

# Alexander, Dorothy, Architectural Collection

Dorothy Alexander Architectural Collection

1939-1994



## Title Statement

Alexander, Dorothy, Architectural CollectionA Guide to the Dorothy Alexander Architectural Collection, 1939-1994 Ms.2008.089

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## Profile Description

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**2020-10-21** Finding aid notes updated to new department standards. juliags

## Descriptive Summary

### Unit ID

Ms.2008.089

### Unit Date

1939-1994

### Language

The materials in the collection are in English.

### Abstract

Dorothy Alexander was educated at the McGill University Architectural School in Montreal. She worked for several firms including Wurster, Bernardi, and Emmons Architects before starting her own firm in 1961. The collection consists primarily of drawings, sketches, and building specifications for buildings designed by the architect Dorothy Alexander. Projects include remodeling work for the Arriflex Corporation, Lowel-Light Manufacturing, as well as several houses designed and built in California.

### Creator

Alexander, Dorothy Baxter

**Extent**

3.1 Cubic Feet 15 boxes

**Repository**

Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech

## Administrative Information

**Conditions Governing Access**

Collection is open to research.

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**Source of Acquisition**

The Dorothy Alexander Architecture Collection was donated to the IAWA here in Special Collections in 2008.

**Processing Information**

The processing, arrangement and description of the Dorothy Alexander Collection began in October 2008 and was completed in December 2008. Additional materials were added in June 2012.

**Preferred Citation**

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: [identification of item], [box], [folder], Dorothy Alexander Architecture Collection, Ms2008-089, Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, Va.

## Biographical Note

Dorothy "Dusty" Baxter Alexander was educated at the McGill University Architectural School in Montreal. She started work for the architect, John Carl Warnecke in February, 1955. She later worked for the firm Wurster, Bernardi, and Emmons before starting her own firm in April of 1961. Her architectural credits include commercial remodelling for the Arriflex Corporation, Lowel-Light Manufacturing, Panavision and the Jack Tilton Gallery. She has also done restoration work on housing, as well as, designed houses and duplexes in the San Francisco area.

Alexander also works as a photographer. In 1981, Alexander became a staff photographer for *Skyline*, the magazine for the Institute for Architecture and Urban Studies. During the 1980s through the early 1990s, she worked as a photographer for *The Writer's Voice*, *The Academy of American Poets*, *West Side Spirit*, and the *Toronto Globe & Mail*. Since the late 1980s Alexander worked as a photographer for *Oculus*, the magazine for the New York Chapter of the American Institute of Architects.

Alexander's photographs have been the subjects of numerous exhibitions in New York. They focus on urban landscapes, street portraits, and some abstract work. Her work is in the main collections at the Bibliotheque Nationale de Paris and the National Portrait Gallery in Washington, DC.

## Scope and Contents

The collection consists primarily of Alexander's works as an architect. This includes building plans and specifications for work done for the Arriflex Corporation, Lowel-Light Manufacturing, and the Jack Tilton Gallery, as well as many other projects. The collection also includes blueprints for building designed by Alexander while working for the architectural firms of Wurster, Bernardi, and Emmons Architects and James Baker and Peter Blake Architects. Other materials include a curriculum vitae, correspondence, and an article about Alexander published in the San Francisco Examiner.

## Related Archival Material

See also the Dorothy Alexander Photographs, 1974 (0.1 cu. ft.) in [IAWA Small Collections Ms2009-054](#).

## Keywords

## Rights Statement for Archival Description

The guide to the Dorothy Alexander Architecture 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 separated into two series. Series I consists of biographical materials and drawings done by Dorothy Alexander as an independent architect. Series II consists of blueprints drawn by Dorothy Alexander while working for other firms. Drawings and other materials are arranged in chronological order.

