"Everything about This Person": Name-Based Access to Multiple Resources Using EAC

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Abstract: People are the most logical access point for certain types of archival holdings. For such materials, an access tool that is based on personal names may offer several advantages over the traditional access tool based on the physical arrangement of records. It can provide detailed descriptive access even to records that have not been processed yet. It can be a way to bring together resources from different collections, different repositories, or different formats. This paper discusses a project, the AIA Historical Directory of American Architects, that used the EAC standard to explore these possibilities.

Introduction

Among the organizational records that comprise the American Institute of Architects Archives, the most frequently requested series is the membership records. The American Institute of Architects (AIA) has been the leading professional membership association for architects since its founding in 1857. Over the past century and a half, well over 100,000 architects have joined the AIA. Their membership files contain applications and related correspondence, and are in high demand, primarily for historic preservation reasons. For many past American architects, their AIA membership applications may be the only place to learn where they went to school, whose offices they trained in, and when they first opened their own practice. Nearly all requests come from distant users, not in-person researchers. Requests average about 60 names per month. Unfortunately, most of the membership records are unprocessed and time-consuming to service.

The files were kept in different ways during different eras, so records pertaining to a single person may be found in several physical locations. Open and closed files are intermingled (the membership files are closed during the person's lifetime, and come open for research after the architect is deceased). There are additional series that may provide further information; the nominations of architects who became Fellows contain information about their achievements and letters of recommendation from other architects, and the Baldwin Memorial Files were a project starting in mid-century to collect information about a member's career at the time of his death. The AIA's first archivist created a card catalog and processed hundreds of member files, but the amount of processing still to be done is vast, especially for a one-person staff. Nor can the processing ever be completed, as each year brings new members and new deaths. Access to unprocessed files not in the card catalog is a constant demand. Checking through a series of card files, chronological lists, and inventory spreadsheets, it could take up to 45 minutes for the archivist to determine that a requested architect had probably never been a member and therefore there was no use beginning to look for files about that architect. Finding a way to streamline access to unprocessed membership files was critical.

A Name-based Solution

A session about Encoded Archival Context (EAC) at the Society of American Archivists meeting in New Orleans in 2005 suggested a solution to AIA archivist, Nancy Hadley. Instead of processing the materials and then producing a finding aid based on the processing, why not create the finding aid *first*—a master list of AIA members to which processing results could be attached as they were completed. The member

names in the EAC finding aid would let researchers know what materials were likely to exist in the AIA Archives, and indicate whether materials were open or closed. It would greatly improve the efficiency of the process for researchers to see for themselves what kinds of material might exist before making a request to the archives. It would make information available to researchers online, decreasing the gatekeeper function of the archivist. Processing would be more efficient because it would occur in response to requests.

The EAC format is designed to accommodate a wide variety of types of information.[1] The name records could include basic biographical information, holdings information, published sources, and even holdings information for other archives—since the follow-up question from many researchers is, "Where can I find his drawings?" The AIA archivist envisioned a site that could suggest a variety of information sources to researchers, and redirect them from the AIA Archives to architectural archives across the country. The use of EAC as a developing standard aligned with EAD could enable ready exchange of information between repositories.

The discussion of disambiguation at the EAC session led to the realization that a master list of AIA members would have value in itself, even without attached information. While there are many projects across the country that gather information about architects in a particular geographic region, the AIA membership list is the largest single national list across time. It is not comprehensive—not all architects are AIA members—but it is the largest list of American architects that exists. Because membership records track unique individuals over time, the AIA membership list can tell researchers that William S. Beckett of Georgia is not the same person as William Beckett of California. This sort of disambiguation can be difficult to do from many standard sources for architectural research, such as published articles about a specific building.

Project Design

In designing the AIA Historical Directory of American Architects, there were a few basic goals to guide decision-making. The site should have the minimum information that would allow users to identify the architect they wanted and do fuller processing as requests were received. The needs and characteristics of the users should drive all decisions. The site should both solve the immediate problem and be capable of future expansion in many directions.

