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Sylvan and Robert L. Bien architectural drawings6320551

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Avery Architectural and Fine Arts Library

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Summary Information

Repository:	Avery Architectural and Fine Arts Library
Creator:	Bien, Sylvan, 1892-1959
Creator:	Bien, Robert L., 1924-2002
Creator:	Gilbert, C. P. H. (Charles Pierrepont H.), 1861-1952
Creator:	Lowell, Guy, 1870-1927
Creator:	Bien & Prince
Creator:	Eggers Group
Creator:	Sylvan Bien & Robert Bien, Architects
Creator:	Office of Sylvan Bien
Creator:	York & Sawyer
Title:	Sylvan and Robert L. Bien architectural drawings
ID:	6320551
Date [inclusive]:	1923-1996
Date [bulk]:	1930s-1980s
Physical Description:	7 document boxes
Physical Description:	2 manuscript boxes
Language of the Material:	English .

Preferred Citation

Sylvan and Robert L. Bien architectural drawings. Department of Drawings & Archives, Avery Architectural & Fine Arts Library. Columbia University, New York, NY.

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Biographical / Historical

Sylvan Bien (1893-1959) was born in Austria and emigrated to San Francisco in the mid-1910s to assist in the design of the Panama-Pacific Exposition. He moved to New York City and from 1919 to 1923 he worked in the office of Warren & Wetmore. By the 1930s, Bien had his own practice in New York City, largely designing apartment buildings and hotels. Among his prominent early designs were the Hotel Carlyle, the Beverly Hotel, and the Grolier Building. After World War II, Bien was also noted for designing many modernist apartment buildings in New York City, including 900 Fifth Avenue, Schwab House, and the Coliseum Park Apartments. Robert L. Bien (1924-2002) received a bachelor's degree in architecture in 1949 from Cornell and became a partner in his father's firm in 1950. In 1967, Robert Bien joined Eggers & Higgins, later the Eggers Group and Hillier/Eggers, and practiced there until 1996.

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Summary

This collection contains architectural drawings, and some supplementary archival materials, for buildings primarily designed or altered by Sylvan Bien alone or in partnership with his son, Robert L. Bien. Most of the projects represented in this collection are apartment buildings located in New York City, particularly on the Upper East Side, with some work in surrounding regions and states. In several cases, drawings by the original architect for buildings later altered or studied by Bien are also included in this collection. Lastly, a small group of drawings created by Robert Bien while with Eggers Group is also included.

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Arrangement

Drawings are organized by project.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

Avery Architectural and Fine Arts Library

Restrictions on Access

Collection temporarily unavailable for use due to conservation. For further information and to make an appointment, please email avery-drawings@library.columbia.edu.

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Immediate Source of Acquisition

Source of acquisition--Gifts from Robert L. Bien and Estate of Robert L. Bien. Accession number--1997.008;1998.007; 1998.009; 1999.010; 2000.010; 2003.002.

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Controlled Access Headings

- Architecture -- United States -- Designs and plans
- Apartment houses -- New York (State) -- New York

Publications About Described Materials

Publications about described materials note.

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