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## **Roger Halle papers and architectural drawings 10450651**

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Description is written in: English.

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Avery Architectural and Fine Arts Library

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository:</b>	Avery Architectural and Fine Arts Library
<b>Creator:</b>	Halle, Roger, 1919-1993
<b>Creator:</b>	Pedersen, William F., 1908-1990
<b>Creator:</b>	Pedersen & Tilney architects
<b>Title:</b>	Roger Halle papers and architectural drawings
<b>ID:</b>	10450651
<b>Date [inclusive]:</b>	1943-1992
<b>Physical Description:</b>	11 document boxes
<b>Physical Description:</b>	2 print boxes
<b>Physical Description:</b>	16 rolls
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	English .
<b>Abstract:</b>	<p>Roger Halle (1919-1993), a research architect who devoted his professional practice to reducing the cost of construction. After receiving a graduate degree in architecture from Princeton University, he worked for several architectural firms; and later started his own practice in New York City and Caracas, Venezuela. Halle held 12 patents in 17 countries for his work. In 1964, he introduced the Halle Building System, and in 1972 he established Halle Building System Company Inc. He wrote many articles to promote his ideas on how to build more with less cost and was published in several publication including Architecture &amp; Engineering News, Progressive Architecture, and The New York Times. He also gave talks and lectures at Princeton University, New York Institute of Technology and HUD-NIBS Conference.</p>

### Preferred Citation

Roger Halle papers and architectural drawings, 1943-1992, Department of Drawings & Archives, Avery Architectural and Fine Arts Library, Columbia University.

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## Biography

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Roger Halle was born in 1919. He studied architecture at Princeton University and worked under several architects including Edward Durell Stone and Wallace K. Harrison during the late 1940's. While with Harrison and Abramovitz, he helped produce the design for the United Nations Secretariat building. Halle later started his own firm as a research architect in New York City and Caracas, Venezuela, focusing his career on reducing the cost of construction by implementing prefabricated modules and building systems. He held 12 patents in the United States and abroad related to the method of building, which constituted what was introduced in 1964 as the Halle Building System.

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## Biography

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In May 1972, Halle incorporated Halle Building System Company Inc., with the primary purpose to provide consulting or design services related to the construction of buildings and their components, in particular to system or industrialized building.

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## Biography

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The architect gave talks and lectures on reducing building and housing costs, participated in the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) held conferences, and was a member on the Technology Division of National Institute of Building Science (NIBS) where he prepared and proposed research plans for the Housing Technology Research Agenda. Halle also published many articles in several publication including Architecture & Engineering News, Progressive Architecture, and The New York Times, and was closely involved in the preservation of the Halle Ravine and other nature preserves in Pound Ridge, N.Y. as well as a founding trustee of the Lower Hudson chapter of the Nature Conservancy.

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## Biography

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Halle died in 1993 at the age of 74.

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## Scope and Content

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This collection consists primarily of writings, correspondences, research material, patent documents and architectural drawings of Halle's devoted career in developing ways to reduce the cost of building and housing construction. Dated from 1950 to 1992, the material is arranged into three series: Professional Papers, Halle Building System, and Architectural Drawings.

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## Scope and Content

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[Series I: Professional Papers](#)

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## Scope and Content

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This series is comprised of documents related to his writings, research, and his involvement and contribution to Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and Division of National Institute of Building Science (NIBS), primarily on the topic of reducing the building cost through building components and system.

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## Scope and Content

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### [Series II: Halle Building System](#)

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## Scope and Content

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The series includes his research and correspondence on prefabrication as a basis of a building method, the patent documents of US and abroad, and the company records of the Halle Building System Company Inc.

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## Scope and Content

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### [Series III: Architectural Drawings](#)

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## Scope and Content

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The series contains his architectural drawings pertaining to the research, projects and correspondence in the previous two series. The majority was co-created with Pedersen & Tilney as consulting architects and Severud-Elstad-Krueger-Associates as consulting engineers, these structural drawings illustrated the design and development of his building system.

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## Arrangement

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The collection is made up of three series: Professional Papers, Halle Building System, and Architectural Drawings.

