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Max A. Montgomery papers 9363885

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Avery Architectural and Fine Arts Library

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Summary Information

Repository:	Avery Architectural and Fine Arts Library
Creator:	Montgomery, Max A., 1889-1946
Title:	Max A. Montgomery papers
ID:	9363885
Date [inclusive]:	1928-1945
Physical Description:	1 document box
Physical Description:	2 boxes clam-shell
Physical Description:	1 rolls
Language of the Material:	English .
Abstract:	Max A. Montgomery drafted designs for low income housing units during the 1930s and 1940s. He also drafted structural inventions as well as other common inventions. The collection is consists of sketches, design drawings, paper models, research materials, notes, and personal photographs.

Preferred Citation

Max A. Montgomery papers, 1928-1945, Department of Drawings & Archives, Avery Architectural and Fine Arts Library, Columbia University.

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History

Max A. Montgomery (1889-1946) lived and worked in Hudson, Ohio as architect. Montgomery was educated at the University of Illinois and served in World War I. Montgomery primarily designed residential houses, however, he also worked on structural designs and inventions to enhance objects that have already been created.

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Scope and Content

[Series I: Projects and Studies](#) is made up of sketches, design drawings, paper models, research materials, and notes. Montgomery's more developed project in Series I is his Prefabricated Home Project, which was his solution to the housing problem toward the end of WWII and after. As the population rose the need for housing was in demand. Montgomery's low cost housing unit designs were built with inexpensive material and long term sustainability in consideration to the housing solution. Prefabricated or Homes for the Masses (1930-1944) as Montgomery titled it, include multiple styles, pencil on trace and paper drawings with design elements of kitchens, bathrooms, and wall sections. His projects have no record of being built aside from the multiple paper models included in this collection. Included in Series I is his finances and research documents, particularly on philosopher Samuel Butler, who was a major inspiration for the theory behind Montgomery's housing solution. He designed various inventions and each was certified in an enveloped self addressed to prove its patient authorization. His invention of The Mayne Metal Plank Floor System a Cellular trussed structure (1930 -1932) appears to have been built as a prototype, evidence based on a photograph demonstrating the amount of weight it held with little distortion. The miscellaneous inventions are separated into two groupings, those that are structural inventions such as the Montgomery brick, window seal and window transom. The Miscellaneous Inventions folder includes the "auto life saver," which enabled cars to ride on their flat tires without destroying the rim. Other inventions included are a portable greasing station that could double as a barbecue, a store or a portable building of any use. The invention of a galosh fastener on the back side of the shoe instead of the front side gives the allure that Montgomery was a prolific man who wanted to take advantage of being an entrepreneur in an age when industry was booming.

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Scope and Content

[Series II: Personal Photographs](#) are speculated to be Max A. Montgomery and his family, and include 20 black and white photographs.

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Arrangement

This collection is made up of two series: Series I: Personal Photographs and Series II: Projects and Studies.

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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. 2012-03-30 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.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Source of acquisition--Mrs. Max A. Montgomery. Method of acquisition--Donated;; Date of acquisition--1947. Accession number--1947.004.

Processing Information

This collection was processed by Allison Termine (Archives Intern) under the supervision of Shelley Hayreh, Avery Archivist, in 2012.

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Controlled Access Headings

- Architecture, Domestic -- United States
- Buildings, Prefabricated
- Industrial design
- Inventions
- Modular construction
- Prefabricated houses
- Montgomery, Max A., 1889-1946

Publication Date

1928-1945

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Collection Inventory

Series I: Projects and Studies

Title/Description	Instances	
Prefabrication house project, Small house drawings, 1928-1941	box 01	folder 02 to 03

Scope and Contents

55 items : pencil on trace and paper

Prefabrication house project, Small house drawings, ca. 1930-1940s roll 01

Scope and Contents

7 rolled drawings pencil on trace

Prefabrication house project, Small house drawings, ca. 1930-1940s box 01 folder 04

Scope and Contents

20 items : pencil on bristol

Prefabrication house project, Design Elements, 1944 box 01 folder 05

Scope and Contents

Includes pencil on trace and paper of kitchen, bathroom, interior and exterior trim, window dimensions, insulated tile furring and deck, and wall sections

Prefabrication house project, Research Material and Notes, 1933 , 1935 box 01 folder 06

Scope and Contents

Includes documents about prefabrication proposal to University of Illinois (1936), prefabrication finances, theory articles relating to "old" architecture verses "new" architecture, "Massheen" or the philosophy of the moderns inspired from Samuel Butler (1835-1902), housing analysis "the housing problem for the masses", and 2 newspaper articles relating to the real estate market

Prefabrication house project, Models, undated box 01 folder 07 to 08

Scope and Contents

(2 folders)

Cellular Trussed Structure, 1930 , 1932 box 01 folder 09

Scope and Contents

Includes blueprint of the Mayne Plank Floor System (Max A. Montgomery inventor; U.S Patent no. 1874572), pencil on trace drawings, ink on trace and 3 duplicate photographs of the floor system

Inventions and Structural Designs, 1930-1941 box 01 folder 10

Scope and Contents

The Montgomery Brick (1930), detail of a wall section, transom window, window seal, gypsy hotel, new way to hang glass sheets, ventilation system

Inventions, Miscellaneous, 1932 , 1936

box 01

folder 11

Scope and Contents

Includes invention of an "auto life saver", a metallic clip for pencils, building blocks for children, portable greasing station/barbecue/store/or portable building for any use, galosh fastener, electric lighting fixture in the shape of a flower and an electric motor/pump and meter

Presentation binders, 1934 -1945

box 3 items

Scope and Contents

3 binders in separate boxes. Include pencil on trace and bristle board, photographs, finances, vagabondking mobile home, furniture designs, restaurant/gas/hotel designs, and drawings of insects and animals

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Series II: Personal Photographs

Title/Description	Instances	
Photographs of family and friends, ca. 1930-1940s	box 01	folder 01

Scope and Contents

20 items

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