

# Rahm, Berta, Architectural Collection

Berta Rahm Architectural Collection

1951-1963



## Title Statement

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## Profile Description

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## Descriptive Summary

### Unit ID

Ms.1998.011

### Unit Date

1951-1963

### Language

The materials in the collection are in English.

### Abstract

Berta Rahm was one of the early Swiss women architects. The collection includes exhibition panels and a competition proposal containing architectural drawings, photographs, and slides.

### Creator

Rahm, Berta

### Extent

1.4 Cubic Feet 1 oversize folder

### Repository

Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech

## Administrative Information

## Conditions Governing Access

The collection is open for research.

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## Source of Acquisition

The Berta Rahm Architectural Collection was donated to Special Collections in 1998.

## Processing Information

The processing, arrangement, and description of the Berta Rahm Architectural Collection was completed in December 2010.

## Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: [identification of item], [box], [folder], Berta Rahm Architectural Collection, Ms1998-011, Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, Va.

# Biographical Note

Berta Rahm was an architect from Switzerland. She was educated at l'Ecole Polytechnique Federale de Zurich (Diploma in architecture, 1934). Inspired by her uncle, Arnold Meyer, who had a successful architecture practice in Hallau, Rahm opened an architecture practice in Zurich (1934). Her one-woman office encompassed all phases of architectural practice, from project design and construction plans to supervision of the construction sites. Some notable projects include: Hohweri House, a historical house in Hallau, Switzerland (1953-1954), an exhibition pavilion for SAFFA in Zurich, Switzerland (-1958), and Nageliseehof Farm, a progressive farm in Hallau, Switzerland (-1951).

In 1966, Rahm closed her office when she felt that the obstacles she faced due to her gender made it impossible for her to continue her architectural practice. She then began her second career as a publisher founding ALAVerlag, a publishing company devoted to literature by women and about the emancipation of women.

Rahm enjoyed traveling. After receiving a traveling grant she visited Holland and Denmark in 1935 and toured Scandinavia several years later. Scandinavian architecture was an important model for Rahm and she was also impressed with the emancipated lifestyles of women in the Nordic countries. These travels influenced her work and led to the publication of an award-winning novel, *1939: Reise nach Skandinavien und Finnland* (Zurich, 1942), which included many of her travel sketches.

Rahm died in 1998.

# Scope and Content

The Berta Rahm Architectural Collection consists of exhibition panels of her main works exhibited in 1963 at the Congress of the Union Internationale des Femmes Architectes (UIFA) in Paris. It also includes nine drawings for the Kunzle-Stiftung Schaffhausen competition (n.d.).

# Related Archival Materials

There is an article about the acquisition of the Berta Rahm Architectural Collection in the International Archive of Women in Architecture Newsletter, Fall 1998, No. 11 (on VTechWorks).

# Keywords

Architects

Architectural drawing -- 20th century

History of Women in Architecture

International Archive of Women in Architecture (IAWA)

Women architects -- Switzerland

Women -- History

## Existence and Location of Copies

Some of this collection has been digitized and is available online.

## Rights Statement for Archival Description

The guide to the Berta Rahm Architectural Collection by Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech, is licensed under a CC0 (<https://creativecommons.org/share-your-work/public-domain/cc0/>).

## Arrangement

The collection is arranged by material type.

## Description of Subordinate Components

### Project Records

#### **Competition Kunzle-Stiftung Schaffhausen**

**Unit Date** n.d.

**oversize** 1 (folder)

#### **Exhibition of the first UIFA-Congress, Paris**

**Unit Date** 1963

**oversize** 1 (folder)