

# Alex, Iris, Collection

Iris Alex Collection

1959-2002



## Title Statement

Alex, Iris, Collection Iris Alex Collection 1959-2002 Ms.2002.026

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## Profile Description

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## Descriptive Summary

### Unit ID

Ms.2002.026

### Unit Date

1959-2002

### Language

The materials in the collection are in English.

### Abstract

Iris Alex was the Development Administrator for Facilities Development Corporation of the State of New York, building consultant for the Young Women's Christian Association, and Fellow of the American Institute of Architects. Active from the 1950s until 1991. The collection includes both volumes of *A Building Manual for the YWCA*, written by Alex as well as some biographical information and articles about her work. Also contains correspondence between Alex and other architects about Julia Morgan.

### Creator

Alex, Iris

### Extent

0.5 Cubic Feet 1 box

### Repository

Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech

# Administrative Information

## Conditions Governing Access

The collection is open for research.

## Conditions Governing Reproduction and Use

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## Source of Acquisition

The Iris Alex Collection was donated to the International Archives of Women in Architecture at Special Collections in 2000, with two additional donations in 2002.

## Processing Information

The processing and arrangement of the Iris Alex Collection was completed in September 2002. The description description September 2004.

## Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: [identification of item], [box], [folder], Iris Alex Collection, Ms2002-026, Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, Va.

# Biographical Note

Architect Iris S. Alex (b. 1926) studied at the Institute of Design at the Illinois Institute of Technology. She spent 13 years working for the architectural firm of Skidmore, Owings and Merrill. In the 1970s, Alex worked part-time at Related Designs, Inc. Her main employment was with the National Board of the Young Women's Christian Association where she served as the National Architect starting in 1970. While with the YWCA, she developed and oversaw its building advisory service and wrote a two-volume *Building Manual for the YWCA*. In 1981 she began working as the Development Administrator for Facilities Development Corporation of the State of New York, a position she held until her retirement in 1991.

# Scope and Content

The Iris Alex Collection contains material about Alex's career, including a resume, magazine articles, blueprints and a two-volume building manual. It also contains her correspondence with other architects about the career of architect Julia Morgan. There is also correspondence with Morgan's biographer, Sara Boutelle.

# Keywords

International Archive of Women in Architecture (IAWA)

Women -- History

Women architects -- New York

Morgan, Julia

# Rights Statement for Archival Description

The guide to the Iris Alex 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 into two series, one containing information about Iris Alex's professional career, and one containing information that Alex collected about architect Julia Morgan.

Series I: Professional Information, 1959-2002, includes a resume, copies of three building plans, articles and

photographs showing projects Alex worked on, and both volumes of the YWCA building handbook that she wrote.

Series II: Julia Morgan Information, 1976-1991, consists of clippings about Julia Morgan, correspondence with other architects and historians about Morgan's work, and correspondence with Morgan's biographer, Sara Boutelle.

## Description of Subordinate Components

### Series I: Professional Information

**Unit Date** 1959-2002

#### Biographical Information

**Unit Date** 1998-2002

**box-folder** 1 (box)

**Container** 1 (folder)

#### Plan for a House Addition

**Unit Date** 1959

**box-folder** 1 (box)

**Container** 2 (folder)

#### Blueprints for a Skidmore, Owings and Merrill Project

**Unit Date** 1962

**box-folder** 1 (box)

**Container** 3 (folder)

#### Article and Photographs about Bassett Hospital Project in Cooperstown, NY for Skidmore, Owings and Merrill

**Unit Date** 1968-1971

**box-folder** 1 (box)

**Container** 4 (folder)

#### Articles on Projects for Related Designs

**Unit Date** 1972-1974

**box-folder** 1 (box)

**Container** 5 (folder)

#### A Building Manual for the YWCA , Volumes 1 and 2, by Iris Alex

**Unit Date** 1978, 1981

**box-folder** 1 (box)

**Container** 6 (folder)

#### Correspondence About Work for the State of New York Facilities Development Corporation

**Unit Date** 1981-1992

**box-folder** 1 (box)

**Container** 7 (folder)

### Series II: Julia Morgan Information

**Unit Date** 1976-1991

**Clippings and Photographs of Julia Morgan and Her Work**

**Unit Date** 1976-1988

**box-folder** 1 (box)

**Container** 8 (folder)

**Correspondence about Julia Morgan**

**Unit Date** 1976-1981

**box-folder** 1 (box)

**Container** 9 (folder)

**Correspondence about Julia Morgan with Sara Boutelle**

**Unit Date** 1976-1991

**box-folder** 1 (box)

**Container** 10 (folder)

**Information about Sara Boutelle**

**Unit Date** 1990

**box-folder** 1 (box)

**Container** 11 (folder)