In addition, the approach should reflect more-product- less-process principles. In their much-discussed article, "More Product, Less Process: Revamping Traditional Archival Processing," *American Archivist* 68 (Fall-Winter 2005), Mark A. Greene and Dennis Meissner held that an appropriate standard for finding aids was that it '"describes materials sufficient to promote use" (p. 213). That was Hadley's goal in developing the AIA Historical Directory of American Architects. Greene and Meissner argue persuasively for a top-down approach that emphasizes description at the higher levels of a collection. In contrast, the AIA membership files can only be sufficiently described by individual member name, the equivalent of the folder level. Hadley's attempt to reframe traditional processing assumptions here is to separate description entirely from physical arrangement and processing. Instead of the description being an outcome of the arrangement, as is usual (and taken for granted even by Greene and Meissner: "...the

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[1] EAC is intended to facilitate the exchange of information about records creators among repositories. It is the archival equivalent to the library world's authority files—but goes far beyond names and existence dates to include all sorts of contextual information about the corporate, personal, or family name which is the subject of the EAC record. The data structure for the AIA Historical Directory of American Architects was based on the Beta version EAC schema. The beta version is now superseded by a draft version of the final standard. The EAC-CPF standard is expected to be finalized in late 2009. See the official EAC site at http://eac.staatsbibliothek-berlin.de/ for current information and schema.

description of archival materials finds its basis in their arrangement. Kathleen Roe states it simply and clearly in her SAA manual on arrangement and description when she says that, 'Following arrangement and drawing from it, the archivist describes the records" (p. 245), the name-based access approach Hadley uses does not depend at all on the physical arrangement or prior archival processing of the collection materials themselves.

Provide minimum information needed for accessibility and disambiguation

The basic scope of the project was determined by the extent of data that was readily accessible. The source for the master membership list were the records that tracked each member's dues payments, with join dates, lapse dates, and death dates. From 1912 until 1978, these records were kept on 3x5 cards; between 1890 and 1912, the records were kept in ledger books; earlier member lists were published with convention proceedings; after 1978 the membership records were kept on computer. (Figure 1 shows samples of these various sources.) The scope of the project therefore became the master list of all members who joined between 1857 and 1978. Post-1978 names will be added in a future phase. There are privacy concerns involved in bringing the list up too close to the present. The vast majority of the post-1978 members are still living, so their records would not be available for research in any case. There turned out to be 50,324 members from 1857-1978.

To keep the project manageable and in accordance with a more-product-less-process approach, the design limited the amount of data entry to the minimum needed for disambiguation. The information included: name, join year, state; and if applicable, lapse year, Fellowship year, and date of death. This would be enough to enable the researcher to decide between several Will Smiths. Including the exact date of death mattered, especially since it might be found only on the card, not in the membership file. Including only the year of joins and lapses decreased data entry time without losing useful information. Including city along with state would have been desirable, but typing 50,000-plus city names would have substantially increased the data entry time (especially for those who moved around within a state). Completing the list as soon as possible seemed more important than including the cities, which could be added later as records were processed.

In addition to this basic identifying data, each record has a statement about likely AIA Archives holdings. Data entry required standardized wording, such as "Membership file may contain membership application and related correspondence," with variant versions for those who were Fellows, and members who joined before 1890. For any member who did not have a death date, the holdings statement closed with "Membership files of living persons are not available." The basic identifying data lets the researcher select the right architects; the holdings statement tells the researcher what the AIA may have about that architect. Together, this provides everything the researcher needs to decide whether or not to request information from the AIA Archives.

Process on demand

The basic data described above represents an unprocessed record (see example in Figure 2). As requests come in, the archivist processes both the archival materials and the EAC record for that person. Alterations to the EAC record include: verifying the dates and preferred form of name, adding birth year, adding city to state, and changing the holdings statement to reflect what is actually in the AIA Archives and providing a link to a digital copy of the material. At this point, that particular EAC record becomes a traditional finding aid, created from, and as a description of, the actual archival materials (see example in Figure 3). It has shifted from potential to actual description.

Digitization and delivery of archival materials suddenly became much easier in fall 2006, when the photocopiers throughout the AIA headquarters building were equipped with software that allowed them to

scan to a pdf file at the same rate of speed as it took to print out a photocopy. The archivist began to fill all requests for membership records by scanning and emailing instead of photocopying and mailing. Thanks to these scanned files, there were already about 700 processed EAC records by the time the site opened to the public in January 2010. The number grows weekly as requests are received and researchers are notified that their requested material has been added to the AIA Historical Directory. Digitization work is based entirely on user demand, for maximum efficiency. If no one ever requests information about a certain architect, no time and resources will have been wasted on processing that person's file.

