

Organization of Women Architects and Design Professionals Records

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1965-2005



Title Statement

Organization of Women Architects and Design Professionals Records Organization of Women Architects and Design Professionals Records, 1965-2005 Ms.1988.080

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Publication Statement

Publisher: Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech

Special Collections and University Archives, University Libraries (0434)
560 Drillfield Drive
Newman Library, Virginia Tech
Blacksburg, Virginia 24061
Business Number: 540-231-6308
specref@vt.edu
URL: <http://spec.lib.vt.edu>



2011 (CC0 1.0)

Profile Description

Creation: This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on 2023-08-07 13:38:14 -0400.

Language Usage: Description is written in: English, Latin script.

Descriptive Rules: Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

Ms.1988.080

Unit Date

1965-2005

Language

The materials in the collection are in English.

Abstract

The Organization of Women Architects and Design Professionals (OWA) is an organization for women architects and designers in the San Francisco bay area. It officially became incorporated in 1973. The collection contains documents, reports, agendas, membership directories, photos, slides, and publications concerning the history and activities of the OWA.

Creator

Organization of Women Architects and Design Professionals

Extent

4 Cubic Feet 8 boxes

Repository

Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access

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Source of Acquisition

The Organization of Women Architects and Design Professionals Records were donated to Special Collections in 1988, 2003, and 2006.

Processing Information

The processing, arrangement, and description of the Organization of Women Architects and Design Professionals Records was completed in March 2011.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: [identification of item], [box], [folder], Organization of Women Architects and Design Professionals Records, Ms1988-080, Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, Va.

Administrative History

The Organization of Women Architects and Design Professionals (OWA), an organization for women architects and designers in the San Francisco bay area, officially became incorporated in 1973. Originally titled, The Organization of Women Architects, it evolved from the informal gatherings of twelve women architects looking for a supportive forum to exchange their experiences in a traditionally male-dominated profession to a valuable networking resource and a mechanism to promote the professional and personal lives of its members.

The organization is run by a volunteer Steering Committee staffed by members and the programs and focus of the OWA vary with the interests and talents of the current members. Previous meetings and seminars have focused on job-sharing, flexible work schedules, childcare, portfolio review, public speaking skills, financial seminars, health care, and occupational hazards.

Over its lifetime the OWA has undertaken many important programs and actions for the benefit of architects and design professionals in general, not only women. It developed a Mock Exam to prepare and train young architects for the California State licensing exam, and it set up a health insurance plan (1976) for uninsured architects and designers. The Mock Exam was so successful that the OWA eventually sold it to the American Institute of Architects.

The OWA is also very active in collaborating with other like minded institutions and helped to establish a new umbrella organization called California Women in Environmental Design (CWED). CWED's purpose was to lobby governmental agencies and provide designing women with public exposure through statewide conferences and exhibitions of their work.

- *from* Horton, Inge, "Presentation on the History of OWA at The Colegio de Arquitectos in Quito, Ecuador," 26 June 2003

Scope and Content

The collection contains documents, reports, agendas, membership directories, photos, slides, and publications concerning the history and activities of the Organization of Women Architects and Design Professionals dating from 1965-2005.

Related Archival Materials

See also California Women in Environmental Design Records, Ms1990-059 at VT Special Collections and University Archives.

Keywords

Architects

History of Women in Architecture

International Archive of Women in Architecture (IAWA)

Women -- History

California Women in Environmental Design

Rights Statement for Archival Description

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Arrangement

The Organization of Women Architects and Design Professionals Records is divided into the following series: I. Administrative, 1972-2005; II. Committees and Initiatives, 1974-1986; III. Newsletters, 1972-1991; IV. Financial Records, 1975-1991; V. Alternate Media, 1971-1991; and VI. Professional Women's Organizations, Documents, Pamphlets, and Clippings, (non-OWA), 1965-1995. Each series is arranged in chronological order.

Description of Subordinate Components

Series I. Administrative Files

Unit Date 1972-2005

Agendas and Minutes

Unit Date 1972-1974, 1977

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 1-3 (folder)

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 6 (folder)

Correspondence, Newspaper Clippings

Unit Date 1974-1976

box-folder 4 (box)

Container 6 (folder)

Retreats

Agenda, and Minutes

Unit Date 1975-1976, 1978-1988, 2002-2003, 2005

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 4-5 (folder)

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 7-17 (folder)

box-folder 8 (box)

Container 1-3 (folder)

Publications

Unit Date 1989-1991, 2000-2001

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 18-20 (folder)

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 22-23 (folder)

Membership

Unit Date 1984-1991

Surveys

Unit Date 1984-1986

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 19 (folder)

Directory

Unit Date 1986, 1989, n.d.