## Description of Subordinate Components

### Biographical Information and Independent Projects

**Unit Date** 1939-1994

#### Biographical Materials and Publications

##### Biographical Information,

**Unit Date** 1964-1967

**box-folder** 1 (box)

**Container** 5 (folder)

##### The Liveable City, October 1989, Number 12/2 (Contains photographs by Alexander)

**oversize** 1 (folder)

##### Exhibition Poster (Gotham Book Mart Gallery),

**Unit Date** 1995?

**oversize** 1 (folder)

##### Sinsheimer House,

**Unit Date** August 1939-May31, 1963

**box** 2

##### Grover House,

**Unit Date** July 1954 - August 14, 1964

**box** 2

##### Grover House - Correspondence,

**Unit Date** October 16, 1961-November 28, 1961

**box-folder** 1 (box)

**Container** 1 (folder)

##### Alexander House/Office,

**Unit Date** June 17, 1957-January 2, 1963

**box** 2

**Alexander House,**  
**Unit Date** undated  
**box-folder** 1 (box)  
**Container** 8 (folder)

**Calhoun House,**  
**Unit Date** September 23, 1958-April 28, 1967  
**box** 2

**Beach House,**  
**Unit Date** September 3, 1959 - May 26, 1964  
**box** 3

**Beach House,**  
**Unit Date** June 18, 1964  
**box-folder** 1 (box)  
**Container** 3 (folder)

**Cannery Row,**  
**Unit Date** July 28, 1961  
**box** 3

**Breck Street Properties,**  
**Unit Date** August 11, 1961 - September 5, 1961  
**box** 2

**Sinsheimer Olive Street Apartments - Phase I,**  
**Unit Date** December 11, 1961 - July 1, 1962  
**box** 3

**Views Land Company,**  
**Unit Date** January 28, 1962 - May 9, 1963  
**box** 4

**106b Second Street,**  
**Unit Date** January 28, 1962 - May 9, 1963  
**box** 4

**99 and 101 Marion Avenue,**  
**Unit Date** June 19, 1962  
**box** 4

**103 and 105 Marion Avenue,**  
**Unit Date** June 19, 1962  
**box** 4

**118 A and B West Street,**  
**Unit Date** May 8, 1962  
**box** 4

**Bennett Valley - Job 160,**

**Unit Date** undated

**box** 4

**Unidentified Views Land Company Projects**

**box** 5

**Wright House,**

**Unit Date** May 2, 1962 - September 10, 1964

**box** 5

**House 223 and 224 Sausalito Bay Land Company,**

**Unit Date** May 26, 1962 - March 26, 1963

**box** 5

**Jacobsen House,**

**Unit Date** June 2-8, 1962

**box-folder** 1 (box)

**Container** 2 (folder)

**Robbins House,**

**Unit Date** June 3, 1962 - April 30, 1964

**box** 5

**Sinsheimer Olive Street Apartments - Phase II,**

**Unit Date** November 5, 1962 - February 20, 1963

**box** 6

**Bowen House,**

**Unit Date** November 16, 1962 - May 12, 1964

**box** 6

**Bowen House,**

**Unit Date** undated

**box-folder** 1 (box)

**Container** 6 (folder)

**Martinez House,**

**Unit Date** March 22, 1963 - June 13, 1963

**box** 6

**Daniels House,**

**Unit Date** April 11, 1963 - July 9, 1963

**box** 6

**Houses at 512, 514, and 516 South Street,**

**Unit Date** June 18, 1963

**box** 7

**Shaffner House,**

**Unit Date** July 24, 1963 - December 29, 1968

**box** 7

**Shaffner House,**

**Unit Date** July 10, 1964-January 26, 1995

**box-folder** 1 (box)

**Container** 4 (folder)

**Schlesinger House,**

**Unit Date** October 10, 1963 - June 16, 1965

**box** 7

**Godfrey House,**

**Unit Date** February 21, 1964

**box** 8

**Farrow House,**

**Unit Date** September 25, 1964 - October 29, 1964

**box** 8

**Radio Station KPFA,**

**Unit Date** June 11, 1966 - June 11, 1967

**box** 8

**Steiner Office,**

**Unit Date** October 1966

**box** 8

**Sinsheimer Brothers Annex,**

**Unit Date** January 18-28, 1967

**box** 8

**Tony Smith Cigarette,**

**Unit Date** March 24, 1967

**box** 8

**Forman House,**

**Unit Date** May 9, 1967

**box** 8

**Goberman House,**

**Unit Date** August 7, 1974

**box** 9

**Lowell-Light Manufacturing,**

**Unit Date** October 29, 1979 - January 8, 1980

**box** 9

**Arriflex Corporation,**

**Unit Date** June 9, 1980 - May 27, 1997

**box** 9

**Tilton Gallery,**

**Unit Date** September 17, 1985 - February 28, 1990

**box 9**

**Arriflex Corporation at the Camera Service Center,**

**Unit Date** April 27, 1987 - April 27, 1994

**box 10**

**Lowell Family Addition,**

**Unit Date** undated

**box 11**

**Shean House,**

**Unit Date** undated

**box 11**

**Unidentified Sketches and Drawings,**

**Unit Date** undated

**box 11**

**Second Street Studies,**

**Unit Date** undated

**box-folder 1** (box)

**Container 7** (folder)

**Other Architectural Firms,**

**Unit Date** 1959-1968

**Wurster, Bernardi, and Emmons Architects:**

**New Family Quarters for Point Reyes Light Station,**

**Unit Date** September 3, 1959

**box 12**

**F.M. Transmitter Building for Crocker Land Company,**

**Unit Date** May 16-24, 1960

**box 13**

**Building for Mason Wells and Frank Hamilton,**

**Unit Date** October 17, 1960

**box 14**

**James Baker and Peter Blake Architects:**

**Eckstein Residence,**

**Unit Date** May 13, 1968

**box 15**