Keep user characteristics in mind

Decisions about what data to include, what additional links to provide, and how to structure the project, were based on the archivist's knowledge of who would use the data and how. Over half the requests are for historic preservation purposes. Other requests come from descendants of architects, building owners, architectural historians, researchers compiling databases or exhibits about the architects of a given region, students, and an occasional real estate agent. About a third of the requests come from AIA members. A minority of the requests come from experienced architectural researchers. Many users are either unfamiliar with researching in archives at all, or have done research in other disciplines but are unfamiliar with the basic sources for architectural history. The user base is divided between those who want every possible scrap of information about the architect, and those who want an encyclopedia-type summary (which the AIA does not provide). Even those who just want a summary are often thrilled to view digital copies of primary materials, however. Fewer than one percent of users are in-person visitors, making it imperative that the archivist's traditional mediating role be translated into an online site.

Users' lack of familiarity with basic sources made it worthwhile to include references to standard published sources in the records. The project indexed the books checked routinely when answering requests, such as Withey's *Biographical Dictionary of American Architects (Deceased),* the *Macmillan Encyclopedia of Architects*, and the immensely useful *American Architects Directory*. The *American Architects Directory* was published by R.R. Bowker for the American Institute of Architects in 1956, 1962, and 1970. It included entries sent in by AIA members, a few non-member architects, and (in the latter two editions) entries for firms. The AIA sent all three volumes out to a vendor for scanning, and they are available online in their entirety on the project site (with permission from R.R. Bowker). Indexing them against the member list not only enhanced the resources available to the user on the project site, but also provided a doublecheck on the accuracy of the member names.[2] When indexing these published sources, the archivist created EAC records for American architects who were not AIA members and included them in the project. Although AIA members are the focus, the project documented who is *not* in the AIA holdings as well as who is. The project also produced basic corporate-name EAC records for the firms listed in *American Architects Directory*.

Many users are looking for drawings of a particular building as well as information about the architect. Others want documentation of the architect's works, which the AIA membership files seldom include. To meet these needs, the EAC record had to provide a description and link not only to the holdings of the AIA Archives, but also to the architect's papers in other archives. This is one of the most valuable features of the site. It will be particularly helpful for inexperienced users who do not know how to look for archival materials, and are not familiar with the major architectural archives in various geographic areas. The project received enthusiastic support from the Society of American Archivists' Architectural Records Roundtable at the 2006 SAA meeting. The architectural archivists believed that the project would be a benefit to everyone, and agreed to supply their holdings information. Adding holdings information from

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[2] Of the 57,543 names in the AIA Historical Directory of American Architects, 32,437 have an entry in one or more of the three editions of *American Architects Directory*.

more repositories is an ongoing project in 2010. Again, papers of non-AIA members are included in the project.

Users' desire for information about works influenced the project's decision to include a subseries, the Architects' Roster Questionnaire, in the project. The Architects' Roster was a World War II-era project in which firms provided questionnaires that the AIA kept on file for the use of government agencies looking for an architect. The roster questionnaires are often rich in data about the firm, its principals, and its major recent works. They are a great source for many mid-century firms but users were not aware of their existence. Now they will be visible, since every firm with a Roster Questionnaire has an EAC record in the project, specifying the Roster Questionnaire in the holdings statement and cross-indexed to the records of the individual principals (see example in Figure 4). Based on the value of this set of records, the archivist scanned all the questionnaires (for 1,062 firms) as part of the project without waiting for individual requests from researchers.

An area of interest to some users (usually either members or scholars) is gender, racial, and ethnic diversity among architects. Data entry for the project addressed gender by marking any name that was feminine or ambiguous as to gender. After the basic data entry was completed, the Beverly Willis Architecture Foundation provided a grant for a research fellow to check the gender of over a thousand ambiguous names. In addition, the archivist indexed the member list against *The First American Women Architects*, by Sarah Allaback (Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 2008). These efforts have made it possible for the first time to women who joined the AIA in each year. Race and ethnicity were not tracked in the member data and cannot be determined by names. To address this research interest, the archivist indexed the member records against existing research: *African American Architects: A Biographical Dictionary 1865-1945*, edited by Dreck Spurlock Wilson (New York: Routledge, 2004), and a list of African-American Fellows of the AIA compiled by one of the Fellows. Architects who appeared in sources such as Wilson or Allaback but were not AIA members are included in the project, with the notation that they were not members.

