Overview

The buildings IIT and its two predecessor schools, Lewis Institute and Armour Institute of Technology, have been nationally recognized for their importance to Chicago’s architectural history. IIT’s entire State Street campus was designated a Historical District by the National Park Service in 2005. In addition, Crown Hall received a Chicago Landmark designation in 2004 while Main Building and Machinery Hall were recognized as National Landmarks in 2001. IIT is best known for its Mies van der Rohe buildings, but several other buildings are likewise notable. The non-extant Lewis Institute Building located at 1951 W. Madison was designed by Henry Ives Cobb in 1895 and was a notable fixture of Madison St. Likewise, Main Building and Machinery Hall, the first two academic buildings of Armour Institute of Technology, are strong examples of Romanesque revival style.

The majority of IIT’s main State St. Campus was designed in the early 1940s by Mies van der Rohe, landscape architect Alfred Caldwell, and campus plan architect Alfred Alschuler. In addition to academic building, Mies also designed the buildings for the Association of American Railroads and the Institute of Gas Technology, both private research organizations on campus. Many original campus buildings underwent extensive renovation and restoration through the 1990s as part of the campus renewal program begun in 1995. This began with commissioned study conducted by the Urban Land Institute. The results were implemented starting in 1996 as the Main Campus Master Plan by Lohan Associates, and included a campus landscape redesign by Peter Lindsay Schaudt in 2000.

Campus development in the early 2000s added two buildings of architectural significance, the McCormick Tribune Campus Center, and State Street Village. The McCormick Tribune Campus Center was designed by Rem Koolhaas/OMA in 2003, selected as architect through the 1998 Richard H. Driehaus Foundation International Design Competition. State Street Village, a student housing building, was designed by Helmut Jahn in 2003.

University academic programs related to architecture have included Lewis Institute’s civil engineering program, Institute of Design’s architecture program, Armour Institute of Technology’s department of architecture, and IIT’s College of Architecture (departments variously known as Architecture, Planning, and Design or City and Regional Planning).

Collection material on campus buildings, the Architecture Program, and Mies van der Rohe is extensive, so this Collection Guide is not a comprehensive listing. For more detailed information on specific topics, see the Collection Guides for Crown Hall, Mies van der Rohe, and South Side/Bronzeville. In addition, each campus building has a reference file (drop file) that can direct you to additional resources in and outside of UASC.
Illinois Institute of Technology
University Archives & Special Collections
Galvin Library, Chicago

Materials in UASC

Processed Collections

1998.277  IIT Campus Aerial Photographs Collection
Aerial Views of the 120 acre-campus and surrounding area spanning the years 1940 – 1975

1998.131  Alschuler Campus Plan
Printed brochure published by Illinois Institute of Technology showing the “Campus Plan” (buildings and grounds design) done by architect Alfred S. Alschuler. The campus development proposal included buildings to be used by IIT and Armour Research Foundation.

1999.014  Buildings and Grounds
Further information on the Alschuler Campus Plan and its implementation.

2000.034  John P. Makielski Papers
Further information on the Alschuler Campus Plan and its implementation.

1998.294  1940s Fund Raising Brochures Collection
Booklets dated 1941 – 1950 intended to solicit corporate and private support for the new campus to be built

2004.002  Urban Land Institute Collection
Documents concerning a study conducted by the Urban Land Institute (Washington, DC) for Illinois Institute of Technology (Chicago) in 1995.

2002.052  Lohan Master Plan Records
A collection created by Lohan Associates, containing Main Campus Master Plan and Summary, and Main Campus Master Plan Executive Summary with two watercolors and one color photo.

2003.038  Peter Lindsay Schaudt Landscape Architecture, Inc. Collection
Drawings (many oversize and mostly on vellum) of design development and construction phases of landscape designs by Peter Lindsay Schaudt Landscape Architecture, Inc. for the Federal Street Landscape Improvements project and the Galvin Pritzker Grove (including benches and fountain) on the campus of Illinois Institute of Technology (Chicago).

1999.051  McCormick Tribune Campus Center Collection
Competition to select an architect for the building which later became the McCormick Tribune Campus Center.

2003.044  **McCormick Tribune Campus Center Records**  
Photographs taken by John Stamets of the construction of the McCormick Tribune Campus Center, total collection approximately 150 images.

2003.050  **Richard H. Driehaus Foundation International Design Competition Collection**  
Materials documenting the final phase of the Richard H. Driehaus Foundation International Design Competition presented by architects who were invited by Illinois Institute of Technology (Chicago) to submit models for its new campus center project. Includes images of models and drawings, photos of finalists, and other materials.

1998.011  **Lewis Institute Collection**  
Information on and blueprints for the the non-extant Lewis Institute Building, designed by Henry Ives Cobb om 1895 and destroyed in the 1950s.

