



# ArchivesSpace

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## Richard Joseph Neutra papers 8600162

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This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on January 14, 2025.

Description is written in: English.

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Avery Architectural and Fine Arts Library

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## Table of Contents

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|                                  |   |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Summary Information .....        | 3 |
| History .....                    | 3 |
| Scope and Content .....          | 4 |
| Arrangement .....                | 5 |
| Administrative Information ..... | 5 |
| Related Materials .....          | 6 |
| Controlled Access Headings ..... | 7 |
| Publication Date .....           | 7 |
| Collection Inventory .....       | 7 |
| Series I: Sketches .....         | 7 |
| Series II: Articles .....        | 7 |

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## Summary Information

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|                                  |  |
|----------------------------------|--|
| <b>Repository:</b>               | Avery Architectural and Fine Arts Library  |
| <b>Creator:</b>                  | Neutra, Richard Joseph, 1892-1970  |
| <b>Title:</b>                    | Richard Joseph Neutra papers   |
| <b>ID:</b>                       | 8600162  |
| <b>Date [inclusive]:</b>         | 1927-1978  |
| <b>Physical Description:</b>     | 1 document box   |
| <b>Language of the Material:</b> | English .  |
| <b>Abstract:</b>                 | Richard Joseph Neutra (April 8, 1892 – April 16, 1970) was an important modernist architect who helped introduce the International Style to the US. The Richard Neutra papers document primarily the architect's writings. |

### Preferred Citation

Richard Joseph Neutra papers, 1927-1978. Department of Drawings & Archives, Avery Architectural and Fine Arts Library, Columbia University.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

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## History

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Richard Joseph Neutra (April 8, 1892 – April 16, 1970) was an important modernist architect who helped introduce the International Style to the US. Neutra was born in Vienna and graduated from the Technical University of Vienna in 1917 where he studied under the tutelage of Adolf Loos and was influenced by Otto Wagner. He worked with architect Erich Mendelsohn in Berlin before moving to the US in 1923 and becoming a citizen in 1929. In 1924, Neutra briefly worked for Frank Lloyd Wright at Taliesin East.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

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## History

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Neutra designed office buildings, housing projects, churches, cultural centers and buildings for universities and colleges. Between 1927 and 1969, he designed more than 300 houses, mostly in California. His most famous works include the Lovell House in Los Angeles, the Kaufmann Desert House in Palm Springs, and the Tremaine House in Santa Barbara.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

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## History

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Biorealism, a term coined by Neutra, represented his belief that man and nature should exist in harmony and that architecture should bridge the two. Neutra was known to work closely with his clients in order to understand their needs, rather than imposing his vision. In 1966 he partnered with his son and founded Richard and Dion Neutra and Associates. His voluminous writings include many articles and three books, *Survival Through Design* (1954), *Life and Human Habitat* (1956), and his autobiography *Life and Shape* (1962).

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

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## History

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Neutra died in Germany in 1970. His architectural firm is still operating in Los Angeles.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

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## Scope and Content

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The Richard Neutra papers contain one folder of black and white photographs of sketches by Neutra, but largely consists of articles and writings for his books.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

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## Scope and Content

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[Series I: Sketches](#) are black and white photographs of sketches by Neutra depicting landscapes and buildings from travels.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

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## Scope and Content

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[Series II: Articles](#) is the largest series and it consists of lectures at conferences and institutions, articles for various publications in magazines and journal, as well as selections and chapters for his books. Each folder is dedicated to one article, and the title for the folder comes from an enclosure list given to Avery Library at the time the collection was donated to Avery Library. The series covers all manner of topics from illumination, evolution, school design, the future of architecture, and the relationship of housing and democracy. Several of the articles are in German. In all likelihood the majority of the articles have been published elsewhere and there is little in the way of personal writing or notes.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

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## Arrangement

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This collection is arranged in two series: Series I: Sketches; Series II: Articles

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

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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. 2011-04-07 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).

## 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.

## Processing Information

This collection was processed by Rihoko Ueno (Archives Intern) under the guidance of Shelley Hayreh, Archivist of Drawings & Archives, Avery Library, in April 2011.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

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## Related Materials

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### Related Material

[Jan De Graaff Residence architectural drawings and photographs, circa 1940s](#), Dept. of Drawings & Archives, Avery Architectural and Fine Arts Library, Columbia University.

### Related Material

Richard J. Neutra / Kaufmann Desert House architectural drawings and photographs, Dept. of Drawings & Archives, Avery Architectural and Fine Arts Library, Columbia University.

### Related Material

[Richard and Dion Neutra Papers, 1925-1970](#), UCLA Library, Charles E. Young Research Library Department of Special Collections.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

## Controlled Access Headings

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- Architecture, Modern -- 20th century
- Architecture -- Psychological aspects
- International style (Architecture) -- United States
- Neutra, Richard Joseph, 1892-1970

## Publication Date

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1927-1978

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

## Collection Inventory

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### Series I: Sketches

| Title/Description                    | Instances |           |
|--------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Photographs of Neutra sketches, 1964 | box 01    | folder 11 |

#### Scope and Contents

30 numbered photographs of sketches by Neutra depicting various landscapes, scenes, houses from travels. Includes list of photographs of sketches.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