The project is intended to be not only a finding aid to materials about members in the AIA Archives, but also a resource guide to help users locate information about architects in many forms, and at varying levels. Its name-based format matches the users' information needs: they ask for "everything you have about this person".[3] Some user studies have found that today's Internet-habituated users are either not aware of or not interested in traditional research portals such as catalogs.[4] In this case, however, the archivist believes that a research/resource guide approach is appropriate and will be valued. Past reference interactions show that users unfamiliar with architectural research are happy to be told about standard reference works and the existence of architectural archives. Expert users are accustomed to using resource guides of various sorts. The combination of resource listings with links to specific materials (digital copies of AIA Archives holdings, digital copies of the three volumes of *American Architects Directory*, and detailed online finding aids at other repositories) will make the site appealing and useful. Institutional

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[3] Names are the basis of both the materials themselves, and the access point that the users want, so the name-based format of EAC is ideal for these materials. A number of studies have shown that users want "aboutness," and users who want to search by name may be especially frustrated by provenance-based access. For example, a study of how genealogists search for information found that professional genealogists had developed a variety of strategies to get around the usual lack of name access in archives, while novices were baffled and required substantial assistance. Wendy M. Duff and Catherine A. Johnson, "Where Is the List With All the Names?: Information-Seeking Behavior of Genealogists," *American Archivist* 66 (Spring-Summer 2003).

[4] Jennifer Schaffner cites studies showing that "Archivists and librarians have created catalogs and portals, but many users don't use them or don't know they exist....'It is unlikely that researchers approach research by looking for a tool for doing research.'" Jennifer Schaffner, "The Metadata *Is* the Interface: Better Description for Better Discovery of Archives and Special Collections, Synthesized from User Studies," report produced by OCLC Research, published online at: http://www.oclc.org/programs/publications/reports/2009-06.pdf, 11.

placement is also key—the widespread popular perception that if you want to know about architects, start by asking the AIA, makes the AIA Archives the logical place to develop a resource site about past architects. The AIA Historical Directory of American Architects is well placed to be found by inexpert users.

Building the site

Initial data entry was done in a spreadsheet. This allowed for ease of data entry, ease of filling in standardized wording for many records at once, and ease of comparing and indexing the member list to published sources. The project included the design of sample records in unprocessed and processed versions, and the creation of a style sheet for the project's EAC records. Formulae in a spreadsheet generated the values for each field with the correct encoding and wording. The objective was to use mail merge to transfer the data from the spreadsheets to text files with the encoding included.

Discussions with the AIA's IT staff changed the project designed. The AIA was not using XML applications in any current project. To put this project up as XML records with search and display functions would require a great deal of time, and expertise that was not available in-house. Instead, the IT department suggested creating a wiki in Microsoft SharePoint, an application that was already widely used in the organization. This could be done with a minimum of time and budget, and in-house staff could provide support.[5] The main drawback to not using XML was the loss of detailed search function. A true EAC application could allow users to search in specific fields. However, for these particular materials, over 98% of users are only interested in name access, so advanced search capabilities were not a serious concern. The other drawback to not using XML was that EAD data could not be directly imported from other repositories. This was not a significant drawback either, since it turned out that the holdings data from other repositories more often came from online collection descriptions that predated the use of EAD, or from internal systems, than from EAD finding aids. Though there is general agreement on the value of the EAD standard, it takes considerable time for a repository to convert all its finding aids and collection descriptions into EAD.

The next steps in the project generated the records in a series of mail merges from the spreadsheet to word processing files, then batch-uploaded the 57,582 Word files into SharePoint using a scripting program, AutoHotkey. The headings and formatting of the data mimic the stylesheet that she developed for the EAC records. At some future time, if it becomes appropriate to change the site into a true EAC XML application, it would not be difficult to add the proper encoding through a series of search-and-replace operations.