2003.045  **McCler Reports/Chapel & Wishnick**  

2004.051  **S. R. Crown Hall Collection**  
Historic structure report completed by McCler corporation at the request of IIT for S. R. Crown Hall designed by Ludwig Mies van der Rohe.

2001.042  **S. R. Crown Hall Collection**  
Copy of the final National Historic Landmark nomination form accepted for S. R. Crown Hall with accompanying letter from the National Historic Landmarks Survey.

2005.018  **National Register of Historic Places–IIT Academic Campus Nomination**  
Materials related to the National Register of Historic Places nomination for the Illinois Institute of Technology Academic Campus which was listed on the Register Aug. 12, 2005. Includes the research documentation complied by Mark Kasprzyk and Douglas Gilbert of McCler (work contracted by IIT) and submitted to the Commission of Chicago Landmarks with approval from the Illinois State Historic Preservation Officer.

1991.015  **Mies Centennial Records**
The 1986 Mies Centennial celebration which included the exhibit *Mies van der Rohe: Architect as Educator* hosted at Crown Hall.

2004.001 *Chicago School of Architecture Collection*
*Bulletin of the Chicago School of Architecture*, ca. 1897

2004.009 *Bertrand Goldberg Collection*
Video tape lecture “The Ghost Walks” by Bertrand Goldberg, 1997

2004.029 *Chicago Bauhaus and Beyond Records*
Records of the Chicago-based group, Chicago Bauhaus and Beyond, being fliers, brochures, invitations, and printed materials related to the group’s formation and activities. Organization formed in 2004.

2000.019 *F. Peter Weil Photographs*
F. Peter Weil photographs of Chicago area architecture (1952 – 1964); includes Ludwig Mies van der Rohe’s 860 – 880 buildings, Frank Lloyd Wright houses, Tribune Tower, synagogues, and other.

2009.008 *Crombie Taylor, Aaron Siskind, and the Adler & Sullivan Project Collection*
Exhibit panels, being reproductions of photographs by Aaron Siskind, Richard Nickel, and others, from the 1954 Institute of Design exhibit documenting the architecture of Louis Sullivan.

**Blueprints and Maps**

2002.057 *McCormick Tribune Campus Center Records*
Blueprint drawings for the McCormick Tribune Campus Center at Illinois Institute of Technology, including “the [Exelon] tube” through which The L (CTA train) runs. Office for Metropolitan Architecture (OMA; Rotterdam, Holland), Rem Koolhaas architect, and Holabird & Root LLP (Chicago), architect and engineers. This set of drawings is the 100% Design Development drawings dated Dec. 10, 1999 and Feb. 18, 2000

1998.205 *Ludwig Mies van der Rohe Papers*
Five pages of blueprints by Ludwig Mies van der Rohe of the (unbuilt) Library and Administration Building designed for Illinois Institute of Technology (Chicago); 36” x 48”; 1/8”=1’ scale.

1999.027 *Alumni Memorial Hall*
Three pages of blueprints (27 x 41”) for “Navy Building” (later, Alumni Memorial Hall) by Ludwig Mies van der Rohe and Holabird & Root. Drawings are identified as First Floor Framing, drawing S2; 2nd Floor Framing, S3; and
Roof Framing Plan, S4. All are dated 5/17/1945 and are identified as revisions of commission number 7774.

1998.210 Alfred Caldwell Collection
Blueprint, “Landscape Plan for Housing Area” of Illinois Institute of Technology campus (Chicago) by Ludwig Mies van der Rohe and Alfred Caldwell; 11/1/1954.

Theses


THESIS.TG634 The Tall Building: The Effects of Scale; Myron Goldsmith’s 1953 thesis (M.S. Architecture).

Unprocessed Collections

Uncatalogued site plans for the IIT campus, “Technology Center,” 1940s – 1960s are inventoried as map case materials (ask for “map case Campus Plans folder”)

Additional External Materials

Campus Resources

Historic construction documents (drawings and/or various materials) may be available for some campus buildings in the IIT facilities department. The IIT Archives cannot provide access to these materials. Please contact the Facilities Office directly at facilities-helpdesk@iit.edu.

Online Resources

Interactive map with historic information and images: http://buildinghistory.iit.edu/.

Digital exhibit about off campus, non-extant and other lesser known buildings: http://archives.iit.edu/exhibits/OtherBuildings/index.html

Information related to Mies, the history of IIT, and current campus development activities may be found on The Mies van der Rohe Society website: http://mies.iit.edu.

Theses and dissertations by program students (AIT, IIT, and ID) are catalogued in the IIT library’s on-line catalog: http://www.gl.iit.edu.

Edits October 2015
Minor edits February 2010
Compiled November 2005