### Series II: Articles

| Title/Description   | Instances |           |
|---|-----------|-----------|
| Ideas: The human individual in a world of standardization., undated | box 01    | folder 12 |
| Repetitiveness is at the root, undated                              | box 01    | folder 13 |
| The individual and architecture, undated                            | box 01    | folder 14 |
| Ideas: [untitled] #31565mm., undated                                | box 01    | folder 15 |
| Ideas: [untitled] #32565jw., undated                                | box 01    | folder 16 |

## Richard Joseph Neutra papers 8600162

|  |        |           |
|--|--------|-----------|
| Away with Dualism, undated   | box 01 | folder 17 |
| A groan over typewriters, dictation machines and Western Union, 1965 March 7 | box 01 | folder 18 |
| Ideas: [untitled] #10164al, undated  | box 01 | folder 19 |
| Ideas: Evolution, undated  | box 01 | folder 20 |
| Psychiatry and architecture, undated   | box 01 | folder 21 |
| Ideas: Setting? Seems something that stays, undated                          | box 01 | folder 22 |
| Ideas: [untitled] Feb. 9, 1955, 1955   | box 01 | folder 23 |
| Ideas: Senescence, fame and delegation, undated                              | box 01 | folder 24 |
| Ideas: MNEME, memory, a word often and glibly used!, undated                 | box 01 | folder 25 |
| Ideas: [untitled] #22264bm., undated   | box 01 | folder 26 |
| Ideas: Increased Longevity, undated  | box 01 | folder 27 |
| Ideas: Tradition is steady or slow-shift ecology, 1964 March                 | box 01 | folder 28 |
| Ideas: Memory and misunderstanding, undated                                  | box 01 | folder 29 |
| Ideas: III, 1.64, 1964   | box 01 | folder 30 |
| Ideas: [untitled] #4864br., undated  | box 01 | folder 31 |
| Ideas:- Some raw and confused thoughts, #32464bm., undated                   | box 01 | folder 32 |
| Ideas: [untitled] 1/28/64, 1964  | box 01 | folder 33 |
| Ideas: [untitled] #61764al., undated   | box 01 | folder 34 |
| Biorealismus, undated  | box 01 | folder 35 |
| Ideas: [untitled] #2865b., undated   | box 01 | folder 36 |
| Ideas: Individual and its settingbed, undated                                | box 01 | folder 37 |
| Ideas: [untitled] #31565mm., undated   | box 01 | folder 38 |
| Notes on Ideas, #31065br., undated   | box 01 | folder 39 |
| Ideas: Commotion and psychotope., undated                                    | box 01 | folder 40 |
| Commotion and psychotope, #3565br., undated                                  | box 01 | folder 41 |
| Introductory - Order for tomorrow, and a language to fit it., undated        | box 01 | folder 42 |
| Outlook on the environment of tomorrow., undated                             | box 01 | folder 43 |
| Tasks and practice of the architect, undated                                 | box 01 | folder 44 |
| Thoughts on the practice of architecture, undated                            | box 01 | folder 45 |
| Architects should be trained to proactive - where?, undated                  | box 01 | folder 46 |



|  |        |           |
|--|--------|-----------|
| The small and the sensational, undated   | box 01 | folder 47 |
| Interests of an architectural student, undated                                     | box 01 | folder 48 |
| Young men have an unlimited future in architecture, undated                        | box 01 | folder 49 |
| How to become an architect, undated  | box 01 | folder 50 |
| Science and religion through the experience of an architect, undated               | box 01 | folder 51 |
| Richard Neutra book, undated   | box 01 | folder 52 |
| Foresight made popular among innocents before their future, undated                | box 01 | folder 53 |
| "T. & T." - Team and training, undated   | box 01 | folder 54 |
| From the life and work of Richard Neutra, I, undated                               | box 01 | folder 55 |
| From the life and work of Richard Neutra, II, undated                              | box 01 | folder 56 |
| Richard J. Neutra Foundation, #3464al, undated                                     | box 01 | folder 57 |
| Heating and cooling Sunday school classroom building: Garden Grove Church, undated | box 01 | folder 58 |
| Typical rules to be used in shaping interiors, undated                             | box 01 | folder 59 |
| Tower of Babel, II, undated  | box 01 | folder 60 |
| Long range affluence, undated  | box 01 | folder 61 |
| <b>Scope and Contents</b>  |        |           |
| list of articles from folder 5 stops here  |        |           |
| Vitality through design, undated   | box 01 | folder 62 |
| <b>Scope and Contents</b>  |        |           |
| start of "Enclosure List" included at the beginning of the collection              |        |           |
| Idyllwild Art Conference - Lecture, undated  | box 01 | folder 63 |
| <b>Scope and Contents</b>  |        |           |
| labeled L-8 (Lecture) in "Enclosure List" of articles                              |        |           |
| Gulf States Regional convention, undated   | box 01 | folder 64 |
| <b>Scope and Contents</b>  |        |           |
| labeled L-32 in "Enclosure List" of articles                                       |        |           |
| Social Implications of Architecture, undated                                       | box 01 | folder 65 |

**Scope and Contents**

labeled L-39b in "Enclosure List" of articles

---

|  |        |           |
|--|--------|-----------|
| Survival through design and urban life designed, undated | box 01 | folder 66 |
|--|--------|-----------|

**Scope and Contents**

labeled PL-69 in "Enclosure List" of articles

---

|                        |        |           |
|------------------------|--------|-----------|
| Lebende stadt, undated | box 01 | folder 67 |
|------------------------|--------|-----------|