Data entry, indexing, and cross-checking were completed by spring 2008. Holdings information provided by colleagues was added to individual records in 2008-2009. Work on a password-protected test version of the wiki site began in January 2009. The test phase involved contributions of holdings information from archivists and review of the content by selected users of the AIA Archives. Technical problems delayed implementation for some months. Construction of the final site began in September 2009 and finished in mid-January. The AIA Historical Directory of American Architects was publicly announced on January 29, 2010.

The URL for the AIA Historical Directory of American Architects is http://www.aia.org/about/history/aiab082017, or it can be reached by going to www.aia.org and choosing About, then History.

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[5] Although the software used is a wiki format, the AIA Historical Directory does not operate like Wikipedia. Users are not allowed to make changes to the site.

Outcomes

Even before it opened to the public, the project was a great success. Initial data entry was enormously time-consuming for so many names, but as each section of the alphabet was completed, the author began to realize substantial time savings in handling requests for that section. Just having the master list to hand saves about 20 to 30 minutes per name requested, and with an average of sixty requests per month, the time savings added up rapidly. Where she once had to spend up to 45 minutes determining whether an architect was a member, now she could check membership dates, whether the records are open or closed, what records the AIA probably holds, and which published sources have information, in a few seconds— while the researcher was still on the phone talking about how wonderful the architect's building is. Users appreciated faster responses and email delivery of digital copies.

Response to the test site from colleagues and selected users was extremely positive. A number of other institutions have sent in their holdings data or are actively working to assemble it for the site. More archivists are requesting membership files, and more are referring users to the AIA Archives.

Now that the site is open to the public, there are three anticipated outcomes from the project: that reference work will become even more efficient, that users will be happier, and that requests will increase. A number of users will be able to meet their information needs directly from the site, without needing to ask the archivist—because they only need basic information that is in a referenced source such as *American Architects Directory*, because the architect they want to find is one of the processed records and digital archival material is already online, because they are looking for papers and there is a link to the location of those papers, or because the architect they seek was not a member. Users get more satisfaction from having control over the research process with materials online than from going through the archivist as a gatekeeper. The site will give them leads to help in their research process, and enable them to better search for connections (for example, from the architect's record, the user goes to the entry in *American Architects Directory* which mentions the firm name, and from the firm's entry the user learns the full names of the partners, whom the user can then look up as individuals). Processing will happen completely on demand, and be permanently available to other researchers thereafter. As the AIA Historical Directory of American Architects becomes known, Hadley expects increasing usage, with referral by word of mouth as well as visibility in internet searching.

Internet search engines began crawling the site even before its completion. Inquiries from researchers who had found an architect's record in the AIA Historical Directory started arriving in December 2009, although no link to the SharePoint site existed yet on any web page. This was an unexpected result—but it underscored the value of listing unprocessed materials online. At least one researcher, who had never previously used the AIA Archives, found the materials she needed already digitized in the AIA Historical Directory (an Architects' Roster Questionnaire for a South Carolina firm). She wrote,

> "I have just discovered the AIA Historical Directory and can I just say THANKS!!!!! It is great!! As an architectural historian I can't tell you how much I appreciate having this information available."

So far, response to the project has demonstrated that a name-based access strategy does meet users' needs; that creating an online finding aid prior to processing the materials can be a very efficient approach for the archivist and greatly improve the visibility of the collections; and that users appreciate having a guide that points to different types of resources in multiple locations. The AIA Historical Directory of American Architects has succeeded in meeting its initial goals and proven the effort of creating it to be worthwhile.

Future Developments

Matching collections in other archives to the records in the AIA Historical Directory is more time-consuming than was anticipated, mainly because most holdings involve firm records. They must be linked to the firm name (which may not yet be in the Historical Directory), to predecessor and successor firm names, and to the names of all the principals. It is not a one-to-one correspondence with records in the AIA Historical Directory. The Related Records field in the EAC structure enables these connections and they enrich the content of the AIA Historical Directory, but it does take time for the contributing repository to prepare the holdings list and for the AIA archivist to place the information in the Historical Directory records. Holdings data from more repositories will continue to be requested and added in 2010.

