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Olive Emslie papers 8501483

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Avery Architectural and Fine Arts Library

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Summary Information

Repository:	Avery Architectural and Fine Arts Library
Creator:	Emslie, Olive
Title:	Olive Emslie papers
ID:	8501483
Date [inclusive]:	1951-1978
Physical Description:	2 document boxes
Physical Description:	4 folders flat-file
Physical Description:	1 print box
Language of the Material:	English .
Abstract:	Olive Emslie was an interior designer who worked on projects for various shopping centers and stores in America and Canada from the 1950s to the early 1970s. The collection consists of professional papers, interior renderings, floor plans, sign designs, and project photographs.

Preferred Citation

Olive Emslie papers, 1951-1978. Department of Drawings & Archives, Avery Architectural and Fine Arts Library, Columbia University.

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Biographical / Historical

Olive Emslie was an interior designer who worked on projects for various shopping centers and stores in America and Canada from the 1950s to the early 1970s. Emslie received a bachelor's degree in architecture from Cornell University and worked for various architectural and design firms, such as Levy and Levy, Ketchum Gina and Sharp, and Victor Gruen Associates, before opening her own practice in 1966.

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Biographical / Historical

Emslie also owned a patent for her design of a fountain pen from her time as a product designer at Van Doren, Knowland and Schaldermundt. Noteworthy projects include the planning and designing of different floors of two Kaufmann's stores in Pennsylvania - Pittsburgh and Monroeville - as well as Color Print Shop of NY's Metropolitan Museum of Art.

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Scope and Content

The Olive Emslie papers documents the interior designer's career and major projects. The collection consists of professional papers, interior renderings, floor plans, sign designs, and project photographs.

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Scope and Content

[Series I: Professional Papers](#) includes Emslie's resume, correspondence, a magazine and newspaper clipping, and an award.

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Scope and Content

[Series II: Project Records](#) is mostly devoted to three major commissions: the two Pennsylvania Kaufmann's stores in Monroeville and Pittsburgh along with the Metropolitan Museum of Art. The materials include floor plans and specifications, graphic studies, designs for signs, invoices, contracts, and conference reports for various projects. There are also interior renderings of numerous departments in the Kaufmann's stores, many of which are intricate and colorfully drawn with pencil and color samples. Although the bulk of the material belongs to the

Kaufmann's store and the Metropolitan Museum of Art, there are also folders for other smaller projects, such as the Robert Simpson Co. Ltd., G. Fox & Co. Inc., and Columbia University's "Man's Right to Knowledge" campaign for their bicentennial. The Project Records series also includes Project Sample Boards, which include color and black & white photographs and images from various projects meant as a portfolio for presentation purposes, all backed on cardboard.

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Scope and Content

[Series III: Other Papers/Materials](#) includes a small box of architectural tools and Emslie's husband's architectural degree and certificate.

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Arrangement

This collection is arranged in four series: Professional Papers, Project Records, Project Samples, and Other Papers.

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Administrative Information

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. 2011-03-01 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.

Terms Governing Use and Reproduction

Permission to publish must be obtained in writing from the Director, Avery Architectural & Fine Arts Library, Columbia University, 1172 Amsterdam Ave., MC 0301, New York, NY 10027.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Source of acquisition--Toni Zwickut. Method of acquisition--Donated;; Accession number--1996.021.

Processing Information

Processed; Rihoko Ueno 2011.

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Controlled Access Headings

- Architecture -- United States -- Designs and plans
- Design -- United States -- History -- 20th century
- Interior decoration -- United States -- History -- 20th century
- Interior decorators -- United States
- Department stores -- Pennsylvania
- Emslie, Olive
- Victor Gruen Associates
- Metropolitan Museum of Art (New York, N.Y.)

Publication Date

1951-1978

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Collection Inventory

Series I: Professional Papers

Scope and Contents

includes Emslie's resume, correspondence, a magazine and newspaper clipping, and an award.

Title/Description	Instances	
Resume, 1972	box 01	folder 01
Ketchum, Gina & Sharp, Architects C.V., 1952	box 01	folder 02
Scope and Contents		
Brief C.V. for all the architects at Ketchum, Gina & Sharp architecture firm, where Emslie worked, along with a list of commissions.		
Correspondence, 1952-1996	box 01	folder 03
Scope and Contents		
Includes assorted correspondence, along with a telegram and one pay order for a contract.		
Publicity, 1952-1964	box 01	folder 04
Scope and Contents		
Includes magazine and newspaper article mentioning Olive Emslie's work in Yorkdale Shopping Centre in North York, Canada and A.J. Frieman Ltd in Ottawa.		
Award, 1954	box 01	folder 05
Scope and Contents		
Small commemorative plaque from Columbia University in "Bicentennial Year 1954" for her work on "Man's Right to Knowledge" commission.		