**Scope and Contents**

labeled PL-65 in "Enclosure List" of articles

---

|                       |        |           |
|-----------------------|--------|-----------|
| "Auditorium", undated | box 01 | folder 68 |
|-----------------------|--------|-----------|

**Scope and Contents**

labeled STD-16 (Survival Through Design, book) in "Enclosure List" of articles

---

|                                   |        |           |
|-----------------------------------|--------|-----------|
| Sacramento redevelopment, undated | box 01 | folder 69 |
|-----------------------------------|--------|-----------|

**Scope and Contents**

labeled PL-30 in "Enclosure List" of articles

---

|                |        |           |
|----------------|--------|-----------|
| House, undated | box 01 | folder 70 |
|----------------|--------|-----------|

**Scope and Contents**

labeled PL-5

---

|                                |        |           |
|--------------------------------|--------|-----------|
| The world of tomorrow, undated | box 01 | folder 71 |
|--------------------------------|--------|-----------|

**Scope and Contents**

labeled L-64

---

|   |        |           |
|---|--------|-----------|
| Slums and housing in regions of mild climate, undated | box 01 | folder 72 |
|---|--------|-----------|

**Scope and Contents**

labeled PL-2

---

|   |        |           |
|---|--------|-----------|
| California, past, present and future, undated | box 01 | folder 73 |
|---|--------|-----------|

**Scope and Contents**

labeled L-60

---

|   |        |           |
|---|--------|-----------|
| A junior high school: practical and ethical problems, undated | box 01 | folder 74 |
|---|--------|-----------|

**Scope and Contents**

labeled SCH-18

---

Summary of thoughts on hospitals, undated

box 01

folder 75

**Scope and Contents**

labeled L-56

---

Summary, Retrospection and architecture today, undated

box 01

folder 76

**Scope and Contents**

labeled L-55

---

Summary of an undelivered speech, UCLA conference on Africa, Law Arrowhead, undated

box 01

folder 77

---

School buildings of a new type, undated

box 01

folder 78

**Scope and Contents**

labeled SCH-13

---

Arizona Industrial Workshop: Planning - a most human issue, 1958 March 7

box 01

folder 79

**Scope and Contents**

labeled L-51

---

School buildings, undated

box 01

folder 80

**Scope and Contents**

labeled SCH-10

---

Thoughts expressed for hospital convention, St. Louis, Jan. 1957, 1957

box 01

folder 81

**Scope and Contents**

labeled L-48

---

Architecture and psychological fact, 1956

box 01

folder 82

**Scope and Contents**

labeled L-27C (Banff Sessions 1956)

---

Banff session, January 1956, 1956

box 01

folder 83

**Scope and Contents**

labeled L-27A

---

Division and recovery, 1955

box 01

folder 84

**Scope and Contents**

labeled L-24, "Lecture at home of Dr. Hertz, 2/24/55"

---

|  |        |           |
|--|--------|-----------|
| Lecture: School design - a general public issue, undated | box 01 | folder 85 |
|--|--------|-----------|

**Scope and Contents**

labeled L-18

---

|   |        |           |
|---|--------|-----------|
| The creative process in architecture, undated | box 01 | folder 86 |
|---|--------|-----------|

**Scope and Contents**

labeled L-7

---

|   |        |           |
|---|--------|-----------|
| Richard J. Neutra's speech in Athens, undated | box 01 | folder 87 |
|---|--------|-----------|

**Scope and Contents**

labeled L-5

---

|  |        |           |
|--|--------|-----------|
| Richard Neutra on planning a good house, undated | box 01 | folder 88 |
|--|--------|-----------|

**Scope and Contents**

labeled L-12

---

|  |        |           |
|--|--------|-----------|
| Das dramatische und seine Behausung, undated | box 01 | folder 89 |
|--|--------|-----------|

**Scope and Contents**

labeled AAL-133 (Architecture, Art and Life Magazine)

---

|                        |        |           |
|------------------------|--------|-----------|
| Glass and man, undated | box 01 | folder 90 |
|------------------------|--------|-----------|

**Scope and Contents**

labeled AAL-132

---

|  |        |           |
|--|--------|-----------|
| Glass in the theater building, undated | box 01 | folder 91 |
|--|--------|-----------|

**Scope and Contents**

labeled AAL-131

---

|                                  |        |           |
|----------------------------------|--------|-----------|
| Zur billanz der Moderne, undated | box 01 | folder 92 |
|----------------------------------|--------|-----------|

**Scope and Contents**

labeled AAL-130

---

|   |        |           |
|---|--------|-----------|
| Building for teaching and learning, undated | box 01 | folder 93 |
|---|--------|-----------|

**Scope and Contents**

labeled AAL-145

---

|                     |        |           |
|---------------------|--------|-----------|
| The museum, undated | box 01 | folder 94 |
|---------------------|--------|-----------|

**Scope and Contents**

labeled AAL-129

---

Sun protective devices, undated

box 01

folder 95

**Scope and Contents**

labeled AAL-143, "Re: Courthouse, Orange County -  
'Sun Protective Devices'"