Regionally-based biographical dictionaries and online databases contain a wealth of information about architects. Indexing these into the AIA Historical Directory records, particularly the online projects, will be a major activity for 2010. Another, internal, source to add in 2010 is the obituaries and memorials that appeared in the AIA's early journals.

Plans for expansion in future years include asking emeritus (retired) AIA members to add information about their career to the site; soliciting firm histories and holdings information for historic firms that maintain their own archives; and bringing the member lists forward in time. The EAC data structure is so flexible that the possibilities for future expansion are endless.
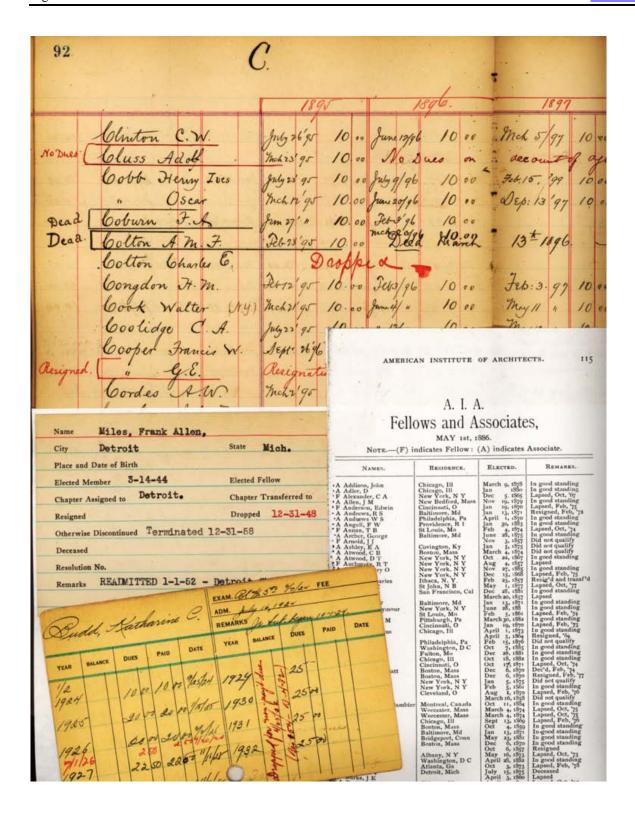
Conclusion

Using a name-based access strategy instead of the traditional arrangement-based finding aid can be a very user-friendly method of pulling together resources from different sources. This model would work anywhere that there is an established group of names that relate to archival materials: a membership organization like the AIA, a college or university archives, or a project to make local history collections accessible by neighborhood name. For example, at the university where the author worked in the late 1990s, the Special Collections department maintained an extensive card file of students, faculty, and board members. The cards were a catalog to holdings in the University Archives, in the Manuscript collections, articles in the student newspaper, and sometimes even to published books. The card file noted the relationship and dates of the person to the school, so it disambiguated similar names (in one early Virginia family, five students with the same name attended the college in successive generations). At the time, staff wanted to digitize the card file but did not see a useful model for how to do it. Now, EAC would handle the problem quite well, and link up easily with the EAD finding aids that have already been created. EAC name-based access could thus be used as an adjunct index to existing finding aids.

At the AIA Archives, however, the EAC-based AIA Historical Directory is more than an index. It is a true finding aid to multiple series in the Archives, processed and unprocessed alike—and the delivery mechanism as well. The EAC standard is a profoundly flexible tool for pulling together resources from multiple locations, from internal or external sources, and in many different formats. It can answer the user's demand for locating materials by "aboutness" instead of requiring the user to negotiate multiple access systems for different formats and different physical locations. At the same time, it dovetails with existing archival standards and traditional access tools to whatever extent is desired. It can be used to create a powerful research tool that reaches beyond the repository, and it can be used to provide a high level of accessibility without having to process the records first. As demonstrated here, EAC's potential is by no means limited to its most obvious use, as an authority/biographical file for consortial EAD records. AIA archivist Hadley expects to see many other creative uses of EAC in the next few years, and hopes that the AIA Historical Directory of American Architects will be a thought-provoking model for other archivists.

References

American Institute of Architects, *The AIA Historical Directory of American Architects*, http://www.aia.org/about/history/aiab082017.

Duff, Wendy M. and Catherine A. Johnson, "Where Is the List With All the Names?: Information-Seeking Behavior of Genealogists," *American Archivist* 66.1 (2003): 79-95.

