: Special Collections & Archives, UC San Diego
9500 Gilman Drive
La Jolla 92093-0175
Title: Verna Cook Shipway Papers
Identifier/Call Number: MSS 0105
Physical Description: 7 Linear feet (6 archives boxes, 5 flat boxes, and 53 map case folders)
Date (inclusive): 1894-1979
Abstract: Papers of Verna Cook Shipway, American architect and author. Shipway designed homes in New York state and California, and wrote, with her husband Warren Shipway, five books on contemporary Mexican residential architecture and interior design.
Scope and Content of Collection
Papers of Verna Cook Shipway, American architect and author. Shipway designed homes in New York state and California, and wrote, with her husband Warren Shipway, five books on contemporary Mexican residential architecture and interior design. The papers include correspondence, travel diaries, sketches, plans and photographs of her homes and details of interiors, and measured drawings of furniture details. Also included are manuscript materials, photographs and paste-ups for her books.
Arranged in four series: 1) BIOGRAPHICAL MATERIALS, 2) CORRESPONDENCE, 3) WRITINGS, and 4) ARCHITECTURAL DESIGNS.
Biography
Verna Cook Shipway was born October 19, 1890, in Spokane, Washington. She attended the Ecole Speciale d'Architecture in Paris and the School of Architecture at Columbia University, where she met and married fellow architecture student Edgar Salomonsky. They founded an architectural firm in 1920. When Edgar died in 1929, Verna continued to run the business on her own, specializing in Georgian, colonial and English style homes. She published a study of American furniture entitled Masterpieces of Furniture Design (1931).
Shipway designed homes built in numerous New York suburbs including Berkley and Scarsdale. In 1936, she was selected to design the first "Ideal House" for House and Garden magazine. In 1939, Shipway designed a model home for the New York World's Fair that was practical and affordable for the American family in the suburbs. Her home designs featured abundant closet space, natural light, circular staircases, bay windows, large hallways, and light-colored walls to make rooms appear larger.
In the 1940s, Verna Salomonsky married Warren Butler Shipway, an architectural engineer, and moved to California in 1947. During a tour to Mexico, the Shipways met a builder who encouraged them to write a book on Mexican architecture. Warren documented the construction of homes and took photographs, while Verna noted the planning and design and drew sketches. Together they published five books on Mexican architecture and design: The Mexican House, Old and New (1960), Mexican Interiors (1962), Mexican Homes of Today (1964), Decorative Design in Mexican Homes (1966), and Houses of Mexico: Origins and Traditions (1970).
After the death of her husband in 1972, Shipway moved to La Jolla, California, where she died in 1978.
Publication Rights
Publication rights are held by the creator of the collection.
Preferred Citation
Verna Cook Shipway Papers. MSS 105. Special Collections & Archives, UC San Diego.
Acquisition Information
Acquired 1978.
Subjects and Indexing Terms
Photographic prints -- 20th century
Interior decoration -- Mexico
Women architects -- United States
Architecture, Domestic -- Mexico
Architecture -- United States -- 20th century
Architecture, Domestic -- California -- Designs and plans
BIOGRAPHICAL MATERIALS
Scope and Content of Series
Series 1) BIOGRAPHICAL MATERIALS: Includes address books, documents, reference notebooks on design and culture, sketchbooks, travel diaries, and other memorabilia. An early photograph of Verna Cook is also included.

Box 1, Folder 1
Address books

Box 1, Folder 2
Alien registration booklets and identity cards - England 1945-1946

Box 1, Folder 3
Family history scrapbook of Josephine Merryman Van Ness (photocopy)

Box 1, Folder 4
American Red Cross certificate 1946

Oversize MC-043-17
Diplomas and certificates - Oversize 1907-1979

General note

Box 1, Folder 5
Memorabilia

General note
Includes a mounted photograph of Verna Cook at the age of six (1894), ration and clothing books (1945-46), health certificates (1945), her calling card, American National Red Cross certificate and collage. Also includes a photograph of unidentified people.

Box 1, Folder 6
Newspaper articles about Shipway 1937-1979

Box 1, Folder 7-8
Notebook: Personal Reference Guide

General note
Notes on design, architecture and Mexican and South American culture. Includes newspaper clippings.

Box 1, Folder 9-10
Sketchbooks with artwork

Box 1, Folder 11-12
Travel Diaries - London 1945-1946

General note
Typescript of diary entries with some editing.

Box 2, Folder 1
Travel Diary - London 1945 October 23-1946 January 10

Box 2, Folder 2
Travel Diary - London 1946 January 10-April 4

Box 2, Folder 3
Travel Diary - Paris 1946 April 5-May 7

Box 2, Folder 4
Travel Log - "Our European Whiz" 1953 October 15-November 27

Box 2, Folder 5
Travel log - Europe ca. 1960

Box 2, Folder 6
Travel log - "Go Around; With Lena Gordon" - Europe 1966 August 22-December 12

Oversize MC-043-18
Wallpaper samples

CORRESPONDENCE
Scope and Content of Series
Series 2) CORRESPONDENCE: Personal correspondence, as well as some professional correspondence pertaining to Shipway's architect's license. The materials are arranged alphabetically.
Box 2, Folder 7

Architectural licensing 1930-1947

General note

Includes registration materials and brochures.