---

Ideas: From thoughts on human nature to survival through  
design, undated

box 01

folder 96

**Scope and Contents**

labeled AAL-126

---

The centerpiece of a library by RJN, undated

box 01

folder 97

**Scope and Contents**

labeled AAL-141

---

Science and religion through the experience of an architect,  
undated

box 01

folder 98

**Scope and Contents**

labeled AAL-140, another copy of same article  
included in folder 51

---

Corners of glass, undated

box 01

folder 99

**Scope and Contents**

labeled AAL-121

---

Architecture, not of "today", undated

box 01

folder 100

**Scope and Contents**

labeled AAL-136

---

Neutra glaubt, undated

box 01

folder 101

**Scope and Contents**

labeled AAL-117

---

Richard Neutra becomes a philosopher after forty years of  
building, undated

box 01

folder 102

**Scope and Contents**

labeled AAL-107

---

The South and the challenge of regionalism (Ideas from  
Survival Through Design), undated

box 01

folder 103

---

|  |        |            |
|--|--------|------------|
| Science and architecture, undated  | box 01 | folder 104 |
| <b>Scope and Contents</b>  |        |            |
| labeled AAL-115  |        |            |
| <hr/>  |        |            |
| Is there an abstract approach left in an age of observation?, undated          | box 01 | folder 105 |
| <b>Scope and Contents</b>  |        |            |
| labeled AAL-104  |        |            |
| <hr/>  |        |            |
| Nature brought before our mind sciences inter-related for the student, undated | box 01 | folder 106 |
| <b>Scope and Contents</b>  |        |            |
| labeled AAL-113  |        |            |
| <hr/>  |        |            |
| A causerie on our danger and salvation, undated                                | box 01 | folder 107 |
| <b>Scope and Contents</b>  |        |            |
| labeled AAL-102, includes 2 copies   |        |            |
| <hr/>  |        |            |
| But, Mr. Neutra, what are your design principles?, undated                     | box 01 | folder 108 |
| <b>Scope and Contents</b>  |        |            |
| labeled AAL-111  |        |            |
| <hr/>  |        |            |
| Welt und Wohnung, undated  | box 01 | folder 109 |
| <b>Scope and Contents</b>  |        |            |
| labeled AAL-119A   |        |            |
| <hr/>  |        |            |
| A place of worship. What should a church look like?, undated                   | box 01 | folder 110 |
| <b>Scope and Contents</b>  |        |            |
| labeled AAL-100  |        |            |
| <hr/>  |        |            |
| The layer cake, undated  | box 01 | folder 111 |
| <b>Scope and Contents</b>  |        |            |
| labeled AAL-90   |        |            |
| <hr/>  |        |            |
| Your house can drive you crazy, undated  | box 01 | folder 112 |
| <hr/>  |        |            |
| Illumination, life and architecture, undated                                   | box 01 | folder 113 |
| <b>Scope and Contents</b>  |        |            |
| labeled AAL-93   |        |            |
| <hr/>  |        |            |
| The architect - a naturalist, undated  |        |            |

|  |        |            |
|--|--------|------------|
| <b>Scope and Contents</b><br>labeled AAL-97  | box 01 | folder 114 |
| Arts and sciences of the architect and his status, undated<br><b>Scope and Contents</b><br>labeled AAL-81  | box 01 | folder 115 |
| India today - an example of need for city planning and architecture, undated   | box 01 | folder 116 |
| Steel and the architect, undated<br><b>Scope and Contents</b><br>labeled AAL-35  | box 01 | folder 117 |
| "Biorealismus", undated<br><b>Scope and Contents</b><br>labeled A-153  | box 01 | folder 118 |
| Kulturelles Wort "Die Kunst, Zu Hause Zu Sein", 1964<br><b>Scope and Contents</b><br>labeled A-155   | box 01 | folder 119 |
| Some thought on geriatric planning, undated<br><b>Scope and Contents</b><br>labeled A-157  | box 01 | folder 120 |
| Suggestions for a series of lectures and seminars gleaned from an informal conversation with Richard Neutra, undated<br><b>Scope and Contents</b><br>labeled A-159 | box 01 | folder 121 |
| Ideas: Photography II, undated<br><b>Scope and Contents</b><br>labeled A-164   | box 01 | folder 122 |
| Nature in the human species, undated<br><b>Scope and Contents</b><br>labeled A-165   | box 01 | folder 123 |
| Le Corbusier - Three quarters of a century, undated  | box 01 | folder 124 |

**Scope and Contents**

labeled A-105

---

|  |        |            |
|--|--------|------------|
| Fragment of a letter from the correspondence of RJN with the parson, who wanted his church to fit creation, 1962 | box 01 | folder 125 |
|--|--------|------------|

**Scope and Contents**

labeled A-104

---

|  |        |            |
|--|--------|------------|
| Japan and total composition of environment, 1959 | box 01 | folder 126 |
|--|--------|------------|

**Scope and Contents**

labeled A-85

---

|  |        |            |
|--|--------|------------|
| Synopsis - Architects and clients, undated | box 01 | folder 127 |
|--|--------|------------|

**Scope and Contents**

labeled A-6

---

|  |        |            |
|--|--------|------------|
| The man-made community - design or progressive accident?, 1954 | box 01 | folder 128 |
|--|--------|------------|

**Scope and Contents**

labeled A-18

---

|  |        |            |
|--|--------|------------|
| Das seelische in der architektur, 1957 | box 01 | folder 129 |
|--|--------|------------|

