Saarinen-Swanson Reunion
Records, 1995-2001

2.5 linear ft.

Acquisition Number: 2001-14
Acquisition: Records were generated by Cranbrook Archives.
Access: Access to the collection is unrestricted.
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Preferred Citation: Saarinen-Swanson Reunion Records, Cranbrook Archives, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan.
Photographs: Moved to Photograph Special File; Negatives moved to CEC Negatives.
Audiotapes: Moved to Audio Cassette Tape Collection (1990-09).
Videotapes: Moved to Videotape Collection (1990-35).
Index: See end of finding aid.
Processing: Isabel S. Hansen, April 2004
History

Eliel Saarinen, along with his wife Loja, son Eero, daughter Pipsan, and son-in-law J. Robert F. Swanson, founded a creative tradition at Cranbrook that endures to this day. The Saarinen's fame and design philosophies attracted many of the brightest talents in the architectural, design, and planning fields to study at Cranbrook or to work for their businesses --- known variously as Saarinen and Swanson; Saarinen and Saarinen; Saarinen, Swanson, and Saarinen; Swanson Associates; and Eero Saarinen & Associates, depending upon the shifting union of the principals.

Recognizing that these associates possessed a wealth of information about the architectural practices of Eliel and Eero Saarinen and the Swansons, the Cranbrook Archives, under the direction of Mark Coir, organized a reunion of more than fifty architects, model makers, draftsmen, and other members of the Saarinen circle at Cranbrook. The reunion, held over the weekend of August 11-13, 1995, was the first concerted attempt to capture recollections in a unified way, and it produced more than eight hours of recorded reminiscences. Edited versions of these memories, along with profiles of the attendees and archival photographs, are included in the reunion proceedings.

Scope and Content of Collection

The collection consists of a variety of formats, including printed materials, audiotapes and videotapes, computer disks and photographic materials. The collection is arranged in three series: Correspondence, Reunion, and Proceedings.

The Correspondence series is alphabetically arranged and contains correspondence of individuals who were invited to the reunion, who were connected to those invitees, or who were involved in the planning of the reunion. Along with correspondence, the files may include résumés, edited transcripts of remarks made during the reunion and returned to Cranbrook as requested, and original or photocopied articles or other publications. Of particular note is the file (1:20) containing personal correspondence of Eero Saarinen. Photos included with correspondence were removed to the photograph collection, and negatives are filed in the negative collection.

The Reunion series is chronologically arranged into subseries, and alphabetically arranged within these subseries. It includes materials that directly relate to the planning, execution, and funding for the reunion event itself. Fundraising and planning correspondence; meeting agendas and notes; registration forms; attendees lists; financial records; publicity materials; and post-reunion notes and publications are included in this series.
The **Proceedings** series is chronologically arranged into subseries and alphabetically arranged within these subseries. It consists of items concerned with the publication of the *Saarinen Swanson Reunion Proceedings*. Grant information, applications and related correspondence; transcripts of audio commentary from the reunion; biographies of reunion speakers; financial records; page mockups and proofs; and copies of the book are included.

Audiotapes of attendees’ remarks are located on four tapes located in the Audio Cassette Tape Collection (1990-09). Fourteen U-Matic videotapes recorded during the reunion are located in the Videotape Collection (1990-35), as is one VHS tape containing a post-reunion production featuring archival photos, videotaped remarks by attendees, and footage of Cranbrook. A CDROM contains electronic copies of some reunion correspondence, fundraising, and the various edited drafts of the transcriptions. Also of note on the CD is a file of the list of attendees with their dates of employment and a list of major projects they worked on.

**Related Collections**

In addition to the listed established collections, Saarinen-related materials donated by attendees and used in an exhibition at the reunion, as well as materials donated after the reunion by attendees and non-attendees were arranged as distinct collections and are included below.

- George Gough Booth Papers (1981-01)
- Cranbrook Academy of Art President’s Papers (1981-09)
- Cranbrook Architecture Office (1989-01)
- Swanson, J. Robert F. and Pipsan Saarinen Swanson Papers (1990-01)
- Saarinen Family Papers (1990-08)
- S. Glen Paulsen Papers (1991-25)
- Astrid Sampe Collection of Eero Saarinen Correspondence (1995-87)
- Richard Shirk Collection of Eero Saarinen & Associates Materials
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<td>2.</td>
<td>Edmund Bacon, Apr 1995-Mar 1999</td>
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<td>Doris Bassett, Jul 2000</td>
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<td>Lillian Bauder, 1995</td>
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<td>5.</td>
<td>Raymond Bean, May 1999</td>
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<td>7.</td>
<td>Thomas Bosworth, May-Jun 1999</td>
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<td>11.</td>
<td>Neville Clouten, Apr-May 1999</td>
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<td>13.</td>
<td>W. Kent Cooper, Jul 1995</td>
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<td>14.</td>
<td>Claude DeForest, Jul 1995</td>
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<td>17.</td>
<td>David Hoedemaker, n.d.</td>
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<td>22.</td>
<td>Roger Johnson, Apr 1995-Apr 1999</td>
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<td>24.</td>
<td>Balthazar Korab, Feb 1996</td>
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<td>Mary-Louise Lacy, Apr 1995-Jan 1996</td>
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<td>Hélène Lipstadt, Apr-May 1995</td>
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<td>27.</td>
<td>George Matsumoto, Spring 1997-May 1999</td>
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<td>Norman Perttula, May 1995-Jun 1999</td>
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<td>Ralph Rapson, Aug 1995</td>
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<td>37.</td>
<td>Lynn Smith, Jun 1997</td>
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1. Robert Saarinen Swanson, Apr 1999
2. Merle Westlake, Apr 1999
5. Lewis Zurlo, Apr 1995-1999
7. General Correspondence, M-Z, Apr 1995-Aug 1995

**SERIES II REUNION**
13. Planning. Committee Members List, 1995
14. Planning. Correspondence, Mark Coir, Apr-Aug 1995
17. Planning. Notes, Mark Coir, Feb 1995
20. Planning. Registration Forms, 1995
22. Event Program, Aug 1995
23. Post-reunion Notes, Mark Coir, Jan 1996
24. Post-reunion Notes, Mark Coir, n.d.

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27. Fundraising. Correspondence, Mark Coir, Nov 1995-Sep 2001
29. Fundraising. Grant Application, Proposal to Publish, 1996

**Box 3**
1. Fundraising. Notes, Mark Coir, n.d.
5. Publication Correspondence, Mark Coir, Jun 1997-Aug 2001

**Box 3 (cont’d)**
7. Publication Final Proof, Aug 2001
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8. Publication Group Photo, Aug 1995
9. Publication Notes, Mark Coir, 1999
12. Publication Printed Copies, 2001
13. Publication Proof, May 2001
15. Publication Transcripts, Organized by Speaker, Edited, n.d.
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