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## Administrative Information

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### Publication Statement

Avery Architectural and Fine Arts Library

### Revision Description

File created. EAD was imported spring 2019 as part of the ArchivesSpace Phase II migration. 2013-09-06 2019-05-20

### Restrictions on Access

This collection is available for use by appointment in the Department of Drawings & Archives, Avery Architectural and Fine Arts Library, Columbia University. For further information, please email [avery-drawings@library.columbia.edu](mailto:avery-drawings@library.columbia.edu).

### Immediate Source of Acquisition

Accession number--1999.004.

### Processing Information

This collection was processed by Chialin Chou (Archives Intern), under the supervision of Shelley Hayreh, Avery Archivist, in 2013.

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## Controlled Access Headings

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- Architecture -- United States -- Designs and plans
- Buildings, Prefabricated
- Prefabricated houses -- Design and construction
- Housing -- United States
- United States. Department of Housing and Urban Development

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## Publication Date

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1943-1992

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## Collection Inventory

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### Series I: Professional Papers

Title/Description	Instances	
Writings & Talks, General, 1956 to 1986	box 1	folder 1



**Scope and Contents**

List and copies of the articles and talks, primarily on industrialization of the building process

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Writings & Talks, "The Halle System of Building - Description", 1964 Oct	box 1	folder 2
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**Scope and Contents**

Article in *Progressive Architecture*; includes the original magazine and 5 reprints

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Writings & Talks, "Systems: Basis For An Integrated Building Industry", 1965 Sept	box 1	folder 3
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**Scope and Contents**

Article in *Architecture & Engineering News*; includes 38 copies of the reprints

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Writings & Talks, Garage Semi-Prototype (Straus Garage), 1967 Jun	box 1	folder 4
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**Scope and Contents**

Article in *Architecture & Engineering News*; includes reprints, 1 album and 10 photographs

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Writings & Talks, "The Potential of Steel in System Building", 1967 Nov	box 1	folder 5
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**Scope and Contents**

Talk at Building Research Institute (Washington, D.C.); contains 8 copies of transcripts and 3 copies of *Catalog of Parts - Structure*

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Writings & Talks, Talk at School of Architecture, Princeton University, 1969 May, Dec	box 1	folder 6
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**Scope and Contents**

Correspondence and texts

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Writings & Talks, "The Disadvantages of Mobile Homes"; "The Disadvantages of Modular Houses", 1974 Oct	box 1	folder 7
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**Scope and Contents**

Includes "Home Owners Taken For A Ride - Mobile Home" by Robert Cassidy for *The New York Times*

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Writings & Talks, Introductory Remarks to NYIT Classes, 1975 to 1976	box 1	folder 8
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**Scope and Contents**

5 copies of the texts

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Writings & Talks, Articles in The New York Times, 1976, 1981,1986	box 1	folder 9
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**Scope and Contents**

Includes Letters to the Editor, "To Revive Stalled Housing Starts" and the Op-Ed Page

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Writings & Talks, "On Building Much More Housing at Much Less Cost", 1980 to 1981, 85	box 1	folder 10
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**Scope and Contents**

Includes the original version in Sep and Dec, 1980, the talk version at NYIT in 1981 and the addendum "Total Building Systems - Why Not Before Now"

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Writings & Talks, "Only New Ways Can Build More Housing", 1981	box 1	folder 11
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**Scope and Contents**

Talk at HUD-NIBS Conference (Orlando, FL); full version and draft

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Writings & Talks, "Housing for All", 1986 Apr	box 1	folder 12
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**Scope and Contents**

Article in *National Building News*, includes original newspapers and photocopies

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Writings & Talks, Correspondence (4 Folders), 1963 to 1985	box 1	folder 13 to 16
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**Scope and Contents**

With *Architectural & Engineering News*, *Architectural News*, *Progressive Architecture*, *The Architecture Forum*, *The Architectural Record*, *The Reader's Digest*, *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal* and *Fortune Magazine*

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Notes, Sketches and Drawings, [1959]	box 1	folder 17
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**Scope and Contents**

3 drawings of various projects and 4 Photostats of course work at Princeton

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Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Operation Breakthrough RFP [1 of 4], 1969	box 1	folder 18
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**Scope and Contents**