**Scope and Contents**

labeled A-29

---

|   |        |            |
|---|--------|------------|
| Client interrogation, an art and science, undated | box 01 | folder 130 |
|---|--------|------------|

**Scope and Contents**

labeled A-69

---

|  |        |            |
|--|--------|------------|
| On current design activities around the globe, undated | box 01 | folder 131 |
|--|--------|------------|

**Scope and Contents**

labeled A-74a

---

|                                  |        |            |
|----------------------------------|--------|------------|
| Vigor in current design, undated | box 01 | folder 132 |
|----------------------------------|--------|------------|

**Scope and Contents**

labeled A-74a

---

|   |        |            |
|---|--------|------------|
| Neutra's interest in domestic clients, 1957 | box 01 | folder 133 |
|---|--------|------------|



**Scope and Contents**

labeled A-75

---

After the great man's death, undated

box 01

folder 134

**Scope and Contents**

labeled A-83, "thoughts on a broadcast, to which RJN has been invited"

---

The potential worldwide mission of Argentina, undated

box 01

folder 135

**Scope and Contents**

labeled A-88

---

Mut zum Erprobten, 1961

box 01

folder 136

**Scope and Contents**

labeled A-91

---

Community buildings and their architect, undated

box 01

folder 137

**Scope and Contents**

labeled A-94

---

The "undated" architect and philosopher outside of all sensational fashions, undated

box 01

folder 138

**Scope and Contents**

labeled A-99

---

The desert, undated

box 01

folder 139

**Scope and Contents**

labeled A-100

---

Creative consistency, undated

box 01

folder 140

**Scope and Contents**

labeled A-107

---

Training, undated

box 01

folder 141

**Scope and Contents**

labeled A-108

---

Fliegender architekt, undated

box 01

folder 142

**Scope and Contents**

labeled A-114

---

Physiology of the theater, undated

box 01

folder 143

**Scope and Contents**

labeled A-129

---

Traffic damages without and within the skin, undated

box 01

folder 144

**Scope and Contents**

labeled A-133

---

Bio-realism and the world of tomorrow. Industry and the active role of the architect, undated

box 01

folder 145

**Scope and Contents**

labeled A-143

---

Can the individual be insured by the policy of flexible forethought or must it be frustrated?, undated

box 01

folder 146

**Scope and Contents**

labeled A-146

---

Fat and future - the architect and his passengers, 1964

box 01

folder 147

**Scope and Contents**

labeled A-63

---

Where - in our progress - is man?, 1960

box 01

folder 148

**Scope and Contents**

labeled A-59

---

Two lectures at Banff 1957 - I. Design and its proof, 1957

box 01

folder 149

**Scope and Contents**

labeled L-39A

---

Two lectures at Banff 1957 - II. The architect in the age of "operation.", 1957

box 01

folder 150

**Scope and Contents**

labeled L-39A

---

Convergence of formative forces, undated

box 01

folder 151

**Scope and Contents**

labeled L-49

---

Banff sessions - 1956, 1956

box 01

folder 152

**Scope and Contents**

labeled L-27

---

The shapes on a campus are not extra curricular, 1957

box 01

folder 153

**Scope and Contents**

labeled L-38, "at Convention of Assoc. for Higher Educ. - Third General Session 3-5-57"

---

Die stad: Bauen, Wohnen, Leben, 1961

box 01

folder 154

**Scope and Contents**

labeled A-101

---

A man-made space for acoustical, dramatic offering, undated

box 01

folder 155

**Scope and Contents**

labeled AAL-123

---

Tapestry, undated

box 01

folder 156

**Scope and Contents**

labeled A-95

---

Vorwort im Nachhinein, undated

box 01

folder 157

**Scope and Contents**

labeled A-101

---

The city and nature, 1959

box 01

folder 158

**Scope and Contents**

labeled AAL-135

---

"Architects drawing", undated

box 01

folder 159

**Scope and Contents**

labeled AAL-124

---

Glass and the wide landscape outside, #362ah, undated

box 01

folder 160

---

Many give form, undated

box 01

folder 161

**Scope and Contents**

labeled AAL-120

---

World and dwelling, 1960

box 01

folder 162

**Scope and Contents**

labeled AAL-119

---

Argentina, undated

box 01

folder 163

**Scope and Contents**

labeled A-49

---

To the students of art and architecture in Rio De Janeiro, undated

box 01

folder 164

**Scope and Contents**

labeled A-46

---

Bedrooms, undated

box 01

folder 165

**Scope and Contents**

labeled A-45

---

Illumination, explanatory notes, undated

box 01

folder 166

**Scope and Contents**

labeled A-44

---

From an improvised speech to the Orange County Bar Association, undated

box 01

folder 167

**Scope and Contents**

labeled AAL-146

---

The tower of hope - it's program and potentialities, 1964

box 01

folder 168

**Scope and Contents**

labeled AAL-144a

---

Towers!, undated

box 01

folder 169

**Scope and Contents**

labeled AAL-144

---

Gaertnerische Gestaltung und Beleuchtung, undated

box 01

folder 170

**Scope and Contents**

labeled AAL- 134

---

|   |        |            |
|---|--------|------------|
| "I hope to deserve the name of naturalist", undated | box 01 | folder 171 |
|---|--------|------------|

**Scope and Contents**

labeled AAL-127

---

|  |        |            |
|--|--------|------------|
| The challenge of design, conceptions and misconceptions, undated | box 01 | folder 172 |
|--|--------|------------|

**Scope and Contents**

labeled A-144

---

|                   |        |            |
|-------------------|--------|------------|
| Synopsis, undated | box 01 | folder 173 |
|-------------------|--------|------------|

**Scope and Contents**

labeled A-77, only one sheet of photocopied paper with a one sentence summary of article, does not include actual article.

