

Piomelli, M. Rosaria, Architectural Collection

M. Rosaria Piomelli Architectural Collection

1960-1995



Title Statement

Piomelli, M. Rosaria, Architectural CollectionM. Rosaria Piomelli Architectural Collection, 1960-1995
Ms.1995.007

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Publication Statement

Publisher: Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech

Special Collections and University Archives, University Libraries (0434)
560 Drillfield Drive
Newman Library, Virginia Tech
Blacksburg, Virginia 24061
Business Number: 540-231-6308
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URL: <http://spec.lib.vt.edu>



2011 (CC0 1.0)

Profile Description

Creation: This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on 2023-08-07 13:40:17 -0400.

Language Usage: Description is written in: English, Latin script.

Descriptive Rules: Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

Ms.1995.007

Unit Date

1960-1995

Language

The majority of the materials are in English; however, some of the correspondence is in Italian.

Abstract

The M. Rosaria Piomelli Architectural Collection consists of architectural drawings, correspondence, photographs, newspaper clippings, and files that chronicle the life and career of architect M. Rosaria Piomelli.

Creator

Piomelli, M. Rosaria, b.1937

Extent

5.5 Cubic Feet 3 boxes, 5 oversize folders

Repository

Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access

The collection is open to research.

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Source of Acquisition

The M. Rosaria Piomelli Architectural Collection was donated to Special Collections in 1995, 2002, and 2006.

Processing Information

The processing, arrangement, and description of the M. Rosaria Piomelli Architectural Collection commenced and was completed in October 1995. Additions to the collection were integrated in March 2011.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: [identification of item], [box], [folder], M. Rosaria Piomelli Architectural Collection, Ms1995-007, Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, Va.

Biographical Note

M. Rosaria Piomelli (born Agrisano) was born in Naples, Italy, on October 24, 1937. She was educated at the Istituto d'Arte (1954, Bachelor of Arts) and Accademia d'Arte (Master of Arts, 1955) of Naples, and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (1960, Bachelor of Architecture). Through the 1960s and 1970s she worked at various architects offices in Italy, New York, and the Netherlands, including I. M. Pei and Partners from 1971 to 1974 as a project architect. In 1974 she opened her own office in New York City.

From 1971 to 1976 Piomelli taught at the City College of New York School of Architecture as Adjunct Associate Professor, and from 1974 to 1979 taught at the Pratt Institute, where she served as Chair of the Faculty from 1976 to 1979. In 1979 she returned to CCNY as a Distinguished Professor, and was appointed Dean of the CCNY School of Architecture in 1980, becoming the first woman to hold a deanship of any school of architecture in the United States. She served in this position until 1983. In 1984 she was Visiting Distinguished Professor at the University of California at Berkeley, and from 1985 to the present she has had the position of full Professor at CCNY.

Piomelli has spent much of her career promoting the work of women in architecture. In 1974, as director the Equal Opportunity Committee for the American Institute of Architects, she organized an exhibit of women architects' work. This exhibit generated a great amount of interest in the standing of women in the profession. She served as a member of the Board of Advisors for the International Archive of Women in Architecture from 1985 to 1995.

Piomelli earned her professional licensure when she became a registered architect of New York State in 1969. She became a member of the American Institute of Architects in 1970 and served on various AIA committees throughout the 1970s, including Commissioner of the Schools of Architecture Committee of the New York City chapter from 1977 to 1979, and Director of the New York City Executive Committee from 1977 to 1979.

Publications by Piomelli include "Canary Wharf: London in the Third Millenium" in the March 1991 issue of Zodiac and as translator (from English to Italian) for Jan Gehl's *Vitta in Citta* (1992). Publications about Piomelli include information about her work in Susana Torre's *Women in American Architecture* (1977) and *Insegnare L'Architettura*, by M. Vegeto (1994).

Scope and Content

The collection consists of architectural drawings, correspondence, photographs, newspaper clippings, and files that chronicle the life and career of architect M. Rosaria Piomelli. The materials particularly focus on her architectural projects, mostly in the New York City area, and her tenure as head of the School of Architecture at the City College of New York from 1980 to 1983. Some of the literature and correspondence is in Italian.

Keywords

Architects

International Archive of Women in Architecture (IAWA)

Architectural drawing -- 20th century

Architectural drawings (visual works)

Women -- History

Existence and Location of Copies

Some of this collection has been digitized and is available online.

Rights Statement for Archival Description

The guide to the M. Rosaria Piomelli Architectural Collection by Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech, is licensed under a CC0 (<https://creativecommons.org/share-your-work/public-domain/cc0/>).

