

E. STEWART WILLIAMS COLLECTION

Finding Aid



101 Museum Drive
Palm Springs, California 92263
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Prepared by Frank Lopez, December 2015; Updated January 2022.

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Title:

E. Stewart Williams Collection

Date (inclusive):

Bulk 1950-1990

Creators:

E. Stewart Williams

Extent:

9 linear feet plus flat file drawers

Repository:

Palm Springs Art Museum, The Lorraine Boccardo Archive Study Center
Palm Springs, California 92263

Conditions Governing Access/Restrictions:

The collection is open to qualified researchers by appointment only.

Literary Copyright/Publication Rights:

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Preferred Citation:

[Identification of Item], E. Stewart Williams Collection, Palm Springs Art Museum

Name of Cataloger/Date Completed:

Frank Lopez, December 2015; Updated January 2022.

Biographical Note:

The architecture designed by E. Stewart Williams FAIA (1909-2005) from 1947 until his retirement in 1996 is integral to the fabric of Palm Springs. Producing residencies, banks, schools, hospitals, and colleges, he initially worked with his father Harry and brother Roger in the firm Williams, Williams and Williams, and later with John Porter Clark, as Williams, Clark and Williams. Educated at Cornell University and the University of Pennsylvania, Williams was grounded in the Beaux-Arts tradition, and became a confirmed Modernist. Beginning with his first residential design, a home for Frank Sinatra, Williams used a spectrum of materials--natural and industrial--to create structures that had the elegance and simplicity of Modern aesthetics combined with a textural and chromatic sensitivity to the desert. His works include the Palm Springs Art Museum, numerous financial institutions and residences in

Palm Springs.

Scope and Content Note:

The E. Stewart Williams Collection was acquired in November 2002 (Gift agreement with E. Stewart Williams) and supplemented by additional gifts from Erik and Sidney Williams (S2015.4) and Mari Anne Pasqualetti (S2015.5) in 2015. In 2016, additional gifts from Erik and Sidney Williams were received (S2016.2, S2016.3, S2016.4) and Geoffrey and Linda Williams (S2016.11. S2021.2). The collection contains five series – architectural drawings, photographs, awards, miscellaneous materials, and VHS + DVD recordings.

Series:

Series I. – Architectural Drawings Listed Alphabetically

1. Angels Ball Park. Additions E. Stewart Williams
2. Annenberg, Walter Mr. and Mrs. Pool Enclosure (Sunnylands)
3. Bligh Residence and Addition
4. Brener, Adolf Jr. Mr. and Mrs.
5. Chiles, H. E. Jr. Mr. and Mrs. Residence
6. Coachella Valley Savings & Loan (CVSL) Association #1 383 S. Palm Canyon
7. Coachella Valley Savings & Loan (CVSL) Association #2 499 S. Palm Canyon
8. Cordrey Apartments
9. Crafton Hills College, Yucaipa, California
10. Crafton Hills College Master Plan & Perspectives, Studies, Details including Library Center
11. Desert Isle Apartment Hotel
12. Edris, William Mr. and Mrs. Residence
13. Edwards, Dick Mr. and Mrs.
14. Geierman, Ernst Mr. and Mrs. Residence
15. Graff-Radford Residence
16. Graff-Radford, Adrian Dr. and Mrs. Residence
17. Great Western Savings Commercial Center
18. H. Roger Williams Doctors Building
19. Heath House Smoke Tree Ranch
20. Jewish Community Center, Isaiah Temple
21. Kenaston, Roderick Mr. and Mrs. Residence
22. Koerner, Leon Mr. and Mrs.
23. Leslie, Alan Dr. and Mrs. Residence
24. Maceo, Sam Mr. and Mrs. Residence
25. Meadow Lake Office Park Rancho Mirage
26. Nidorf, Mr. and Mrs. Residence
27. Oasis Hotel
28. Oasis Office Building offices
29. Palm Springs Apartment Project
30. Palm Springs City Hall, Expansion
31. Palm Springs Desert Museum (now Palm Springs Art Museum)
32. Palm Springs Desert Museum Steve Chase Wing Addition and Preliminary Drawings
33. Palm Springs Desert Museum Theater Box Office