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Series II: Project Records

Scope and Contents

is mostly devoted to three major commissions: the two Pennsylvania Kaufmann's stores in Monroeville and Pittsburgh along with the Metropolitan Museum of Art. The materials include floor plans and specifications, graphic studies, designs for signs, invoices, contracts, and conference reports for various projects. There are also interior renderings of numerous departments in the Kaufmann's stores, many of which are intricate and colorfully drawn with pencil and color samples. Although the bulk of the

material belongs to the Kaufmann's store and the Metropolitan Museum of Art, there are also folders for other smaller projects, such as the Robert Simpson Co. Ltd., G. Fox & Co. Inc., and Columbia University's "Man's Right to Knowledge" campaign for their bicentennial. The Project Records series also includes Project Sample Boards, which include color and black & white photographs and images from various projects meant as a portfolio for presentation purposes, all backed on cardboard.

Subseries 1: Other Project

Title/Description	Instances	
A. J. Frieman Ltd. (Ottawa, Canda), 1951	box 01	folder 06
Scope and Contents		
2 floor plans.		
Columbia University, 1954	box 01	folder 07
Scope and Contents		
Includes photographic proofs for "Man's Right to Knowledge and the Free Use Thereof" commission for Columbia University's Bicentennial Anniversary along with one copy of final booklet and a page of pencil notes for layout.		
Hochschild Kohn Mall (Baltimore, MD), 1958	box 01	folder 08
Scope and Contents		
1 blue line print of mall elevation for Hochschild Kohn, Harundale.		
G. Fox & Co., Inc. (Hartford, CT), 1969	box 01	folder 09
Scope and Contents		
1 album of fabric samples and wallpaper, plus correspondence and notes for G. Fox & Co., Inc.		
G. Fox & Co., Inc. (Hartford, CT), 1965-1969	drawer 204	folder 04
Scope and Contents		
24 blue line floor plans.		
Project Samples - Boards, 1958-1970	oversize 01	
Scope and Contents		
Color as well as black and white photographs and images of various projects, including A.J Frieman's, Ottawa, Canada; Hochschild Kohn, Baltimore, MD; The Robert Simpson Co., Toronto, Canda; Kaufmann's, Pittsburgh, PA.		
The Robert Simpson Co. Ltd	drawer 204	folder 01

Scope and Contents

4 blue line prints with color pencil and color samples; type: interior renderings of various departments.

Subseries 2: Monroeville Kaufmann's

Title/Description	Instances	
Correspondence, 1968-1969	box 02	folder 01
Scope and Contents		
Regarding the main level/first floor of Monroeville Kaufmann's store.		
Conference Reports, 1968	box 02	folder 02
Scope and Contents		
On the main level/first floor of Monroeville Kaufmann's store.		
Invoices, 1968	box 02	folder 03
Scope and Contents		
For work on main level of Monroeville Kaufmann's store; includes small ledger book listing expenses.		
Contract, 1968	box 02	folder 04
Scope and Contents		
contract for work on main level of Monroeville Kaufmann's store.		
Photographs, 1968	box 02	folder 05
Scope and Contents		
29 black and white photographs of each department on main level of Monroeville Kaufmann's; each photo numbered and corresponds to blue line prints of main level floor plans.		
First Floor Plans (1 of 4), 1968	box 02	folder 06
Scope and Contents		
9 blue line prints; 1 pencil on trace; floor plans for departments on main level/first floor of Monroeville Kaufmann's.		
First Floor Plans (2 of 4), 1968	box 02	folder 07

Scope and Contents

12 blue line print; floor plans for departments on main level/first floor of Monroeville Kaufmann's.

First Floor Plans (3 of 4), 1968

box 02

folder 08

Scope and Contents

12 blue line print; floor plans for departments on main level/first floor of Monroeville Kaufmann's.

First Floor Plans (4 of 4), 1968

drawer 204

folder 03

Scope and Contents

1 blue line print of ceiling and lighting plan for the main level/first floor of Monroeville Kaufmann's.

Bidding Proposal for Signage, 1968

box 02

folder 09

Scope and Contents

Krimstock Brothers Corporation proposal bidding on the signing for the Monroeville Kaufmann's store; includes Emslie's signage designs on trace paper.

Graphic Studies, 1968

drawer 204

folder 02

Scope and Contents

16 graphic studies and signage designs for various departments.

Sign Designs, 1967-1969

box 02

folder 10

Scope and Contents

Pencil on trace drawings numbered 1-69, with numerous unnumbered pages of designs and drafts; includes index referencing design numbers and revisions.

Miscellaneous Notes, 1968

box 02

folder 11

Scope and Contents

5 pencil on trace; 9 blue line prints; miscellaneous notes and designs for cabinetwork and floor plans.

