

Archivist's Report, FY 2010-2011

International Archives of Women in Architecture (IAWA)

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Overview

During the past year, Special Collections continued its twenty-five year joint partnership with the College of Architecture and Urban Studies to acquire, arrange, describe, provide access to, and promote IAWA collections. Project archivist Sherrie Bowser led the effort to process IAWA collections and track incoming acquisitions. With the help of students and emergency hires, she processed a total of 29 IAWA collections, which includes the completion of the processing of the Sigrid Rupp Collection. Funding from last year's Peck-Stacpoole Foundation grant, endowment funds, and regular departmental funds covered the costs of staffing, archival supplies, and a few selected acquisitions. The University Libraries made a large investment in oversize scanning equipment, which will make reproduction of large format materials much easier.

Collection Highlights

- Special Collections received 10 new IAWA collections during the past year, totaling 16.70 cubic feet of material. (See Appendix 1, Acquired Accessions)
- With the help of students and emergency hires, 29 IAWA collections have been processed over the past year, totaling 361 cubic feet (Rupp accounts for 219 cubic feet; the remaining collections total 142 cubic feet)
- There are now approximately 370 distinct IAWA collections totaling 1,555 cubic feet.
- Made over a dozen book purchases that directly support IAWA collections (See Appendix 2, Purchased Materials)

Sigrid Rupp Collection

- In the spring of 2011, Bowser completed the processing of the Sigrid Rupp Collection, which consists of 219 cubic feet of material. The collection spans 600 jobs and 21 years of practice. Researchers will have an intimate look into the operations of a female-owned and -operated architectural firm thanks to Rupp's photo albums, journals, telephone logs, datebooks, and project files.

Scanning Equipment

- In the spring of 2011, the University Libraries purchased a large format Cruse scanner capable of scanning architectural drawings and other oversize materials. A digital archivist to coordinate scanning operations will be hired in the coming year.

Research, Promotion, and Selected Uses of IAWA Collections

- Provided photographs and background information for the new Beverly Willis Architecture Foundation website feature "Built by Women," February 2011
- Supporting the Japan Exhibit, "For the Future: The Pioneering Women in Architecture From Japan and Beyond"

- Mitzi Vernon, January 13, 2011, Sigrid Rupp travel journals
- Junko Masukawa and Prof. Kuroishi visit, December 2010
- Helene Renard class, November 8, 2010, Sigrid Rupp travel journals
- IAWA Annual Meeting October 2010
- IAWA material used in Special Collections instructional sessions, Fall 2010 and Spring 2011
- Selected scanning for researchers from IAWA collections including: Volker M. Welter, Dept. of the History of Art and Architecture, University of California Santa Barbara; Erica Mohar, College of Environmental Design, University of California; and Beverly Willis, Beverly Willis Architecture Foundation.
- Staff replied to 70 reference questions related to IAWA collections

Support for IAWA

- Several small donations received (See Appendix 3 Library 2010/11 - IAWA related accounts)
- Students focused on processing IAWA collections in the Special Collections department included: Harvey Clarke and Kathryn Shackelford

Biographical Database

- Gail McMillan, Director of the Digital Library and Archives, continued to oversee the IAWA Biographical Database. There are 2,416 publicly available records (a 25% increase from last year's report) at, http://lumiere.lib.vt.edu/iawa_db. The database represents the work of women in 70 countries. Special thanks to the work of Adowa Adasi and Jane Wills.

Mission and Vision

Our efforts in developing the collections of the IAWA support the department's mission to build true research collections of manuscripts, books, and images for scholars, students, faculty, and other researchers to use. During the past year interest in IAWA materials, from faculty, students, architects, and scholars, remained steady. We have made IAWA collections a central part of our collection development efforts, our instructional sessions, and our campus outreach efforts. The ability to scan large format materials from IAWA collections will only increase our joint efforts to promote the collections and research, as well as expand the department's digital projects and online presence.