34. Palm Springs Planning Collaborative, Palm Springs Convention Center
35. Ragin, Linda Residence
36. Riverside County Administrative Center, Indio
37. Riverside County Administrative Center, Palm Springs - Alterations
38. Riverside County Office Building: Health and Emergency Operating Center
39. Robinson, Hampton Dr. and Mrs. Residence
40. Santa Fe Federal Savings & Loan Victorville
41. Santa Fe Federal Savings & Loan San Bernardino
42. Santa Fe Federal Savings & Loan Palm Springs (now Palm Springs Art Museum, A+D Center)
43. Saxton, Thelma Mrs. Residence
44. Sun and Powder – Remodel, Ketchum, Idaho
45. Sutter House
46. Walker, Alma Residence
47. Weinert House and remodel
48. Williams, E. Stewart Residence
49. Williams, Erik and Sidney Carport Shelter (Via Sol)
50. Williams, Erik and Sidney Residence (800 Stevens) and Gate Remodel
51. Williams, Erik and Sidney Residence (Palm Vista)
52. Williams, Roger Mr. and Mrs. Residence
53. Wood River Group Condos

Series II. – Photographs including photo albums, presentation boards, renderings, and slides as well as papers, talks, and writings. The majority of photographs are stamped Julius Shulman (JS), with additional images by Donald Higgins, Gayle's Studio, Edward Canby, Vic Culina (Village Studio), Paul Pospesil, et al.

Boxes A-G -- Identified by Folder Name; Boxes A-K Identified by project / item description

A. Residences, Lost Projects

1. Residences -- H.J. Bligh House; Eddie Chiles Residence Scottsdale, Arizona; Little Tuscany John Porter Clark architect; John and Louisa Clark House (Clark & Frey architects); Edris House; Graff-Radford House; Preston Higgins; Ralph Kiner Home; L.J. Koerner's Residence; Frank Sinatra Home; Sutter Residence; Mari and Stewart Williams Home; Williams House
2. Lost Projects – Bissonte Lodge; Haggarty's; Pepper Tree Inn; Potter Apt/Clinic; Williams Apartment (above Potter Clinic)

B. Schools & Colleges

1. Agua Caliente School; Banning High School; College of the Desert Cultural Center; College of the Desert; Crafton Hills College Classrooms and College Center; Crafton Hills extra prints; Crafton Hills Lab Center; Crafton Hills Library; Crafton Hills College master set Shulman photos; Crafton Hills; Eagle Mountain Elementary School; Finchy School; Lincoln-Kennedy Schools; Needles California School; Palm Springs High

School; Palm Springs High School auditorium; University of California at Riverside,
John Porter Clark

C. Medical, Commercial & Civic

1. Annenberg Center Eisenhower Medical Center; Desert Hospital; Desert Hospital; Doctors Building Palm Springs; Heart Institute of the Desert; Prairie Avenue Medical Clinic
2. 1st Methodist Church Indio (project only); Banning Recreation Area – Park Swimming Pool; Borrego Country Club; California Water and Telephone Company; Coachella Valley Telephone Building; Community Church; Desert Inn and Plaza; Desert Isle Motel; Florsheim Shoe Store; Harold Hicks Real Estate Office; Indio Police Department; Howard Manor; Oasis Commercial Building; Oasis Hotel Dining Room; Oasis Office Building; Palm Springs City Hall (Williams + Clark + Frey); Palm Springs Baseball Stadium; Palm Springs Tramway; Riverside County Administrative Center; Temple Isaiah; Williams Office;

D. Palm Springs Desert Museum (PSDM) now Palm Springs Art Museum

1. First Desert Museum; Descriptive data; Fees & Costs; Gifts; Trustees List and Letters; Steve Chase Wing; 2002 archive gift to museum inventory; Newspaper clippings; Museum book negatives; Sculpture Court; Exteriors; Interiors; Courts, gardens and fountains; Plans and sections

E. ESW Talks and Writings

1. Lectures and talks ESW Index; Articles/Talks; Designing the Palm Springs Desert Museum – A talk to the Museum Docents 1982; The Story of the Palm Springs Desert Museum from 1970 to 1996 – a talk to the Museum Services Council; Architecture as Environmental Expression – a talk to the San Bernardino Rotary Club; Architecture as Environmental Expression – a talk to the PSDM Women’s Committee November 1979; ESW Response to 1998 PSDM Dinner Honoring Him; Mt. San Jacinto Tramway Talk to So. Cal. Chapter AIA; Talk to City Council re: Preservation of Section 14 zoning for the future 1962; ESW Talk to Planning commission re: proposed CBD Ordinance; Talk to City Council re: Open space in Palm Springs; Reference materials for E. Stewart Williams exhibition; A View of the Future (as published by Coachella Valley Savings and Loan Association 1968; ESW Talk at FAIA Award Luncheon; The Winning and Losing of the West; Various talks by ESW between 1965/68 about the Winning and Losing of the West; Talks on Planning, Open Space, and the Future; Talk to Planning Commission proposal for Program for Redevelopment of Palm Springs 1965; Talk to City Council re: proposal of the PS Collaborative For Redevelopment of the CBD; Sidney Williams lecture on Art; Talk to Contemporary Art Council P.S. Desert Museum

