Roger T. Johnson Collection of Eero Saarinen and Associates Materials

1947-1956
.25 linear ft.

Acquisition Number: 1998-03
Acquisition: Gift of Roger T. Johnson
Access: Access to the collection is unrestricted
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Preferred Citation: Roger T. Johnson Collection of Eero Saarinen and Associates Material, Cranbrook Archives, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan
Photographs: In Photograph Special File
Processing: Leslie S. Edwards, 2004
History

Roger T. Johnson was born 17 Aug 1927. In 1941, he began working for his father’s construction firm, and married in 1948. He received his BA in Architecture from the University of Minnesota in 1950, and in 1951, applied to Smith Hinchman and Grylls for a position on the GM Tech Center. Instead, he was assigned to the Atomic Energy Project in Paducah, KY which he was not interested in. He then moved on to work at O’Dell, Hewlett and Lukenbach in Birmingham and Magney, Tusler & Setter before working at Eero Saarinen & Associates.

In 1953, Joe Lacy offered Roger the position of job captain for the Milwaukee War Memorial Center project. Johnson was responsible for preparing the contract documents, and after the bids were accepted in 1955, he monitored the work on the project for the next 15 months. From 1955-1956, he also assisted Kevin Roche in the construction stage of the Miller House. During this time, Johnson also spent limited time on parts of the MIT Chapel/Auditorium, the TWA Terminal and a few additional projects. In 1957, after leaving ES&A, Roger established a partnership with Len Parker (also from ES&A), then his own office from 1959-1999. His projects were primarily medical, public institutional and collegiate buildings, including 17 buildings now on the National Register of Historic Places.

Scope and Content of Collection

This collection contains items related to Eero Saarinen & Associates and projects undertaken by that firm from 1947-1956. The collection consists of correspondence and a statistical report on Kleinhans Music Hall, specifications for Concordia Senior College, and correspondence and demolition plans for Milwaukee War Memorial Center. Photographs from the collection have been placed in the Photograph Special File. Also included is a notepad from Eero Saarinen and Associates.

Related Collections

- Astrid Sampe Collection of Eero Saarinen Correspondence (1995-87)
- S. Glen Paulsen Papers (1991-25)
- Saarinen-Swanson Reunion Records (2001-14)
- Richard Shirk Collection of Eero Saarinen & Associates Materials
Box Number--Description

Box 1

1. Kleinhans Music Hall, Correspondence, Jun 1948
3. Milwaukee War Memorial, Memorandum from Eero Saarinen, Oct 1950
4. Milwaukee War Memorial, Site Selection Report, Apr 1946
5. Milwaukee War Memorial, Specifications for Demolition, Apr 1954
6. Detroit Veterans’ Memorial Building, ca 1950
7. Notepad, Eero Saarinen and Associates
8. Concordia Senior College, Specifications for Physical Education Building and Housing Units, Jan 1956