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 20-21 (folder)

box-folder 8 (box)

Container 5 (folder)

Mailing Lists

Unit Date 1990

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 22 (folder)

Firms Directory

Unit Date 1991

box-folder 8 (box)

Container 4 (folder)

Member and Member Firm Profiles and Packets

Unit Date n.d.

box-folder 8 (box)

Container 12 (folder)

OWA/CWED, Correspondence, Pamphlets

Unit Date 1988-2004

box-folder 5 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

OWA/CWED, Conference, 1991 [includes Conference Minutes, Agendas, Committee Notes, and Correspondence] (see also OWA/CWED, Conference under Financial Records)

Unit Date 1990-1991

box-folder 5 (box)

Container 2-4, 8-9 (folder)

box-folder 6 (box)

Container 3 (folder)

box-folder 8 (box)

Container 11 (folder)

OWA/CWED, "Women's Exhibit", Agendas, Correspondence, Documents, Letters

Unit Date 1990-1991

box-folder 5 (box)

Container 5 (folder)

Publicity, Clippings and Blurbs

Unit Date 1990

box-folder 3 (box)

Container 11 (folder)

20th Year Publication

Unit Date 1993

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 21 (folder)

OWA/CWED, "Women's Work", Correspondences, Financial Documents, and Pamphlets

Unit Date n.d.

box-folder 5 (box)

Container 6 (folder)

Stationary

Unit Date n.d.

box-folder 8 (box)

Container 7 (folder)

Series II. Committees and Initiatives

Unit Date 1974-1986

Affirmative Action Employer Interviewing Program

Unit Date 1974

box-folder 3 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

AIA, Affirmative Action Documents

Unit Date 1974-1982

box-folder 4 (box)

Container 3 (folder)

OWA Health Insurance

Unit Date 1976-1985

box-folder 3 (box)

Container 4 (folder)

OWA Museum Exhibit Committee, Charge and minutes

Unit Date 1978

box-folder 3 (box)

Container 5 (folder)

Political Action Documents and Correspondence

Unit Date 1978

box-folder 3 (box)

Container 6 (folder)

OWA, San Francisco, CA, Human Rights Commission, Correspondence

Unit Date 1984

box-folder 8 (box)

Container 9 (folder)

OWA Scholarship

Unit Date 1985-1986

box-folder 3 (box)

Container 9 (folder)

OWA Exchange Program Documents

Unit Date n.d.

box-folder 8 (box)

Container 6 (folder)

Series III. Newsletters

Unit Date 1972-1991

Newsletter Index

Unit Date 1972-1987

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 17 (folder)

Newsletters

Unit Date 1972-1987

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 1-16 (folder)

Various Newsletters

Unit Date 1988-1991

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 18 (folder)

Series IV. Financial Records

Unit Date 1975-1991

Budget Documents and Spreadsheets

Unit Date 1975-1986

box-folder 3 (box)

Container 3 (folder)

Finance Committee Budget and Reports

Unit Date 1985-1991

box-folder 3 (box)

Container 8 (folder)

OWA/CWED, Conference Financial Sheets**Unit Date** 1991**box-folder** 6 (box)**Container** 1 (folder)**Series V. Alternate Media****Unit Date** 1971-1991**Microfilm, Newsletters and a diazo duplicate****Unit Date** 1971-1987, n.d.**box-folder** 7 (box)**Container** 6 (folder)**Slides 0-102****Unit Date** ca. 1980s**box-folder** 7 (box)**Container** 3 (folder)**Slides 102-124****Unit Date** ca. 1980s**box-folder** 7 (box)**Container** 4 (folder)**5.25" Computer Disks, Membership and Mailing Lists****Unit Date** 1987-1988**box-folder** 6 (box)**Container** 7 (folder)**Ephemera, Conference Badge, San Diego, CA****Unit Date** 1990**box-folder** 7 (box)**Container** 2 (folder)**OWA Business Cards****Unit Date** n.d.**box-folder** 7 (box)**Container** 2 (folder)**Photographs, OWA/CWED, Conference Photographs****Unit Date** 1991**box-folder** 6 (box)**Container** 7 (folder)**Photographs, OWA, Photographs of AIA Exhibit, San Francisco****Unit Date** 1991**box-folder** 6 (box)**Container** 8 (folder)

Cassettes, CWED Conference(s), Cassettes 0-16

Unit Date n.d.

box-folder 7 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

Cassettes, CWED Conference(s), Cassettes 17-19 and #A; #B

Unit Date n.d.

box-folder 7 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

3.5" Computer Disks, OWA/CWED, Conference Graphics

Unit Date 1991

box-folder 7 (box)

Container 5 (folder)

Series VI. Professional Women's Organizations, Documents, Pamphlets, and Clippings (non-OWA)

Unit Date 1965-1995

Women in Planning Documents and Pamphlets

Unit Date 1965-1974

box-folder 4 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

Professional Women's Organizations, Documents, Pamphlets, and Clippings

Unit Date 1973-1987

box-folder 4 (box)

Container 2-5 (folder)

U.S. Department of Labor-Women's Bureau Publications

Unit Date 1974

box-folder 3 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

California Commission on the Status of Women, Documents, Newsletters, San Francisco, Alameda

Unit Date 1976-1987

box-folder 4 (box)

Container 7 (folder)

Newsletters from Various Environmental Design Groups

Unit Date 1976-1992

box-folder 8 (box)

Container 8 (folder)

AIA Newsletter, Document, and Catalog

Unit Date 1978-1987

box-folder 3 (box)

Container 7 (folder)

Women of Wurster, Organization Notes

Unit Date 1978

box-folder 8 (box)
Container 10 (folder)

Board of Architectural Examiners Correspondence; California Licensed Architects Roster

Unit Date 1986
box-folder 3 (box)
Container 10 (folder)

WIA/CWED Newsletters

Unit Date 1991-1995
box-folder 5 (box)
Container 7 (folder)

CWED Conference Program, Santa Monica, CA

Unit Date 1992
box-folder 6 (box)
Container 5 (folder)

CWED Conference Program, San Francisco, CA

Unit Date 1994
box-folder 6 (box)
Container 6 (folder)