---

|   |        |            |
|---|--------|------------|
| Our little domestic spaciousness, undated | box 01 | folder 174 |
|---|--------|------------|

**Scope and Contents**

labeled A-66

---

|  |        |            |
|--|--------|------------|
| Views on the importance of reading and reading materials, 1956 | box 01 | folder 175 |
|--|--------|------------|

**Scope and Contents**

labeled A-61

---

|   |        |            |
|---|--------|------------|
| "Today, the value of color..." (131), undated | box 01 | folder 176 |
|---|--------|------------|

**Scope and Contents**

labeled A-52

---

|   |        |            |
|---|--------|------------|
| Early steel constructions: steel skeletons, undated | box 01 | folder 177 |
|---|--------|------------|

**Scope and Contents**

labeled A-52

---

|                          |        |            |
|--------------------------|--------|------------|
| Anti-solar devices, 1946 | box 01 | folder 178 |
|--------------------------|--------|------------|

**Scope and Contents**

labeled A-50

---

|                                      |        |            |
|--------------------------------------|--------|------------|
| Regionalism in architecture, undated | box 01 | folder 179 |
|--------------------------------------|--------|------------|

**Scope and Contents**

labeled C-2

---

Human ownership in architecture, 1954

box 01

folder 180

**Scope and Contents**

labeled C-1

---

Architektur - ueber's Auge Hinaus, 1962

box 01

folder 181

**Scope and Contents**

labeled AAL-128A

---

Nachbarkeit und Nachbarschaft, 1954

box 01

folder 182

**Scope and Contents**

labeled H-2

---

Tradition zum Gesetz erhoben - Architekturform durch  
Verordnung beschraenkt, 1955

box 01

folder 183

**Scope and Contents**

labeled H-9

---

Innerliches Kraftfeld, undated

box 01

folder 184

**Scope and Contents**

labeled A-132

---

Einleitung, 1954

box 01

folder 185

**Scope and Contents**

labeled H-17

---

Adolf Loos memories, undated

box 01

folder 186

**Scope and Contents**

labeled A-84

---

Examinieren, diagnotsotizieren, ordinieren und herlicher  
wunsch fuer wohnglueck auf die dauer, 1954

box 01

folder 187

**Scope and Contents**

labeled H-15

---

Unorthodoxe Betrachtung IV: teilweise tuekkher ins "plain  
air", undated

box 01

folder 188

**Scope and Contents**

labeled H-14

---

|   |        |            |
|---|--------|------------|
| Unorthodoxe Betrachtung III: essen und kochen, 1954 | box 01 | folder 189 |
|---|--------|------------|

**Scope and Contents**

labeled H-13

---

|   |        |            |
|---|--------|------------|
| Unorthodoxe Betrachtung II: badezimmer-naturalia non sunt Turpia - im gegenteil, 1954 | box 01 | folder 190 |
|---|--------|------------|

**Scope and Contents**

labeled H-12

---

|   |        |            |
|---|--------|------------|
| Unorthodoxe Betrachtung I: privates leben, 1954 | box 01 | folder 191 |
|---|--------|------------|

**Scope and Contents**

labeled H-11

---

|                                       |        |            |
|---------------------------------------|--------|------------|
| Architektur durch fernsteuerung, 1955 | box 01 | folder 192 |
|---------------------------------------|--------|------------|

**Scope and Contents**

labeled H-10

---

|                              |        |            |
|------------------------------|--------|------------|
| Menschliches wohnen, undated | box 01 | folder 193 |
|------------------------------|--------|------------|

**Scope and Contents**

labeled H-8

---

|                                   |        |            |
|-----------------------------------|--------|------------|
| "Life and human habitat", undated | box 01 | folder 194 |
|-----------------------------------|--------|------------|

**Scope and Contents**

labeled H-6

---

|  |        |            |
|--|--------|------------|
| A safe basis for designing the human setting, 1965 | box 01 | folder 195 |
|--|--------|------------|

**Scope and Contents**

labeled A-35, retyped in May 1965

---

|                      |        |            |
|----------------------|--------|------------|
| Baths today, undated | box 01 | folder 196 |
|----------------------|--------|------------|

**Scope and Contents**

labeled A-58

---

|  |        |            |
|--|--------|------------|
| The landscape architect cannot "come later", undated | box 01 | folder 197 |
|--|--------|------------|

**Scope and Contents**

labeled A-60

---

|   |        |            |
|---|--------|------------|
| Client interrogation, an art and science, undated | box 01 | folder 198 |
|---|--------|------------|