Box 2, Folder 8

A-H Miscellaneous

Box 3, Folder 1

J-M Miscellaneous

Box 3, Folder 2

P-Y Miscellaneous

Writings

Scope and Content of Series

Series 3) Writings: Includes photographs, layouts and text for Shipway's books on Mexican architecture and design. The series also includes the specifications for Shipway's home design for the New York World's Fair in 1939, accompanied by a proof of a booklet of the housing exhibit, "The Home Building Center." The materials are arranged alphabetically.

Box 3, Folder 3


The House Beautiful 1931 March

Decorative Designs in Mexican Homes (1966)

Photographs and layouts, pp.1-99

Drawings, photographs, and layouts, pp.100-247 and miscellaneous

Photographs not used, final discards

Dignity and the Small House. From House Plans from the American House, pp.87-90

Elegant Card Table is Returning. From Furniture Manufacturer 1931 July

Exemplar of Old and New Colonial Details. From The House Beautiful 1927

Houses of Mexico (1970)

Foreword and table of contents

Lists of photograph headings and captions

Drawings and photographs

Box 3, Folder 9

Photographs and layout, pp.1-189

Box 5, Folder 1-2

Photographs and layout, pp.190-249

Mexican Homes of Today (1964)

Photographs

Photographs, pp. 111-246

Sketches and negatives

Contents, picture locations, foreword and glossary

Photograph captions and credits

Suggested layout

Final layout

Mexican House Old and New (1960)

Photographs and original scale drawings

Photographs, pp.1-99

Photographs and drawings, pp.100-187

Paste-up proofs

Period Furniture 1925 May-December

Phyfe Table a Family Heirloom. From Furniture Manufacturer 1931 September

Record of complimentary copies of Masterpieces of Furniture 1967

Residences Designed by Verna Cook Salomonsky, Architect 1936

Small Tables and Stands. From Furniture Manufacturer 1931 August
### Measured Drawings

- **Oversize FB-211, Folder 5**
  - The Architect's Assistant or, an Exemplar of Colonial Mouldings...

- **Oversize FB-212, Folder 1**
  - Drawings of interior doorways

- **Oversize MC-043-19**
  - Empire Sideboard design blueprint

- **Box 6, Folder 7**
  - House drawings and details by Edgar and Verna Cook Salomonsky
    - General note
    - Includes Sheets No. 1-3, 5-9, 11-12 and Second Series Sheets No. 1-3, 5-11 Colonial School.

- **Box 6, Folder 8**
  - Measured drawings and sketches - Part 1

- **Oversize FB-213, Folder 5**
  - Measured drawings and sketches - Part 2 (oversize)

- **Box 6, Folder 9**
  - Measured Drawings of Card Table, Duncan Phyfe Lyre Back Chair, and Double Chair Style of Chippendale. From *Furniture Manufacturer 1931-1933*

- **Box 6, Folder 10**
  - Measured Drawings of American Maple Table and American Walnut Highboy. From *The Architectural Forum 1923 January-February*

- **Oversize FB-215, Folder 4**
  - Measured drawings of tables with photograph

- **Box 6, Folder 11**
  - Sketchbook #2

- **Box 6, Folder 12**
  - Sketchbook #4

- **Box 6, Folder 13**
  - Sketchbook 1932 July 30

- **Box 6, Folder 14**
  - Sketchbook

- **Box 6, Folder 15**
  - Measured Colonial Details sketchbook

- **Box 6, Folder 16**
  - Miscellaneous measured drawings by others

### Photographs and Illustrations

- **Oversize FB-212, Folder 2-3**
  - Homes Designed by Verna Cook Shipway - Parts 1-2

- **Oversize FB-213, Folder 1**
  - Homes Designed by Verna Cook Shipway - Part 3
| Box 6, Folder 17 | Miscellaneous photographs of homes - Interiors and exteriors |
| Box 6, Folder 18 | Miscellaneous photographs including Mexican design and architecture |