Application of Improved Housing Systems Concepts for Large Volume Production

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HUD, Operation Breakthrough RFP [2 of 4], 1969	drawer 202	folder 1
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**Scope and Contents**

Final booklet of the Application, and a print of the trademark

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HUD, Operation Breakthrough RFP [3 of 4], 1971 to 1974	box 1	folder 19
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**Scope and Contents**

Includes Robertson Ward Jr. article in 1971 Mar AIA Journal: "Breakthrough?", "Where I Stand" article in 1972 May *Architectural News* and correspondence with the Industrialization Forum at Harvard GSD

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HUD, Operation Breakthrough RFP [4 of 4] (3 folders), 1969 to 1972	box 2	folder 1 to 3
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**Scope and Contents**

Correspondence with Department of Housing and Urban Development

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HUD, Correspondence (3 Folders), 1977 to 1988	box 2	folder 4 to 6
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HUD, "Some Thoughts on Research and Technology at HUD", 1977 to 1979	box 2	folder 7
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**Scope and Contents**

Texts, HUD User Research Information brochures, HUD publication: "Earth Sheltered Housing: Code, Zoning and Financial Issues," drafts of unsolicited proposal and the correspondence with William J. White

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HUD, Cost of Housing Task Force (2 Folders), 1977 to 1979	box 2	folder 8 to 9
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**Scope and Contents**

Correspondence, meeting minutes, press release, final report, texts and research articles

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HUD, "On Lowering the Cost of Housing", 1978 to 1981	box 2	folder 10
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**Scope and Contents**

Proposals for action and comments before HUD Cost of Housing Task Force

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National Institute of Building Science (NIBS), Print Material, 1974 to 1985	box 2	folder 11
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**Scope and Contents**

Organizational brochures, magazine clippings and report to the President booklets

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NIBS, Correspondence, 1982 to 1983	box 2	folder 12
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NIBS, Residential Technology Conference, 1981 to 1982	box 2	folder 13
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**Scope and Contents**

Notes, committee meeting minutes and questionnaire

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NIBS, Consultative Council (4 Folders), 1981 to 1987	box 3	folder 1 to 4
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**Scope and Contents**

Membership certificates, communication letters, memorandums to Technology Division members, newsletters and directories

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NIBS, Housing Technology Research Agenda (4 Folders), 1982 to 1984	box 3	folder 5 to 8
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**Scope and Contents**

Correspondence, memorandum, research plan and proposals, draft and final version of status and reports, presentation, drafts and final version of "Federal Government Role in Housing Technology Research: Responses to a Sampling of Building Community Viewpoints"

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Research, Building System [1 of 2] (3 folders), 1961 to 1970	box 3	folder 9 to 11
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**Scope and Contents**

Material and publication on modular system, prefabrication, school buildings, steel buildings and Hills Dry Building System

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Research, Building System [2 of 2], 1961 to 1970	drawer 202	folder 2
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**Scope and Contents**

Hills Dry Building System Section 2 Standard Drawing

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Research, Technology, 1976 to 1987	box 3	folder 12
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**Scope and Contents**

Office of Technology Report, NASA Publication, articles and newspaper clippings

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Research, Labor and Construction Cost, 1970 to 1980	box 3	folder 13
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**Scope and Contents**

Dept. of Labor Statistics booklet, other articles and construction cost report by Nielsen, Wurster & Assoc, Inc

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Research, Organizations, 1978 to 1981	box 4	folder 1
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**Scope and Contents**

Information of American enterprise Institute, Brookings Institution, Ford Foundation, Building Research Council, AIA Research Corporation, National Science Foundation

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Research, Housing (3 Folders), 1982 to 1992	box 4	folder 2 to 4
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**Scope and Contents**

Housing Act of 1968, US General Accounting Office 1982 Report, housing cost data, housing starts, smart housing and housing in Japan

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Research, Articles & Clippings, 1954 to 1984	box 4	folder 5
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**Scope and Contents**

Includes "A Modern School" by Abraham Flexner, "Behind the Scene and Under The Rug" by Howard E. Shuman, articles about Geo W.W. Brewster, and *Profile* magazine

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Research, Vendors and Products [1 of 2] (7 folders), 1964 to 1981	box 4	folder 6 to 12
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**Scope and Contents**

Information about structure, building components & material, insulations, panels, partitions, gasketing and extrusion

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Research, Vendors and Products [2 of 2] (3 folders), 1964 to 1981	box 5	folder 1 to 3
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**Scope and Contents**

Information about structure, building components & material, insulations, panels, partitions, gasketing and extrusion

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Correspondence (3 Folders), 1975 to 1987	box 5	folder 4 to 6
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**Scope and Contents**

With Office of The President, US Senate, US Congress  
 Subcommittee on Housing & Urban Development,  
 Office of Technology Assessment, etc.