Encoded Archival Context – Corporate bodies, Persons, and Families official site, http://eac.staatsbibliothek-berlin.de/.

Greene, Mark A. and Dennis Meissner, "More Product, Less Process: Revamping Traditional Archival Processing," *American Archivist* 68.2 (2005): 208–263.

Roe, Kathleen, *Arranging and Describing Archives and Manuscripts* (Chicago: Society of American Archivists, 2005).

Schaffner, Jennifer, "The Metadata Is the Interface: Better Description for Better Discovery of Archives and Special Collections, Synthesized from User Studies," OCLC Research report, http://www.oclc.org/programs/publications/reports/2009-06.pdf.

Florence Dyer Baldwin

Name
Baldwin, Florence Dyer

Variant Names
Dyer, Florence Helen (until 1958)

Personal Information
Birth/Death:
Gender: Female
Occupation: American architect
Location (state): MI; CA

This record has not been verified for accuracy.

AIA Affiliation
Member of the American Institute of Architects (AIA) 1955-

Biographical Sources

American Architects Directories:
Biographical listing in 1956 American Architects Directory under Dyer, Florence
Biographical listing in 1962 American Architects Directory
Address listed in 1970 American Architects Directory

Related Records

Archival Holdings

The American Institute of Architects
Membership file may contain membership application, related correspondence. Membership files of living persons are not available. Contact the AIA Archives at <u>archives@aia.org</u> for further information.

Publications

William Wilson Wurster (1895-1972)

Name
Wurster, William Wilson

Personal Information
Birth/Death: deceased
Occupation: American architect
Location: Berkeley, CA

AIA Affiliation
Member of the American Institute of Architects (AIA) 1928-decease
Fellow of the American Institute of Architects (FAIA) 1954
Recipient of the AIA Gold Medal 1969

Biographical Sources

American Architects Directories:
Biographical listing in 1956 American Architects Directory
Biographical listing in 1962 American Architects Directory
Biographical listing in 1970 American Architects Directory

Biographical directories:
Entry in *Macmillan Encyclopedia of Architects* (New York: Macmillan, 1982)
Entry in Richard Guy Wilson, *The AIA Gold Medal* (New York: McGraw-Hill, 1984)

Biographical information:
Contributed by the Environmental Design Archives, University of California, Berkeley:
        William Wilson Wurster was born in Stockton, CA, and earned his degree in architecture from the University of California, Berkeley in 1919. Wurster's work, primarily residential during his early career, was exhibited and published nationwide. Wurster teamed with partners Theodore Bernardi (in 1944) and Donn Emmons (in 1945) to form Wurster, Bernardi, & Emmons (WBE). The firm, well-known for their modern designs, won the American Institute of Architects architectural firm award in 1965, and Wurster was honored with the AIA Gold Medal in 1969. In 1950 Wurster became dean of architecture at UC Berkeley, and in 1959 he brought the departments of architecture, landscape architecture, and city and regional planning together to form the College of Environmental Design.

Related Records
Wurster, Bernardi & Emmons (firm)

Archival Holdings

The American Institute of Architects
    Membership file containing membership application and related correspondence; Fellowship nomination with supporting letters. The AIA Awards files contain further information about Gold Medal recipients. Contact the AIA Archives at archives@aia.org for further information.

Environmental Design Archives, University of California, Berkeley
        See holdings under Wurster, Bernardi & Emmons (firm)

Publications
        Montgomery, Roger. *Inside the Large Small House: The Residential Design Legacy of William W. Wurster.* Berkeley: The Regents of the University of California, 1995.
        Treib, Marc, ed. *An Everyday Modernism: The Houses of William Wurster.* Berkeley: University of California Press, 1995.

Britsch & Munger (firm)

Name
Britsch & Munger

Location
Toledo, OH

This record has not been verified for accuracy.

Firm History Sources

Related Records
Munger, Munger & Assocs. (firm)
Carl Conrad Britsch
M. DeWitt Grow
John Patrick Macelwane
Harold Henry Munger
Mark B. Stophlet

Archival Holdings
The American Institute of Architects
    Architects Roster questionnaire, 1946, includes information about the firm and its key personnel.

Publications