### Architectural Plans and Details

<p>| Oversize MC-025-13 | Salomonsky, Edgar - Edgemont, Scarsdale, NY 1923 |
| Oversize MC-025-14 | Phillips - Scarsdale, NY 1926 |
| Oversize MC-024-03 | Salomonsky, Edgar - Scarsdale, NY 1926 |
| Oversize MC-024-04 | Clark, P.A 1928 |
| Oversize MC-025-12 | Crocker, Weyman - Massachusetts 1928 |
| Oversize MC-025-11 | Owen, Margaret - Bedford, NY 1929 |
| Oversize MC-024-05 | Lots 77 and 79 - Berkeley, Scarsdale, NY 1929 |
| Oversize MC-024-06 | Phillips, Lot #2 - Scarsdale, NY 1929 |
| Oversize MC-025-10 | Waught, George M. - Scarsdale, NY 1929 |
| Oversize MC-024-01 | Waught, George, Jr. - Scarsdale, NY 1929 |
| Oversize MC-025-09 | Lot #67 - Berkeley, Scarsdale 1932 |
| Oversize MC-025-08 | Brown, Marjorie Warren - North Castle, NY 1933 |
| Oversize MC-025-07 | Brown, Marjorie Warren - Whipporwil, NY 1933 |
| Oversize MC-042-01 | Greenwood, Ernest C 1933 |
| Oversize MC-042-02 | Ledbetter - Scarsdale, NY 1933 |
| Oversize MC-042-03 | Crane - Berkeley Corp. - Taunton Rd., Scarsdale, NY 1934 |
| Oversize MC-042-04 | Lot #70 - Scarsdale, NY 1934 |
| Oversize MC-042-05 | Lot #71 - Berkeley, Scarsdale, NY 1934 |
| Oversize MC-042-06 | Prange, Dr. Herman - Scarsdale, NY 1934 |
| Oversize MC-042-07 | Sheridan - Cortland, NY 1934 |
| Oversize MC-042-08 | Davis, Phillip M. - Greenwich, Connecticut 1935 |
| Oversize MC-042-09 | Lot #46 - Scarsdale, NY 1935 |
| Oversize MC-042-10 | Richbell Estates - Taunton Rd., Scarsdale, NY 1935 |
| Oversize MC-042-11 | Claxton, W.M. and Enid - Darien, Connecticut 1936 |
| Oversize MC-042-12 | Cohen, Gertrude P. - Fairfield, Connecticut 1936 |
| Oversize MC-042-13 | Ford, Hannah M. and Thomas M. - Pennsylvania 1936 |
| Oversize MC-042-14 | Friedman - Scarsdale, NY 1936 |
| Oversize MC-025-01 | McCutchan, Dr. Frank - Salisbury, North Carolina 1936 |
| Oversize MC-025-02 | Rogers, Frank C. - Scarsdale, NY 1936 |
| Oversize MC-025-03 | Scott, Elmer P. - Pelham, NY 1936 |
| Oversize MC-024-02 | Chandler - Ridgefield, Connecticut 1937 |
| Oversize MC-025-04 | Lowenthal - Scarsdale, NY 1937 |
| Oversize MC-025-05 | Spates, Thomas G. - Scarsdale, NY 1937 |
| Oversize MC-025-06 | Kelley, Walter M. - Scarsdale, NY 1937 |
| Oversize MC-043-01 | Eckstein, Adolph W. and Grace undated |
| Oversize MC-043-02 | World’s Fair #1 - Preliminary Scheme for Small House 1938 |
| Oversize MC-043-03 | Spencer, Herman, House #2 - Harrison, NY 1938 |
| Oversize MC-043-04 | New York World’s Fair Lot #13 1938 |
| Oversize MC-043-05 | Pugliese, Joseph, Lot #17 - Harrison, NY 1939 |
| Oversize MC-043-06 | Wilson, J.T. - Lynchburg, Virginia 1939 |
| Oversize MC-043-07 | Hotckin, E.W., Game Room Elevation; Meyer Construction Co., Munsey Pk., NY 1938 |
| Oversize MC-043-07 | Mr. and Mrs. Donald Ryan - Los Angeles, California 1947 |
| Oversize MC-043-08 | Fitzgerald, Dr. Edgar - Wallace, Idaho; Gerar Corp., Dwelling #2 - Scarsdale, NY 1939 |
| Oversize MC-043-09 | Shipway - Los Angeles, California 1947 |
| Oversize MC-043-10 | Ryway - Rancho Santa Fe 1957 |
| Oversize MC-043-11 | Ryan - Rancho Santa Fe, CA (details only); Lot #1 - Scarsdale, NY 1930, 1959 |
| Oversize MC-043-11 | Scott - Lake Waramaang, Connecticut 1937 |
| Oversize MC-043-12 | Miscellaneous Shipway drawings undated |
| Oversize MC-043-13 | Better Homes and Gardens, Bildcost Homes Plans for #806, 604, 510 and two unidentified plans undated |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Oversize MC-043-14</th>
<th>House #3 and 4, McLean Alterations, Spanish House, Sales Office - Harrison, NY undated</th>
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<td>Oversize MC-043-15</td>
<td>Marquart undated</td>
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<td>Oversize MC-043-16</td>
<td>Arthur V. Wilker Residence - Fox Meadow, Scarsdale, NY undated</td>
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