**Scope and Contents**

labeled A-69, another copy in folder 130

Light construction in the West, 1957, 1957

box 01

folder 199

**Scope and Contents**

labeled A-62

Philosophy, education and the good life, undated

box 01

folder 200

**Scope and Contents**

labeled A-76

Shape not to be abstracted and computed, but grown and  
cherished, undated

box 01

folder 201

**Scope and Contents**

labeled A-77

People and steel, undated

box 01

folder 202

**Scope and Contents**

labeled A-103

Topics for training discussions and exercises, undated

box 01

folder 203

**Scope and Contents**

labeled A-104

History and the setting for a project of rehabilitation,  
undated

box 01

folder 204

**Scope and Contents**

labeled A-113

Text for the Long Beach Museum catalogue for the  
exhibition "Southern California Interiors", undated

box 01

folder 205

**Scope and Contents**

labeled A-115

Introduction to radiation and shading, undated

box 01

folder 206

**Scope and Contents**

labeled A-120

The complex of nudism, undated

box 01

folder 207



**Scope and Contents**

labeled A-122

---

"I am grateful to our profession...", undated

box 01

folder 208

**Scope and Contents**

labeled A-125

---

Foreword, 1959

box 01

folder 209

**Scope and Contents**

labeled A-126, Foreword to the book Japanese Gardens for Today

---

Medical group practice - an architect speaks to equally reputed physicians, undated

box 01

folder 210

**Scope and Contents**

labeled A-128

---

An atelier of Richard Neutra, undated

box 01

folder 211

**Scope and Contents**

labeled A-134

---

Life through shape, undated

box 01

folder 212

**Scope and Contents**

labeled A-137

---

Neutra, pioneer in commercial design, undated

box 01

folder 213

**Scope and Contents**

labeled A-138

---

Pictures, fetishes, memories and truth, undated

box 01

folder 214

**Scope and Contents**

labeled A-139

---

The comparative method in studying innate behavior patterns, undated

box 01

folder 215

**Scope and Contents**

labeled A-140

---

Ideas: Senescence, fame and delegation, undated

box 01

folder 216

**Scope and Contents**

labeled A-141, another copy in folder 24

Ideas: Evolution, undated

box 01

folder 217

**Scope and Contents**

labeled A-142, another copy in folder 20

Epilogue on an architect's life, undated

box 01

folder 218

**Scope and Contents**

labeled A-161

Part I Primary sources: the pre-human condition, 1960

box 01

folder 219

**Scope and Contents**

labeled A-162

Photographer and architect, undated

box 01

folder 220

**Scope and Contents**

labeled A-163

Ideas - Photography I, 1962

box 01

folder 221

**Scope and Contents**

labeled A-164, Ideas - Photography II in folder 122

Early work of Richard Neutra, undated

box 01

folder 222

**Scope and Contents**

labeled A-166

"The architecture of Mexico, old and new...", 1963

box 01

folder 223

**Scope and Contents**

labeled A-170

Synopsis - "Scientism" and art in social architecture,  
undated

box 01

folder 224

**Scope and Contents**

labeled AAL-1

Synopsis - "Procedure in a design office", 1946

box 01

folder 225

**Scope and Contents**

labeled AAL-2

Synopsis - Mobilization of contract data, 1950

box 01

folder 226

**Scope and Contents**

labeled AAL-3

---

Tasks and practice of the architect, undated

box 01

folder 227

**Scope and Contents**

labeled AAL-4, another copy in folder 44

---

The postwar school plant and its neighborhood context prepared for the architectural record and nation's schools, undated

box 01

folder 228

**Scope and Contents**

labeled SCH-24

---

School construction and wood as construction material, undated

box 01

folder 229

**Scope and Contents**

labeled SCH-23

---

Addition elementary school: Manhattan Beach, California, undated

box 01

folder 230

**Scope and Contents**

labeled SCH-20

---

Preliminary specification synopsis experimental school, undated

box 01

folder 231

**Scope and Contents**

labeled SCH-16

---

The California school plant, undated

box 01

folder 232

**Scope and Contents**

labeled SCH-14

---

Plywood school plants and prefabrication in school buildings, undated

box 01

folder 233

**Scope and Contents**

labeled SCH-12

---

Postwar school plants, undated

box 01

folder 234

**Scope and Contents**

labeled SCH-11

---

 Typification of non-classroom educational facilities,  
undated

box 01

folder 235

**Scope and Contents**

labeled SCH-9

---

 Schools in Oceania, undated

box 01

folder 236

**Scope and Contents**

labeled SCH-6

---

 Sea - land - transfers, undated

box 01

folder 237

**Scope and Contents**

labeled PL-14

---

 The Los Angeles region - a typically current study object,  
undated

box 01

folder 238

**Scope and Contents**

labeled PL-11

---

 The non-metropolitan world calls for the architect, undated

box 01

folder 239

**Scope and Contents**

labeled PL-10

---

 The problem of the housed - what about his adjustment?,  
undated

box 01

folder 240

**Scope and Contents**

labeled PL-9

---

 Considerations of economy in the production of homes;  
possible investigations and research, undated

box 01

folder 241

**Scope and Contents**

labeled PL-8

---

 Housing and democracy, undated

box 01

folder 242

**Scope and Contents**

labeled PL-7

---

 The insurance of planning, 1945

box 01

folder 243

**Scope and Contents**

labeled PL-4

Ambiguity ended, undated

box 01

folder 244

**Scope and Contents**

labeled RJNa13566

Clinical clues gained from the physical accommodation of the mentally disturbed, undated

box 01

folder 245

**Scope and Contents**

labeled 1466br

Ideas - "Spark in the forest, with the curious snake...", undated

box 01

folder 246

**Scope and Contents**

labeled 1466jw

Independence - An illusion, undated

box 01

folder 247

**Scope and Contents**

labeled RJNa13466

Pamphlet on planning, undated

box 01

folder 248

**Scope and Contents**

labeled PL-36

The Syracuse plan, undated

box 01

folder 249

**Scope and Contents**

labeled PL-33

Why design?, undated

box 01

folder 250

**Scope and Contents**

labeled PL-37

Non-visual aspects of planning, undated

box 01

folder 251

**Scope and Contents**

labeled PL-66

Design a human issue - of individual weight, 1959

box 01

folder 252

**Scope and Contents**

labeled PL-68

---

|   |        |            |
|---|--------|------------|
| Formation of a community core, and current resistance to it,<br>undated | box 01 | folder 253 |
|---|--------|------------|