1988; Talk to Public Art Commission 1990; Talk to Public Art to City Council 1991; The Many Faces of 20th Century Architecture 1997; ESW Response to FAIA Award 1999; Crafton Hills 20th anniversary Talk at Luncheon; Crafton Hills College Talk to NAWIC 1975; ESW Personal Correspondence (Annenberg)

F. Palm Springs Collaborative (CDB – Central Business District)

1. A Comprehensive Plan for Development of the Palm Springs Central Business District (CBD); Palm Springs Planning Collaborative, Inc. Design Program December 2, 1965; Negatives of Master Plan of CBD – Palm Springs; Model of CBD Plan for Palm Springs; Palm Springs Planning Collaborative, Report #2, July 15, 1965; Palm Springs Planning Collaborative Report #3, July 22, 1965; Report to the Economic Development Commission on Zoning Standards for the Central Business District of the City of Palm Springs May 26, 1966; Narrative Outline of Methods of Financing Downtown Palm Springs Redevelopment, June 1966; Progress Report on Redevelopment of Palm Springs Central Business District November 1965; Proposal for Redevelopment PS Business District 1967

G. Banks

1. Santa Fe Federal Savings & Loan Association San Bernardino – Central City Branch; Santa Fe Federal Savings Victorville Branch; Santa Fe Federal Savings & Loan Association Palm Springs (now Palm Springs Art Museum Architecture & Design Center); Santa Fe Federal Savings & Loan Association Palm Springs (Awards program); Coachella Valley Savings & Loan Association Indio; Coachella Valley Savings & Loan Bank (CVSL #1) 1956 Palm Springs; Coachella Valley Savings & Loan (CVSL #2) (Great Western Bank) Palm Springs ; Coachella Valley Savings & Loan (CVSL #2) (Awards program) Palm Springs

H. Slides

1. Museum Talk no. 1 – ESW; Palm Springs Desert Museum – ESW Parts 1-2 (2 boxes)

I. Presentation Boards/Renderings

1. Indio Courthouse building photo of model; Annenberg Center at Eisenhower center stage; Annenberg Center at Eisenhower stage left; Desert Hospital (Shulman); Palm Springs High School Auditorium; Jewish Community Center Temple Isaiah; Indio Commercial Office for California Water & Telephone Company; Lincoln School; Kiner Residence Bedroom (Shulman); Kiner Residence Living Room with view); Kiner Residence (Shulman); Kiner Residence bar area; Potter Clinic apt patio (Shulman); Santa Fe Federal Savings façade; Temple Isaiah interior; Palm Springs High School – Gymnasium, Library, Cafeteria; Santa Fe Federal Savings Palm Springs; Santa Fe Federal Plaza 3 mounted photos; Santa Fe Federal Plaza interior; Santa Fe Federal Plaza exterior; Santa Fe Federal Plaza

2. Folder 1 - Palm Springs Desert Museum; Palm Springs City Hall addition; Crafton Hills College
3. JS(?) photos (B/W) of UC Riverside Social Sciences and Humanities bldg.; JS(?) photos (B/W) of Palm Springs Elementary School -- classrooms and assembly area; JS(?) photos (B/W) of Elementary School, Needles, CA -- entrance and classroom views; JS(?) photos (B/W) of unidentified school -- homemaking and shop classrooms; JS(?) photos (B/W) of Banning High School cafeteria (two views); Presentation drawing of unidentified building (possibly CoD?), signed ESW 1967 - stamp on back "return to JPC"; Negatives of Crafton Hills College rendering by Wiens (1968); Negative of Crafton Hills College rendering (single building); Negative of site plan for San Bernardino Valley College; Negative of plans and sections for Crafton Hills College Classroom Center building; Negative of plans and sections for Crafton Hills College Student & Faculty Center and Library & Community Center buildings; Negative of plans and sections for Crafton Hills College Laboratory Center building; Negative of Crafton Hills College rendering by Wiens (1969); Negative of Crafton Hills College "First Increment Plan" -- includes classroom center, library/comm. center, and laboratory center buildings; Crafton Hills College Master Plan (July 1, 1968); Crafton Hills College rendering by Wiens (1968); Graphite rendering of PSDM (aerial view), signed ESW, 1970; JS photograph of PS High School gymnasium building; 28 plates of architectural drawings, watercolors, and photographs by ESW ; 9 pages of text and photographs for the ESW PSAM book design; 2 copies of ESW's CoD rendering; 1 copy of Wiens 1968 Crafton Hills rendering; Crafton Hills Master Plan (copy); and two 16 x 20" photograph enlargements (PSDM on Tahquitz and San Bernardino bank building); ESW portfolio of Architectural Drawings & Watercolor etchings (Above items received as gift S2016.4)
4. Folder – College of the Desert rendering by ESW (S2016.3)
5. Folder - Shulman prints (mounted) (S2016.2)
6. Folder (2) - Photographs and printed items from An Eloquent Modernist: E. Stewart Williams exhibition (S2016.4.1-.12)

