L. Gale Abels Collection of Eero Saarinen and Associates Material

1954-1962
.5 linear ft.

Acquisition Number: 1995-69
Acquisition: Gift of L. Gale Abels and the Estate of L. Gale Abels
Access: Access to the collection is unrestricted.
Copyright: Copyright to this collection is held by the Cranbrook Educational Community.
Preferred Citation: L. Gale Abels Collection, Cranbrook Archives, Bloomfield Hills, MI.
Photographs: In Photograph Special File and Oversized Folder.
Other Items: Framed blueprint hanging in Archives reading room.
History

Lewis Gale Abels was born 18 Aug 1927. After serving in the Army Air Corps in World War II, he entered the University of Minnesota in 1946 where he earned a Bachelors degree in Architecture in 1950. He then entered Harvard’s Graduate School of Design where he studied under Walter Gropius and received a Master of Architecture in 1952. After graduation, Abels worked in Boston and Cambridge, MA before moving to Bloomfield Hills, where he worked for Eero Saarinen and Associates from 1954 to 1958. Abels then moved to Colorado, where he was employed at W.C. Muchow Associates in Denver before starting his own practice, L. Gale Abels Associates in Boulder, CO in 1962. After his semi-retirement in 1992, Abels designed only residential projects.

Abels’ main hobby was glider piloting and he helped form the Soaring Society of Boulder. In addition, Abels designed several glider planes and wrote numerous articles for soaring publications. After a battle with leukemia, Abels passed away in Boulder 26 Sep 1995, shortly after attending the Saarinen-Swanson Reunion at Cranbrook.

Significant ES&A projects on which he worked include: General Motors Technical Center, Concordia Senior College, and the Milwaukee County War Memorial. Gale Abels passed away in Boulder, Colorado, in September, 1995, shortly after attending the Saarinen Office Reunion at Cranbrook.

Scope and Content of Collection

The collection primarily consists of materials relating to the Concordia senior College project, for which Abels was the site supervisor for the architect. It also contains a framed blueprint of stair details for Classroom Building 2, Concordia Senior College (which hangs in the Archives Reading Room).

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 Negative Collection of Eero Saarinen & Associates Material
Box Number--Description

Box 1
1. Biographical
2. Correspondence, 1958, 1961
3. Concordia Senior College, Change orders, Jan 1958
4. Concordia Senior College, Progress Reports
5. Concordia Senior College, Publications
6. Other projects
7. Concordia Senior College yearbook, *Spire*, 1959
8. Concordia Senior College, Kramer Chapel laminated photograph
9. Portfolio (primarily Concordia photographs)

Envelope 1
Photographs, Concordia Senior College

Folder 1 (Oversized)
Photographs, Concordia Senior College