**Scope and Contents**

labeled PL-67, revised copy

---

|   |        |            |
|---|--------|------------|
| A fine arts center for a college, undated | box 01 | folder 254 |
|---|--------|------------|

**Scope and Contents**

labeled PL-40

---

|  |        |            |
|--|--------|------------|
| Planning and other scientific pursuits, 1954 | box 01 | folder 255 |
|--|--------|------------|

**Scope and Contents**

labeled PL-41

---

|  |        |            |
|--|--------|------------|
| Project in practically prefabricated concrete construction,<br>undated | box 01 | folder 256 |
|--|--------|------------|

**Scope and Contents**

labeled PL-42

---

|  |        |            |
|--|--------|------------|
| Ten commandments on urban affairs, undated | box 01 | folder 257 |
|--|--------|------------|

**Scope and Contents**

labeled PL-69B

---

|   |        |            |
|---|--------|------------|
| Idea - Steps toward prefabrication, undated | box 01 | folder 258 |
|---|--------|------------|

**Scope and Contents**

labeled PL-43

---

|                              |        |            |
|------------------------------|--------|------------|
| The adaptable model, undated | box 01 | folder 259 |
|------------------------------|--------|------------|

**Scope and Contents**

labeled PL-44

---

|   |        |            |
|---|--------|------------|
| How long will American houses be built on premises?,<br>undated | box 01 | folder 260 |
|---|--------|------------|

**Scope and Contents**

labeled PL-45

---

|                  |        |            |
|------------------|--------|------------|
| Housing, undated | box 01 | folder 261 |
|------------------|--------|------------|

**Scope and Contents**

labeled PL-46

Flugverkehrs - Umschlaghof Rush City, 1927

box 01

folder 262

**Scope and Contents**

labeled PL-47

Rush City air transfer, undated

box 01

folder 263

**Scope and Contents**

labeled PL-48

Three approaches to prefabrication, undated

box 01

folder 264

**Scope and Contents**

labeled PL-49

Prefabricated diatom - dwellings, undated

box 01

folder 265

**Scope and Contents**

labeled PL-52

Prefabrication - Illustration - Texts, undated

box 01

folder 266

**Scope and Contents**

labeled PL-53

Case study house no. 20, undated

box 01

folder 267

**Scope and Contents**

labeled PL-55

Chances of prefabrication, undated

box 01

folder 268

**Scope and Contents**

labeled PL-16

Economic background of housing, 1958

box 01

folder 269

**Scope and Contents**

labeled L-13

Synopsis: Rundfunkgespräch. Europa - Amerika und die weite welt des architekten, 1954

box 01

folder 270

**Scope and Contents**

labeled L-17

Architecture and education, 1948

box 01

folder 271

**Scope and Contents**

labeled L-16

Austin school planning convention, June 1947 - Non-metropolitanism and the school, 1947

box 01

folder 272

**Scope and Contents**

labeled L-15

Is "planning" a liberal issue? Or is it just totalitarian stuff?, 1953

box 01

folder 273

**Scope and Contents**

labeled PL-17

Ringplan school, undated

box 01

folder 274

**Scope and Contents**

labeled PL-24

Thoughts on portal suburbs; and their human redemption, undated

box 01

folder 275

**Scope and Contents**

labeled PL-25

Tokyo, 1952

box 01

folder 276

**Scope and Contents**

labeled PL-27

Housing, defense and postwar planning, undated

box 01

folder 277

**Scope and Contents**

labeled PL-59

Governmental architecture, undated

box 01

folder 278

**Scope and Contents**

labeled PL-61

Apartment building forecast, undated

box 01

folder 279

**Scope and Contents**

labeled PL-31

Puerto Rico performs, undated

box 01

folder 280



**Scope and Contents**

labeled PL-62

---

Remark sheets - Biological realism, 1957

box 01

folder 281

**Scope and Contents**

labeled PL-64

---

Ideas - Is our daily human setting only a lowly portion of creation?, undated

box 01

folder 282

**Scope and Contents**

labeled RJNa112266

---

L. A. inventory, undated

box 01

folder 283

**Scope and Contents**

labeled PL-3, missing pages 3 through 10

---

Ideas: RJNa14666, undated

box 01

folder 284

---

Ideas: An architect amidst social ecology, undated

box 01

folder 285

**Scope and Contents**

labeled 102065al

---

Longevity and self-identity, 1966

box 01

folder 286

**Scope and Contents**

labeled 4.7.66eb

---

The hidden dimension, undated

box 01

folder 287

**Scope and Contents**

labeled, RJNa1466, Neutra review of the book by Edward T. Hall

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)