

de Blois, Natalie, Architectural Collection

Natalie de Blois Architectural Collection

1941-2013



Title Statement

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Author: Sherrie A. Bowser, Archivist, and Dayne E. Mauney, Student Assistant

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specref@vt.edu
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Profile Description

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Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

Ms.2007.017

Unit Date

1941-2013

Language

The materials in the collection are in English.

Abstract

The Natalie de Blois Architectural Collection includes correspondence; original notes; magazine/journal clippings; finished project photographs, published materials; sketches; water colors; and project records related to a sampling of de Blois' architectural projects.

Creator

De Blois, Natalie, 1921-2013

Extent

2.7 Cubic Feet 2 boxes and 7 oversize folders

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 Natalie de Blois Architectural Collection was donated to Special Collections in November 2007.

Processing Information

A preliminary inventory of the Natalie de Blois Architectural Collection was completed in November 2007. The collection was fully processed and described in January 2012.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: [identification of item], [box], [folder], Natalie de Blois Architectural Collection, Ms2007-017, Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, Va.

Biographical Note

Natalie de Blois was born in Paterson, New Jersey on April 2, 1921.

In 1944 de Blois graduated from Columbia University's architecture program and took her first professional job with the firm Ketchum, Gina & Sharp. In September of the same year de Blois was hired by the well known architecture firm, Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM). Here she spent the majority of her professional career working closely with architect Gordon Bunshaft, earning notoriety within the architectural community as one of the top female architects in America.

Natalie de Blois is recognized for her work on a number of projects including, Lever House (NYC); Pepsi-Cola building (NYC); Union Carbide Corporation (NYC); Connecticut General Life Insurance (Hartford, CT); Lincoln Center (NYC); and the Hilton Hotel (Istanbul, Turkey).

After 30 years with SOM, she left to join the Houston firm of Neuhaus & Taylor as Senior Project Designer. As a working mother during the 1950's and 1960's de Blois was personally aware of the hardships and limitations faced by women in architecture, and in the 1970's she became active advocate for women in architecture joining the American Institute of Architects Task Force on Women, visiting architecture schools and talking to female students.

During the last thirteen years of her architecture career, de Blois taught at the University of Texas at Austin, retiring in 1993. Natalie de Blois practiced architecture for fifty years. de Blois died July 22, 2013.

Sources:

SOM Journal 4. Interview with Natalie de Blois by Detlef Mertins, June 17, 2004.

Natalie de Blois collection, Alexander Architectural Archives, University of Texas Libraries, The University of Texas at Austin.

Scope and Content

The Natalie de Blois Architectural Collection spans the years 1941 to 2013. Materials in the collection include correspondence; original notes; clippings; brochures; finished project photographs; published materials; sketches; watercolors; elevations; architectural renderings; contracts; specifications; and reports for 24 projects.

Related Archival Materials

Natalie de Blois collection, Alexander Architectural Archives, University of Texas Libraries, The University of Texas at Austin.

Keywords

Architects

Architectural drawings (visual works)

Architectural drawing -- 20th century

History of Women in Architecture

International Archive of Women in Architecture (IAWA)

Women -- History

De Blois, Natalie, 1921-2013

Rights Statement for Archival Description

The guide to the Natalie de Blois 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 divided into two series: Series I Professional papers and Series II Project Records. The Project Records arrangement follows the organization of the 'Timeline of Projects' created by Nicholas Adams in consultation with Natalie de Blois in March of 2005.

Description of Subordinate Components

Series I: Professional Papers

Biographical Information

Unit Date 2004, 2013

box-folder 1 (box)

Container A (folder)

Articles featuring de Blois

Unit Date 1950, 1959, 1977

Glamour

Unit Date February 1950

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

Newsweek

Unit Date May 4, 1959

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

New York Times, "A retrospective of women master builders at work"

Unit Date February 25, 1977

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

Clippings

Architectural Forum, Profiles of SOM and Morris Ketchum, Jr.

Unit Date 1942

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 3 (folder)

Architectural Forum, "SOM's details of distinction"

Unit Date June 1960

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 4 (folder)

Fortune, "The architects from Skid's Row"

Unit Date January 1958

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

Frederick Kiesler

Unit Date 1988, 1992, 2005

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 5 (folder)

Hospitals designed by SOM including VA Hospital, Brooklyn, NY

Unit Date 1952, 1954

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 6 (folder)

Stuart Davis mural

Unit Date 1975

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 7 (folder)

New York City Housing Authority, 10th Annual Report [de Blois' first project with SOM was drafting for the Abraham Lincoln housing project]

Unit Date 1944

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

State of Women Architects

Unit Date 1941

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 8 (folder)

Letter of recommendation from Morris Kethum, Jr.