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<b>Series II: Halle Building System</b>		
<b>Title/Description</b>	<b>Instances</b>	
Prefabrication, General Research (3 Folders), 1943 to 1991	box 5	folder 7 to 9
<b>Scope and Contents</b>		
Notes, articles, cost, prospective manufacturers and investors		
Prefabrication, International Competition for the Design of Industrially Fabricated Dwelling, 1966 to 1967	box 5	folder 10
<b>Scope and Contents</b>		
European Coal and Steel Community; contains correspondence, 10 Photostat negatives and 8 positives of the entry on boards		
Prefabrication, Post Office Department, 1967 to 1969	box 6	folder 1
<b>Scope and Contents</b>		
Correspondence, drawings, bidding research and information		
Prefabrication, Presentation (2 Folders), undated	box 6	folder 2 to 3
<b>Scope and Contents</b>		
Draft of "A Basis for a Method of Building". Contains 2 photos, 3 films, 13 photos of model and 20 display boards		
Prefabrication, Correspondence - Capital Structure Inc. (2 Folders), 1971 to 1976	box 6	folder 4 to 5
Prefabrication, Correspondence - John W. Straus, 1965 to 1975	box 6	folder 6
<b>Scope and Contents</b>		
About the Straus Garage		
Prefabrication, Correspondence - McKee, Berger, Mansueto, Inc., 1968 to 1976	box 6	folder 7

**Scope and Contents**

Contains cost reports

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Prefabrication, Correspondence - Great Britain (6 Folders), 1952 to 1972	box 6	folder 8 to 13
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**Scope and Contents**

With Minister of Education, Minister of Public Building & Works, Minister of Health, The Modular Society Ltd., British Constructional Steel Work Association, Hills Ltd., etc; also includes 2 photos and negatives, articles from *RIBA Journal*, *Architect's Journal* and *Architectural Review*

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Prefabrication, Correspondence - U.S. Government (4 Folders), 1954 to 1973	box 7	folder 1 to 4
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**Scope and Contents**

Includes Executive Office of the President, Congress, House of Representatives, Dept. of Health, Education & Welfare, Dept. of Commerce, Dept. of Post Office, Dept. of Defense and Dept. of Housing and Urban Development

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Prefabrication, Correspondence, Etc. [1 of 2] ( 9 folders), 1949 to 1975	box 7	folder 5 to 13
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**Scope and Contents**

With Educational Facilities Labs, Inc., New York State Council on Architecture, New York State Urban Development Corp. and some international entities in Canada, Italy, West Germany and France

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Prefabrication, Correspondence, Etc. [2 of 2] (10 folders), 1960 to 1980	box 8	folder 1 to 10
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**Scope and Contents**

With Building Research Institute, Building Research Advisory Board, Battelle Columbus Laboratories, Holiday Inns, Inc., Keene Corporation and miscellaneous

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Patent Work, General, List of Patents, 1968, 1972	box 8	folder 11
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Patent Work, General, Foreign, 1949 to 1972	box 8	folder 12
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**Scope and Contents**