J. Photo Album

1. Palm Springs Desert Museum construction (S2010-5)

K. Presentation Books

1. Williams, Williams & Williams – 2 books and 3 boards (S2014.1-5)
 - a. Williams, Clark and Frey architects presentation book (S2014.4.1)
 - b. Presentation photo boards (3) of Planning and Design, Administration, and Structural Engineering of firm (S2014.4.2-4)

- c. The Architecture of Harry J., Roger, and Stewart Williams, AIA: The Plaza,
Palm Springs, California presentation book (S2014.4.5)

Series III. – Awards and Diplomas

Box 1.

1. California State Board of Architectural Examiners, August 25, 1949
2. American Institute of Architects, May 1999
3. Proclamation City of Palm Springs, February 16, 2007
4. Assembly Certificate of Recognition, February 16, 2007
5. Proclamation, City of Palm Springs, April 25, 1998
6. Walk of Stars, February 16, 2007

Box 2.

1. Palm Springs Desert Museum, Steve Chase Art Wing & Education Center, November 8, 1996 (unframed)
2. Commendation, City of Palm Springs, September 18, 1991
3. Resolution City of Palm Springs, March 19, 1995 (unframed)
4. Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition “Palm Springs Walk of Stars” February 16, 2007, Mary Bono, Member of Congress (unframed)
5. Certificate of Recognition “281st Star on the Palm Springs Walk of Stars” February 16, 2007, Bonnie Garcia, Assemblywoman (unframed)
6. Tierra Caliente watercolor – The George A. Zabriskie Prize, American Watercolor Society, January 1938 (unframed)

Folder 1. – Diplomas and certificates -- Cornell University and University of Pennsylvania

Series IV. –Miscellaneous

Box 1. Specifications and Contract Documents for an Addition to the Palm Springs Desert Museum
101 Museum Drive Palm Springs, California Comm. No. 1093 March 1, 1995 – E. Stewart
Williams, Architect

Box 2. The American Institute of Architects (AIA) Fellow medal – E. Stewart Williams 1999;
Folder - Poppy’s Memorial October 30, 2005; Slides to accompany article on Architecture of E.
Stewart Williams by Erin Williams

Series V – VHS + DVD Recordings

Gift from Sidney Williams for museum archives then moved into E. Stewart Williams Collection in
2016. Note, VHS tapes converted to DVD digital files in November 2016. Selective DVD copies also
retained in Museum Archives.

Box 1.

1. Stew Williams, Roger Williams, interviewed by Erik Williams – Discussion of early Palm Springs and their work – architecture, Prickly Pears #19 (2 VHS, 1 DVD), also copy cataloged into Hyman Library – includes transcript.
2. American Institute of Architects honors E. Stewart Williams, Palm Springs, California May 17, 1999 [Fellow of AIA] (1 VHS, 1 DVD)
3. Stew Williams Palm Springs Desert Museum, February 28, 1997 [lecture to Docents] (3 VHS, 1 DVD)
4. Mari's Story and Our Life Together, Part 1 – The Early Years; Part 2 – The Middle Years; Part 3 – The Later Years; Part 4 – The Last Decade (4 VHS, 4 DVD)
5. Patterns of Palm Springs (2 VHS) – Note, copy cataloged and also DVD copy on Patrick McGrew Collection hard drive

Indexing – Names

Williams, E. Stewart (Emerson Stewart) (1909-2005) - Archives

Indexing – Subjects

Architects – California - Palm Springs
 Architecture – California - Palm Springs
 Historic Buildings – California - Palm Springs
 Palm Springs – Buildings, structures, etc.
 Palm Springs Desert Museum
 Palm Springs Art Museum

Indexing – Geographical

Palm Springs, California