Set of Interior Renderings and Department Plans with Master Floor Plan, 1968

box 02

folder 12

Scope and Contents

33 blue line prints with color pencil and color samples; interior renderings and floor plans for the individual departments of the Monroeville Kaufmann's main; each rendering and floor plan is

numbered on the bottom corner of paper's reverse side; includes a master plan of the entire main floor with numbers corresponding to the renderings and floor plans (media: brown line print with pencil).

Subseries 3: Pittsburgh Kaufmann's

Title/Description	Instances	
Interior Renderings and Signage, 1964	box 01	folder 10
Scope and Contents		
Interior drawings with color pencil on trace paper of various departments on third floor of Kaufmann's and designs for signage.		
Third Floor Design Packet, 1964	box 01	folder 11
Scope and Contents		
Designs for signage as well as color and wallpaper samples for third floor of Pittsburgh Kaufmann's.		
Travel Expenses Book, 1964	box 01	folder 12
Scope and Contents		
Spiral-bound notebook listing travel expenses.		
Correspondence and Expense Reports, 1964	box 01	folder 13
Scope and Contents		
Expense reports and correspondence found in a folder labeled "1964 Emslie-Baldon" (Robert Baldon of Associated Store Designers, a NY design firm where Emslie worked); also includes several black and white photos of Pittsburgh Kaufmann's interior.		
Third Floor Plans, 1963-1964	box 01	folder 14
Scope and Contents		
Blue line floor and fixture plans for various sections (Boys, Girls, Infant Furniture, Teens, etc.).		
Fifth Floor Drawings, 1967	box 01	folder 15
Scope and Contents		
26 pencil drawings on trace paper; type: cabinetwork and interiors of departments on fifth floor and one drawing of fitting rooms		
Plane Tickets, 1967	box 01	folder 16
Correspondence, 1967	box 01	folder 17

Scope and Contents

Regarding the fifth floor of Pittsburgh Kaufmann's store.

Conference Reports, 1967	box 01	folder 18
Scope and Contents		
Regarding the fifth floor of Pittsburgh Kaufmann's store.		
Contract, 1966-1967	box 01	folder 19
Scope and Contents		
For the fifth floor of Pittsburgh Kaufmann's store.		
Invoices, 1967	box 01	folder 20
Scope and Contents		
For work on the fifth floor of Pittsburgh Kaufmann's store.		
Fifth Floor Graphic Study, 1967	box 01	folder 21
Scope and Contents		
1 trace paper graphic study of peacock feather for baseboard; 1 watercolor on paper version of the same pattern.		
Fifth Floor Plans, 1967	box 01	folder 22
Scope and Contents		
includes blue line preliminary studies and floor plans for various sections - Women's Dresses, Sportswear, Maternity Shop, Junior Accessories, etc. - on the fifth floor of the Pittsburgh Kaufmann's store		
Fifth Floor Design Packet, 1967	box 01	folder 23
Scope and Contents		
packet labeled on first page "5th FL Kaufmann's Pittsburgh, PA Jan 1967 - Sept 6 (last trip) complete," includes color and fabric samples for various sections		

Subseries 4: Metropolitan Museum of Art

Title/Description	Instances	
Specifications, 1971	box 02	folder 13

Scope and Contents

2 copies of specifications for cabinet work & millwork as well as electrical work; one copy includes detailed blue line prints of cabinetwork.

Information Packet, 1971	box 02	folder 14
Scope and Contents		
Includes correspondence, notes, floor plans, and cabinetwork dimensions.		
Print Department Drawings Set, 1976	box 02	folder 15
Scope and Contents		
18 blue line print drawings of Metropolitan Museum of Art's Print Department; includes three paint samples of Print shop ceiling and wall.		
First Floor Plan, 1978	box 02	folder 16
Scope and Contents		
1 drawing.		
Sales Desk and Office, 1971	box 02	folder 17
Scope and Contents		
Design plans and specifications on trace paper for Metropolitan Museum of Art sales desk and sales office.		
Book Shop Offices, 1971	box 02	folder 18
Scope and Contents		
Floor plans and specifications on trace for Metropolitan Museum of Art book shop offices.		
Print Shop Relocation, 1978	box 02	folder 19
Scope and Contents		
Blue line prints and pencil on trace drawings.		
Correspondence, 1972-1978	box 02	folder 20
Slide Display, 1973	box 02	folder 21
Notes, 1978-1979	box 02	folder 22

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Scope and Contents

includes a small box of architectural tools and Emslie's husband's architectural degree and certificate.

Title/Description	Instances	
Architectural Tools	box 02	folder 23
Diplomas of Murray Sim Emslie (Olive Emslie's husband)	roll A056.04	

Scope and Contents

Architectural degree and certificate.

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