Tax payment notice and applications

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Patent Work, Irrelevant Citation or For Abandoned Applications, 1961	box 8	folder 13
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Patent Work, Patents Cited (2 Folders), 1952 to 1962	box 9	folder 1 to 2
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Patent Work, Docket 1628: Methods of Building (6 Folders), 1961	box 9	folder 3 to 8
<b>Scope and Contents</b>		
Drafts, application, correspondence, original drawings and Photostat negatives		
Patent Work, Docket 2528: Proposed Divisional Applications of Original US Serial No. 363,021 (2 Folders), 1961	box 9	folder 9 to 10
<b>Scope and Contents</b>		
Application, correspondence and Photostats		
Patent Work, Docket 2924: Connecting Means for Structural Elements, 1954 to 1961	box 9	folder 11
<b>Scope and Contents</b>		
Applications and correspondence		
Patent Work, Docket 2991: Connection of Structural Elements in the Art of Building [1 of 2] (4 folders), 1960 to 1973	box 9	folder 12 to 15
<b>Scope and Contents</b>		
Letter Patent, Patent documents, applications and correspondence. Countries include: US, Canada, UK, West Germany, France, Belgium, Luxemburg, Switzerland, Italy, Norway, Sweden, South Africa, Australia, New Zealand, India, Pakistan, Japan, Mexico, Venezuela, Brazil, Yugoslavia, Argentina, Israel, Austria and Russia		
Patent Work, Docket 2991: Connection of Structural Elements in the Art of Building [2 of 2] (7 folders), 1960 to 1973	box 10	folder 1 to 7
<b>Scope and Contents</b>		
Letter Patent, Patent documents, applications and correspondence. Countries include: US, Canada, UK, West Germany, France, Belgium, Luxemburg, Switzerland, Italy, Norway, Sweden, South Africa, Australia, New Zealand, India, Pakistan, Japan, Mexico, Venezuela, Brazil, Yugoslavia, Argentina, Israel, Austria and Russia		
Patent Work, Docket 4163: Connecting Means for Structural Elements, 1961 to 1973	box 10	folder 8



**Scope and Contents**

Patent document, application and correspondence.  
Countries include: US and UK

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Patent Work, Docket 4211: Window Structures for Buildings, 1961 to 1964	box 10	folder 9
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**Scope and Contents**

Applications and correspondence. Countries include:  
US and UK

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Patent Work, Docket 4212: Door Structures for Buildings, 1961 to 1964	box 10	folder 10
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**Scope and Contents**

Applications and correspondence. Countries include:  
US and UK

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Patent Work, Docket 4213: Beam and Column Structures for Buildings (2 Folders), 1963 to 1973	box 10	folder 11 to 12
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**Scope and Contents**

Letters Patent, Patent document, application and correspondence. Countries include: US, Canada, UK, France and West Germany

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Patent Work, Docket 4321: Floor Construction for Buildings (2 Folders), 1963 to 1973	box 11	folder 1 to 2
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**Scope and Contents**

Patent document, application and correspondence.  
Countries include: US and UK

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Patent Work, Docket 4880: Enclosure Structure for Buildings (2 Folders), 1961 to 1973	box 11	folder 3 to 4
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**Scope and Contents**

Letters Patent, Patent document, application and correspondence. Countries include: US, Canada, UK and France

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Patent Work, Docket 5651: Door and Window Structures for Buildings, 1966	box 11	folder 5
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**Scope and Contents**

Letters Patent, application and correspondence

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Patent Work, Docket 5911: Connection of Structural Elements in Roofs (2 Folders), 1964 to 1973	box 11	folder 6 to 7
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**Scope and Contents**

Letters Patent, Patent document, application, tax receipts and correspondence. Countries include: US, Canada, UK, France, West Germany

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Patent Work, Docket 6569: Trademark Design, 1966 to 1974	box 11	folder 8
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**Scope and Contents**

Original Registration, application and correspondence

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Building System Descriptions, 1963 to 1964	box 11	folder 9
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**Scope and Contents**

Includes clippings from 1964 OCT U.S. Progress in Preassembly

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Preliminary Information, 1967 to 1971	box 11	folder 10
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**Scope and Contents**

Incorporation proposal drafts

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Company Records (2 Folders), 1972 to 1976	box 11	folder 11 to 12
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**Scope and Contents**

Minutes & By Laws, certificates, Stock transfer ledger, correspondence, filing and operational files

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Photography, updated	box 11	folder 13
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**Scope and Contents**

Photograph of company trademark, 5 photographs of the system and negatives

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Drawings, 1971 to 1976	box 11	folder 14
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**Scope and Contents**

2 Sketches, 5 HBS drawings and 3 Singer Learning Center drawings by SMS Architects

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Presentation Booklets, [1972]	box 11	folder 15
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**Scope and Contents**

2 copies of each booklet of Company Presentation, Summary Description, The System. Also includes drafts and superseded pages

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Motel Project, 1973	box 11	folder 16
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**Scope and Contents**

Inquiries, correspondence and newspaper clippings

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Guidelines For Concrete Construction System, 1974 to 1976      box 11      folder 17

**Scope and Contents**

8 copies of the guidelines, correspondence and testing report from McKee Berger Manueto, Inc.

