

The Architecture Archives at UF and the Alfred Browning Parker Architecture Archives Endowment

The Alfred Browning Parker Architecture Archives Endowment supports and strengthens the Architecture Archives at the University of Florida.

As a partnership between the School of Architecture and the George A. Smathers Libraries since 2004, the Architecture Archives has become a leading repository for historical records pertaining to the architects and architecture of Florida. Initial activities have focused on a handful of important collections including the archives of prominent architects and architectural firms:

- Alfred Browning Parker
- Kenneth Treister
- Rufus Nims
- Darrell Fleeger
- Carrère & Hastings

The University of Florida Historic Buildings' drawings will integrate the collection. In addition to these collections, several leading Florida architects have pledged the donation of their architectural archives to UF, including Gene Leedy, William Morgan, Robert Broward, Don Singer, Peter Jefferson and Hershel Sheppard.

The Alfred Browning Parker Architecture Archives Endowment will support the acquisition, preservation, processing, and storage of archival drawings and other historical records that document Florida architecture and architects. The income from this endowment will be used:

To Support Preservation of Collections: The Architecture Archives collects records of diverse types, sizes and formats. Currently, the Archives holds thousands of drawings, blueprints, photographs, and related records that document architecture and design from the late 19th Century to the present. We conserve, store, arrange, and describe the records to ensure long term preservation and use.

To Support Student Education: Historical architectural records enhance the educational experience by bringing the past to the present for students. Faculty members in the School of Architecture have incorporated the archival collections in courses, and numerous graduate and undergraduate students have worked on arranging and describing the collections. Of course, students gain valuable experience and knowledge by researching and using historical drawings and papers.

To Support Research and Scholarship: The Architecture Archives promotes the use of architectural records that document the architects and architecture of Florida. Staff members provide researcher assistance to students and faculty, scholars and researchers, and the general public. In the past four years, numerous drawings, photos and other documents have been used in books, journal and newspaper articles, theses, and dissertations. Several artifacts also have been exhibited in art and history museums. With additional funding, we will be able to expand our promotion and outreach activities, attract additional researchers, and contribute to architectural scholarship.

To Support Preservation of Florida's Architectural Heritage: The Architecture Archives provides invaluable documentation for historic preservation projects. Recently, the Archives contributed photographs and drawings to DOCOMOMO/US Florida in that organization's fight to preserve endangered historic architecture, including a 48-year-old house that was the last remaining Alfred Browning Parker design in Palm Beach.

For more information on supporting the Alfred Browning Parker Architecture Archives Library Endowment, please contact the George A. Smathers Libraries' Office of Development at (352) 273-2505 or Huang888@ufl.edu.

