
Finding aid for the Bernard Rudofsky papers, ca. 1910-1987

Finding aid prepared by Lynda Bunting.

Descriptive Summary

Title: Bernard Rudofsky papers

Date (inclusive): ca. 1910-1987

Number: 920004

Creator/Collector: Rudofsky, Bernard, 1905-1988

Physical Description: 23.2 linear feet(25 boxes, 23 flat file folders, 1 roll)

Repository:

The Getty Research Institute

Special Collections

1200 Getty Center Drive, Suite 1100

Los Angeles, California, 90049-1688

(310) 440-7390

Abstract: Architect, exhibition organizer, and architectural theorist. Rudofsky's working papers consist of 56 notebooks with writings and drawings; magazine articles; magazine cover designs; ca. 150 drawings in watercolor, pencil, and crayon; plans, sketches, and photographs of his building projects in Brazil, Italy, and the United States; illustrated lectures; photographs of exhibition installations organized by Rudofsky; and examples of fashion designs. Also included are 33 travel notebooks (1948-1984) with many drawings, and ca. 5,500 color slides and ca. 125 black and white photographs taken during his travels.

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

1905 Born April 13.

1922-1928 Attends Technische Hochschule, Vienna.

1928 Receives masters in architecture and English.

1928-1929 Works in office of Professor O.R. Salvisberg, Dean, School of Architecture, Berlin.

1930-1931 Associate of Professor S. Theiss, Dean, School of Architecture, Vienna.

1931 Receives doctorate.

1932-1935 Ghost architect for national competitions, Capri, Naples.

1935-1936 Study trip to the United States.

1936 Designs Casa Oro, Naples.

1937-1938 Partner of Giovanni Ponti, Milan, and editor of *Domus*.

1938-1941 Independent architect, São Paulo, Brazil.

1941 Second visit to the United States upon the invitation of the Museum of Modern Art, New York (MoMA) as the Brazilian winner of an inter-American design competition. Permanently resides in New York until his death.

1942-1943 Associate Editor and Art Director, *New Pencil Points* (now known as *Progressive Architecture*).

1944-1945 Director of Apparel Research, Museum of Modern Art (MoMA). Guest Director of Exhibitions, MoMA, for "Are Clothes Modern?"

1945 Receives New York State architectural license.

1946-1949 Editorial and Art Director, *Interiors*.

1956 Guest Director of Exhibitions, Museum of Modern Art (MoMA) for "Textiles U.S.A."

1956-1957 Bemis Visiting Lecturer, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).

1957-1958 Chief Architect and Originator of the United States Government Exhibitions at the United States Pavilion, Brussels Universal Exposition.

1958-1960 Research Professor, Waseda University, Tokyo.

1961 Visiting Critic, Graduate School of Architecture, Yale University.

1961-1965 Consultant, Department of Architecture, Museum of Modern Art (MoMA).

1961-1963 Member, Advisory Screening Committee on Art & Architecture, United States Government Awards.

1964 Guest Director of Exhibitions, Museum of Modern Art (MoMA) for "Architecture without architects."

1965 Guest Director of Exhibitions, Museum of Modern Art (MoMA) for "Japanese Manuscript Maps" with works from his own collection.

1965-1966 Visiting Professor of Art, Yale.

1975 Guest Professor of Architecture, Royal Academy of Fine Arts, Copenhagen.

1979-1981 Smithsonian Scholar in Residence, Cooper-Hewitt Museum, New York.

1988 Dies in New York.

Access

Open for use by qualified researchers.

Publication Rights

Contact [Library Reproductions and Permissions](#) .

Preferred Citation

Bernard Rudofsky papers, ca. 1910-1987, The Getty Research Institute, Los Angeles, Accession no. 920004.

<http://hdl.handle.net/10020/cifa920004>

Acquisition Information

Acquired in 1992.

Processing History

Approximately 30 books were transferred to the library in 1991. Lynda Bunting processed the collection in April 1998. J. Gibbs re-processed sections of the collection and amended the finding aid in 2005.