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**Series III: Architectural Drawings**

Title/Description	Instances
<p>Original System Sketches, undated</p> <p><b>Scope and Contents</b></p> <p>72 sheets</p>	<p>roll A221.03</p>
<p>A Method of Building, 1952, 1956</p> <p><b>Scope and Contents</b></p> <p>31 sheets</p>	<p>roll A221.04</p>
<p>Roof Studies for A Method of Building, 1950 to 1957</p> <p><b>Scope and Contents</b></p> <p>74 sheets</p>	<p>roll A221.05</p>
<p>System of Building: Barracks Building, Office-Shop Building, Office Building, 1956-58, 1972</p> <p><b>Scope and Contents</b></p> <p>24 sheets. Other Creators: Pedersen &amp; Tilney, Consulting Architects; Severud-Elstad-Krueger-Associates, Consulting Engineers. Project No. 14 originally housed with Roll 15</p>	<p>roll A221.06</p>
<p>System of Building: System A Mark I, 1958</p> <p><b>Scope and Contents</b></p> <p>36 sheets. Other Creators: Pedersen &amp; Tilney, Consulting Architects; Severud-Elstad-Krueger-Associates, Consulting Engineers</p>	<p>roll A221.07</p>
<p>System of Building: System A Mark II, 1962 to 1967</p>	<p>roll A221.08</p>

**Scope and Contents**

55 sheets. Other Creators: Pedersen & Tilney, Consulting Architects; Severud-Elstad-Krueger-Associates, Consulting Engineers

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System of Building: Standard Details, 1964 to 1968 roll A221.09

**Scope and Contents**

64 sheets. Other Creators: Pedersen & Tilney, Consulting Architects; Severud-Elstad-Krueger-Associates, Consulting Engineers

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System of Building: School Series, 1968 roll A221.10

**Scope and Contents**

17 sheets. Other Creators: Pedersen & Tilney, Consulting Architects; Severud-Elstad-Krueger-Associates, Consulting Engineers. Originally housed with roll 19: Montrobac School

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Stapleford Toton Lane Secondary Modern School, 1963 to 1966 roll A221.11

**Scope and Contents**

24 sheets. Other Creators: Pedersen & Tilney, Consulting Architects; Severud-Elstad-Krueger-Associates, Consulting Engineers. Also contains drawings for Cost Study Building (1 story and 3 stories)

---

Garage for John W. Straus Esq. (Pound Ridge, NY), 1964 to 1967 roll A221.12

**Scope and Contents**

38 sheets. Other Creators: Pedersen & Tilney, Consulting Architects; Severud-Elstad-Krueger-Associates, Consulting Engineers

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Montrobac School (Stamford, CT), 1968 roll A221.13

**Scope and Contents**

12 sheets. Other Creators: Douglas Kingston, Jr. (New Canaan, CT), WmF. Pedersen Assoc. Consulting Architects, Fischer-Sadler Assoc. Consulting Engineers.

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Housing - Economy Motel, Motel Unit, Hotel Unit, 1969 to 1973 roll A221.14

**Scope and Contents**

25 sheets. Project No. 12 originally housed with Roll  
13

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Housing - Single Family House, Row House, Apartment, roll A221.15  
1969 to 1973

**Scope and Contents**

20 sheets. Project No. 16 originally housed with Roll  
12

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Junior System, 1973 to 1974 roll A221.16

**Scope and Contents**

35 sheets

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Singer Learning Center, 1973 roll A222.01

**Scope and Contents**

19 sheets. Primary Creator: SMS Architects.

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Concrete Modules, 1974 to 1976 roll A222.02

**Scope and Contents**

13 sheets

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