THE TRUE COST OF COLLECTING: ARCHITECTURAL COLLECTIONS AT NCSU
Changing the Landscape

Exposing the Legacy of Modernist Architects and Landscape Architects
Work

- 6 collections
- 1,200 linear feet
- 40,000 plans and drawings + CAD Files
- Blog
- Cost analysis
- Model for processing architectural collections
Resources

- 2-year project
- 1 full-time project manager
- 2 graduate students
- 2 undergraduates
Special Collections Research Center

- Since 1993
- Rare books, manuscripts, University Archives
Strategic Collecting Areas

- Architecture and Landscape Architecture
- Agricultural Innovation
- Veterinary Medicine
- Textiles
- Computing and Simulation
- Entomology
- Animal Welfare
Creating Access

- Finding aids or catalog records online for 95% of collections
- 5061 linear ft. processed, July 2006-June 2009
- Students, entry-level professionals
- 4 hours/linear ft.
Flexible, Cost-Efficient Processing

MPLP

- Audience-driven
- Resource-sensitive
- Production-quality
- Low unit cost
- Rapid turnaround
Architecture Collecting Policy

- Papers, drawings, blueprints, other records, and monographs
- Prominent architects in NC
- Major modernist architects
- Historic architecture of NC
- Prominent landscape architects and golf course designers
Architectural Collections at NCSU

- School of Design (SOD) established 1948
- Focus on Modernism
- 60 collections
- 3000 linear ft.
Processing Architectural Collections

- Since 2008
  - 3+ part-time students
  - 475+ linear feet
Size

- Size of Collections
  - 4-800 linear ft.

- Size of Drawings
  - Up to 24-26 x 36 inches typical
  - 36 x 48 inches not uncommon
  - Sometimes larger
Storage
Transport

- Tubes
- Flat file drawers
- Rolled drawings in garbage cans, supply boxes, etc.
Preservation

- **Original Drawings**
  - Tracing Paper with Ink or Graphite (pencil)
  - Mounted Drawings or Photographs
  - Vellum
  - Drafting Film

- **Reproductions**
  - Blueprints
  - Diazos
  - Sepias
CAD Files

- More vulnerable than paper records
- Decay faster
- Become obsolete due to advances in technology
Processing

- MPLP Approach
- Standard Series for Architecture and Landscape Design Records
- Architectural Records: Managing Design and Construction Records
Processing Costs

- Decisions magnified
- Investment
  - Time
  - Supplies
- Document and analyze
- Best practices model
Contact

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