Scope and Content of Collection

Bernard Rudofsky's papers document his architectural and other design ideas through 56 notebooks with dense writings and pencil drawings, magazine cover designs, ca. 150 drawings of building studies and other designs, and plans, sketches and photographs of his building projects in Brazil, Italy and the United States. Included are his illustrated lectures, magazine articles by and about him, photographs of exhibition installations organized by Rudofsky, and examples of fashion designs. Also included are 33 travel notebooks (1948-1984) with writings and many drawings, and ca. 5500 color slides and 128 black and white photographic prints taken during his travels. Includes a copy of his dissertation.

Arrangement note

The papers are arranged in 2 series: Series I. Working papers, ca. 1910-1987; Series II. Travel notebooks and photographs, ca. 1910-1987

Subjects - Names

Rudofsky, Bernard, 1905-1988

Subjects - Topics

Architecture, Domestic

Architecture--Brazil--São Paulo

Architecture--Italy--Capri

Architecture--United States

Clothing and dress

Fashion design

Genres and Forms of Material

Architectural drawings (visual works)

Notebooks

Photographic prints

Photographs, Original

Sketches

Slides (photographs)

Series I. **Working papers, ca. 1910-1987**

Physical Description: 17.6 linear feet(7 boxes, 23 flat file folders, 1 roll)

Scope and Content Note

Series contains 56 notebooks dense with writings and pencil drawings, and magazine articles by and about Rudofsky. Designs include his magazine cover designs, and circa 150 drawings, primarily building studies, done in watercolor, pencil and crayon. Plans, sketches and photographs document his building projects in Brazil, Italy and the United States. Other materials include his illustrated lectures, photographs of exhibition installations organized by Rudofsky, examples of fashion design, and a copy of his doctoral dissertation.

Box 1-4	Working notebooks Scope and Content Note 56 notebooks, densely written with drawings.
Box 5, Folder 1 Box 5, Folder 2	Dissertation Lectures - Tokyo, 1931 Scope and Content Note Eine primitive Betonbauweise auf den südlichen Kykladen, nebst dem versuch einer Datierung derselben.
Box 5, Folder 3 Box 5, Folder 4 Box 5, Folder 5 Box 5, Folder 6 Box 5, Folder 7 Box 5, Folder 8	Lectures - Copenhagen, 1975 Lectures - Provincetown, Virginia, Tallahassee, Bennington, Toronto Manuscripts of articles for <i>Horizon</i> and Cooper-Hewitt Eight articles by Rudofsky photocopied from <i>Horizon</i> "Golden eye" exhibition announcement Two sketchbooks Scope and Content Note total of 52 pencil and 13 watercolor drawings (see also oversize for more drawings).
Box 5, Folder 9 Box 6, Folder 1	Fabric swatches Casa Oro, Naples, 1936 Scope and Content Note 29 photographs of structure and architectural drawings.
Box 6, Folder 2	Tennis club, Naples, ca. 1930s Scope and Content Note 9 photographs of models and architectural drawings.
Box 6, Folder 3	Casa a Procida, Italy, ca. 1930s Scope and Content Note 7 photographs of models.
Box 6, Folder 4	Casa Arnstein, São Paulo, 1940 Scope and Content Note 12 photographs of models and structure.
Box 6, Folder 5	Casa Frontini, São Paulo, 1940 Scope and Content Note 14 photographs of structure. [House for Dr. Virgilio Frontini.]
Box 6, Folder 6	Swiss watch shop, São Paulo, ca. 1938-1941 Scope and Content Note 4 photographs of exterior and interior.
Box 6, Folder 7	U.S. Pavilion, Brussels Universal Exposition, 1957-1958 Scope and Content Note 21 photographs of pavilion and model.
Box 6, Folder 8	Carmel House, Bloomfield Hills, ca. 1962 Scope and Content Note 2 photographs of exterior of house for Jim Carmel.