Unit Date 1944

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 9 (folder)

Museum of Modern Art, Exhibits, SOM, Paul Klee

Unit Date 1950

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 10 (folder)

Series II: Project Records

Partners Louis Skidmore and William S. Brown

Unit Date 1943-1947

New York State Building in Flushing Meadows for the first United Nations, General Assembly (New York, NY); Renovation (responsible for design drawings)

Unit Date 1943-1947

Clippings

Unit Date 1946, 1950, 2001

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 11 (folder)

Watercolors of General Assembly Chamber

Unit Date 1946

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 12 (folder)

Thomas Emery's Sons, Inc.; Terrace Plaza Hotel (Cincinnati, Ohio); overall design responsibilities

Clippings

Unit Date 1948-1949, 1989, 2008

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 13 (folder)

Photographs

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 14 (folder)

Design Partner Gordon Bunshaft

Unit Date 1948-1951

New York University Medical Center, Bellevue Medical Center, master plan with detailed studies for Institute for Rehabilitation, Residence Hall, and Alumni Center; (New York, NY), senior designer -- Clippings

Unit Date 1949, 1954

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 15 (folder)

Ford Motor Company, Ford Properties, master plan with two office buildings, low-rise garage, service complex; (Dearborn, MI); responsible for low-rise facilities, senior designer -- Clippings, Model Photograph, Site Plan

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 16 (folder)

Owens-Corning Fiberglas Corporation, office and display room; (New York, NY) -- Clippings

Unit Date 1948

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 17 (folder)

Hilton Hotel. 300-room hotel: (Istanbul, Turkey). senior designer -- Clippings

Unit Date 1953,1955, 1987

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 18 (folder)

Lever Brothers Company, headquarters office building, worked directly with Bunshaft on design of plaza, lobby, cafeteria, and first three floors; (New York, NY) -- Clippings, Photograph (water damaged)

Unit Date 1950, 1952, 2002

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 19 (folder)

Design Partner Gordon Bunshaft (after the Fulbright Fellowship Prize in 1952; made participating associate in 1954)

Unit Date 1952-1961

Connecticut General Life Insurance, office building; (Bloomfield, CT), senior designer -- Clippings, Photograph

Unit Date 1955-1958

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 20 (folder)

Great Southern Life Insurance Company, office building; (Houston, TX), senior designer -- Photographs

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 21 (folder)

World's Fair, master plan proposal; terminated before completion; (New York, NY), senior designer -- Clippings

Unit Date 1960, 1964

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 22 (folder)

Pepsico Inc., headquarters office building including interiors; (New York, NY), senior designer -- Clippings, Project Records

Unit Date 1956, 1959, undated

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 23 (folder)

Union Carbide Corporation, headquarters office building including interiors; (New York, NY), senior designer -- Clippings, Promotional Material

Unit Date 1960, 1962, 1989

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 24 (folder)

Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, Library and Museum for the Performing Arts (building design and coordination with adjacent Vivian Beaumont Theater); (New York, NY), senior designer -- Clippings, Photographs

Unit Date 1959-2005

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 25-26 (folder)

Emhart Corporation, administration and research building; (Bloomfield, CT), senior designer -- Clippings, Photographs

Unit Date 1961, 1963

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 27 (folder)

Design Partner Bruce Graham (Made associate partner in 1964)

Unit Date 1962-1968

Equitable Life Assurance, office building (Chicago,IL), senior designer -- Project Records, Clippings, Photographs, Drawings

Unit Date 1962-1965, 1972

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 28 (folder)

oversize 4 (folder)

oversize 5 (folder)

Horizon House Apartment Buildings, 520 units in two towers, Tishman Realty; (Fort Lee, NJ); senior designer -- Project Records, Clipping, Photograph, Drawings

Unit Date 1964-1965, 1969

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 29 (folder)

oversize 3 (folder)

Boots Pure Drug Company, headquarters office building and interiors; (Nottingham, England), senior designer -- Project Records, Photographs

Unit Date 1965

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 30-31 (folder)

oversize 7 (folder)

Hartford Fire Insurance Company, office building; (Hartford, CT), senior designer -- Project Records

Unit Date 1960, 1965-1966

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 32 (folder)

International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, World Bank, headquarters office building; (Washington, D.C.), senior designer -- Project Records, Photographs, Drawings

Unit Date 1966-1969, 1990

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 33-34 (folder)

oversize 2 (folder)

Dow Chemical Company, Site Development Design Guidelines including landscape, lighting, parking lots, architectural elements and graphics for 1,800-acre site report; (Freeland, MI), senior design -- Project Records

Unit Date 1967-1968

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 35 (folder)

Design partner Myron Goldsmith

Unit Date 1969-1974

Arthur Anderson & Company, Training Center for Professional Development, classrooms,

dormitory and auditorium; (Elgin, IL), senior designer -- Project Records

Unit Date 1972-1974

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 36 (folder)

St. Joseph Valley Bank, headquarters bank and office building and interiors; (Elkhart, IN), senior designer -- Project Records

Unit Date 1971-1974

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 37 (folder)

Oliver-Tyrone Corporation, Diamond Shamrock, office building with commercial and parking facilities; (Cleveland, OH) -- Project Records, Drawings

Unit Date 1970-1973

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 38 (folder)

oversize 1 (folder)

Oliver-Tyrone Corporation, Equibank, office building, bank, and garage; (Pittsburgh, PA), senior designer -- Project Records, Clippings, and Photograph

Unit Date 1973-1974, 1978

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 39 (folder)

oversize 6 (folder)

BMA Tower Extension (Chicago, IL) -- Feasibility Study

Unit Date 1969

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 40 (folder)

Europoint-Rotterdam -- Memo

Unit Date 1970

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 41 (folder)

Signode Warehouse Addition -- Project Records

Unit Date 1970

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 42 (folder)

Geraldine Rockefeller Dodge Estate, transition to an executive office park (Morris County, NJ) -- Clippings, Photographs

Unit Date 1978

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 43 (folder)