Box 6, Folder 9	House garden, Long Island, n.d. Scope and Content Note 4 photographs of exterior garden.
Box 6, Folder 10	Bernardo sandals, ca. 1950s Scope and Content Note 21 photographs of live models and manikins wearing sandals.
Box 6, Folder 11	Stimulus fabric, n.d. Scope and Content Note 5 photographs of fabric designed by Rudofsky.
Box 6, Folder 12	"Are clothes modern?" 1944 Scope and Content Note 14 photographs of live models and Museum of Modern Art (MoMA) installation.
Box 6, Folder 13	"The Third Rome" in <i>Architectural Review</i>, 1951 Scope and Content Note 37 photographs of Rome.
Box 6, Folder 14	"Textiles U.S.A.," 1956 Scope and Content Note 8 photographs of Museum of Modern Art (MoMA) installation.
Box 6, Folder 15	"Japanese vernacular graphics," 1961 Scope and Content Note 11 photographs of Museum of Modern Art (MoMA) installation.
Box 6, Folder 16	"Roads," 1961 Scope and Content Note 9 photographs of Museum of Modern Art (MoMA) installation.
Box 6, Folder 17	"Architecture without architects," 1964 Scope and Content Note 1 photograph of Museum of Modern Art (MoMA) installation.
Box 6, Folder 18	"Now I lay me down to eat," 1980 Scope and Content Note 2 photographs of Cooper-Hewitt installation.
Box 25*, Folder 1-2	Drawings Scope and Content Note 38 watercolor sketches of Istanbul, 1925 and France, 1926.
Box 25*, Folder 3	Drawings Scope and Content Note 15 sheets with pencil and crayon drawings on recto and verso, drawn during Rudofsky's pre-school days.
Box 25*, Folder 4	Designs Scope and Content Note 3 sheets of geometric patterns done in crayon.

Box 25*, Folder 5	Journal articles Scope and Content Note "Una casa a Procida: dell'arch. Bernhard Rudofsky" in <i>Casabella</i> September 1937 (2 sets of clippings) and "Der wohltemperierte Wohnhof" in <i>Umriss</i> 1/86.
Box 25*, Folder 6	Journal articles Scope and Content Note Photocopies of articles by or about Rudofsky, including "The Third Rome" in <i>Architectural Review</i> , July 1951.
Box 25*, Folder 7	Fashion tearsheets Scope and Content Note 30 sheets of Rudofsky fashion designs and reviews of "Are clothes modern?"
Oversize 1-11** Oversize 1**	Architectural drawings Tennis Club, Naples, 1935 Scope and Content Note 2 perspectives, pencil and crayon.
Oversize 2**	Casa Oro, Naples 1935 Scope and Content Note 10 drawings: elevations, plans, axonometric views. 3 pencil drawings on tracing paper. 4 ink drawings on tracing paper. 2 crayon drawings and 1 pencil drawing.
Oversize 1**	Casa Oro, Naples ca. 1935 Scope and Content Note 1 ink drawing: elevation.
Oversize 3**	Teatrum Nudum, 1936 Scope and Content Note 4 ink drawings on tracing paper: 3 elevations, 1 plan.
Oversize 4**	Casa Frontini, São Paulo, 1939-1941 Scope and Content Note 3 drawings on 4 sheets. 1 (ink?) drawing on 2 sheets of tracing paper. 1 pencil drawing on tracing paper: view of courtyard. 1 ink drawing on paper: cross section through courtyard.
Oversize 5**	Casa Frontini, São Paulo, 1939-1941 Scope and Content Note 2 blueprints: plans.
Oversize 6**	Casa Arnstein, São Paulo, 1939-1941 Scope and Content Note 1 blueprint: plan, plus 3 copies.

- Oversize 7** **Casa Cuaruja, Feb - Mar 1940**
 Scope and Content Note
 6 drawings on tracing paper:
 5 ink drawings numbered D1-D4 and R-8: plans, sections, elevations; and 1 pencil
 sketch of elevation.
- Oversize 8** **Carmel house (Bloomfield Hills, MI), garden design, 1962**
 Scope and Content Note
 4 pencil drawings on tracing paper: plans.
- Oversize 9** **Exhibition design: Architecture without architects, Museum of Modern Art**
(MoMA), 1964
 Scope and Content Note
 4 drawings on tracing paper:
 1 pencil drawing: section through elevation; and 3 ink drawings: plans.
- Oversize 10** **Exhibition design: Architecture without architects, Museum of Modern Art**
(MoMA), 1964
 Scope and Content Note
 1 blackline drawing: plan.
- Oversize 11** **Rudofsky house (Frigiliana, Spain), 1969-1971**
 Scope and Content Note
 4 ink drawings on tracing paper: plans elevations, sections.
- Oversize 12-20** **Travel drawings, 1927-1940, undated**
Oversize 12** **Italy, 1927**
 Scope and Content Note
 10 watercolors (Bologna, Fiesole, Firenze (Florence), Siena, Anacona, and
 unidentified).
- Oversize 13** **Greece (Santorini), 1929**
 Scope and Content Note
 2 mounted watercolors.
- Oversize 14** **Greece (Santorini), 1929**
 Scope and Content Note
 2 mounted watercolors.
- Oversize 15** **Greece (Santorini), 1929**
 Scope and Content Note
 5 watercolors.
- Oversize 16** **Italy (Sicily and Venice), 1931**
 Scope and Content Note
 9 watercolors.
- Oversize 17** **Capri, 1932**
 Scope and Content Note
 9 watercolors.

Oversize 18**	<p>Unidentified, 1933</p> <p>Scope and Content Note</p> <p>2 watercolors.</p>
Oversize 19**	<p>Brazil, ca. 1939-1940</p> <p>Scope and Content Note</p> <p>4 watercolors.</p>
Oversize 20**	<p>Unidentified, undated</p> <p>Scope and Content Note</p> <p>8 watercolors.</p>
Oversize 21-23**	<p>Other designs</p> <p>Figure drawings, ca. 1943-1944</p> <p>Scope and Content Note</p> <p>2 drawings for Museum of Modern Art (MoMA) exhibit, Are clothes modern?</p>
Oversize 21**	
Oversize 22**	<p>Magazine covers, 1943, undated</p> <p>Scope and Content Note</p> <p>10 (?) cover designs:</p> <p><i>New Pencil Points</i>, 6 covers, 1943, undated.</p> <p><i>Interiors</i>, 3 covers, 1946-1947.</p> <p><i>Empire State Architect</i>, 1 cover, undated.</p>
Oversize 23**	<p>Poster for Sparta Sybaris exhibit, MAK, Vienna, 1987</p> <p>Scope and Content Note</p> <p>1 poster in 4 parts.</p>

Series II. **Travel notebooks and photographs, ca. 1910-1987**

Physical Description: 5.6 linear feet(18 boxes)

Scope and Content Note

Thirty-three notebooks record Rudofsky's travels and design ideas in words and drawings. Circa 128 black-and-white photographs and ca. 5500 slides also record his travels and interests in other countries.

Box 7-9	<p>Travel notebooks, 1948-1984</p> <p>Scope and Content Note</p> <p>33 notebooks, densely written with drawings.</p>
Box 10, Folder 1-13	<p>Travel photographs</p> <p>Italy</p> <p>Scope and Content Note</p> <p>20 photographs.</p>
Box 10, Folder 1	
Box 10, Folder 2	<p>France</p> <p>Scope and Content Note</p> <p>5 photographs.</p>
Box 10, Folder 3	<p>Spain</p> <p>Scope and Content Note</p> <p>31 photographs.</p>

Box 10, Folder 4	Portugal Scope and Content Note 7 photographs.
Box 10, Folder 5	Malta Scope and Content Note 9 photographs.
Box 10, Folder 6	Romania Scope and Content Note 9 photographs.
Box 10, Folder 7	Yugoslavia Scope and Content Note 3 photographs.
Box 10, Folder 8-9	Greece Scope and Content Note 22 photographs.
Box 10, Folder 10	Morocco Scope and Content Note 4 photographs.
Box 10, Folder 11	Turkey Scope and Content Note 9 photographs.
Box 10, Folder 12	India Scope and Content Note 7 photographs.
Box 10, Folder 13	Japan Scope and Content Note 2 photographs.
Box 11-24	Color travel slides Scope and Content Note Circa 5500 slides. Only partially identified.
Box 11-12	Italy
Box 13	France
Box 14-15	Spain and Portugal
Box 16	Austria
Box 17	Malta, England, Holland, Rumania, Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia
Box 18	Greece and United States
Box 19	Morocco
Box 20-21	Turkey
Box 22-23	India
Box 24	Asia (mostly Japan, Italy and other places)