Arrangement

This collection is arranged by subject into series and subseries, and subdivided alphabetically or chronologically.

Description of Subordinate Components

Series I. Personal Papers

Unit Date 1960-1995

Curriculum vitae

Unit Date 1960, 1970, 1985-1995

Unit Date 1960

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

Unit Date 1976

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 10 (folder)

Unit Date 1985-1995

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 31 (folder)

Photograph

Unit Date 1970

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 5 (folder)

Series II. Professional Papers

Unit Date 1963-1995

Clippings featuring Piomelli

Unit Date 1974-1990

American Collegiate Schools of Architecture Task Force on the Status of Women in Architecture Schools, "Interview with Rosaria Piomelli," [transcript]

Unit Date 1990

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 33 (folder)

Scope and Content

Interview focuses on the problems women face in academia, and recounts times Piomelli had faced discrimination when she taught at CCNY.

The Australian Women's Weekly, P.D. Benson "Women in Architecture, from This to This"

Unit Date July 31, 1974

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 9 (folder)

Scope and Content

Article about the AIA exhibit mounted by Piomelli at the AIA building in New York City.

The Campus [undergraduate newspaper of the City College of New York]

Unit Date September 3, 1980

oversize 5 (folder)

Scope and Content

Article about Piomelli being named the School of Architecture and Urban Studies first woman dean.

Chelsea Clinton News, C. Meinhardt, "A Male-dominating Field Gives Way to Women"

Unit Date April 11, 1974

oversize 5 (folder)

Scope and Content

Article features Piomelli and the women in architecture exhibit she organized, "Women in Architecture, An Exhibition of Work by Women."

Costruire (No. 73, May 1989), "Non Si Studia Si Abita" Piomelli's work on the Pierson School apartments

Unit Date 1989

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 32 (folder)

Gannett Westchester Newspaper, "Pierson School Meeting Causes Flap Among Board Members"

Unit Date April 22, 1985

oversize 5 (folder)

Scope and Content

Article about the building's development which Piomelli owned and renovated.

Interiors, "Four on the Jury," article about the jury for the Third Annual Interiors Awards, of which Piomelli was a member

Unit Date 1982

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 16 (folder)

Interiors, Maeve Slavin, "Piomelli of City College: Top Teacher Profile"

Unit Date June 1982

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 15 (folder)

New York Times, P. Goldberger, "Women Architects Building Influence in a Profession That is 98.8% Male"

Unit Date May 18, 1974

oversize 5 (folder)

New York Times, N. Robertson, "A Female Dean of Architecture Who has Designs on the Future"

Unit Date July 6, 1980

oversize 5 (folder)

Correspondence

Unit Date 1963-1990

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

Scope and Content

Correspondence relating to Artists Housing Coalition, Curriculum Vitae (c. 1978), artist's certification, Who's Who of American Women, AIA's exhibit on women in architecture, research proposals, tenure for Susana Torre, recommendation requests, curriculum vitae for various people, photocopies of articles, design reviews of several projects. Includes post cards and photographs. Many items in Italian.

Correspondence

Unit Date 1977-1993

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 11 (folder)

Scope and Content

Correspondence relating, but not limited, to faculty review, job notices, the Chancellor Distinguished Lectureship at the University of California at Berkeley, list of projects undertaken in private practice, the Deanship of School of Architecture, conference participation, consulting work for hotel design for JFK airport, requests for letters of recommendations, professional organizations, personal topics, Brooklyn Museum Master Plan Design Competition, grants, and photocopies of newspaper and magazine articles. Some photographs and post cards. Some correspondence in Italian.

Interiors Magazine, Editorial Advisory Board

Unit Date 1983-1984

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 25 (folder)

Poster, Washington University School of Architecture, lecture series. Piomelli listed among speakers

Unit Date 1977

oversize 3 (folder)

Scrapbook of project drawings, photographs, plans

Unit Date c.1958

box-folder 3 (box)

Container 2-3 (folder)

Symposium

Unit Date January 28, 1988

box-folder 3 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

Scope and Content

Cassettes. Description on front states: Rosaria Piomelli, Blanche van Ginkel, Professor Rodriguez; Fani Hansen; Professor Bliznakov.

Talk at Virginia Tech in conjunction with the IAWA, "Reflections on Practice, Academia, and Community," announcements

Unit Date 1997

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 37 (folder)

"Women in Architecture, An Exhibition of Work by Women"

Unit Date 1974

Original drawings for exhibition poster (Rolled) (2 sheets)

Unit Date n.d.

box 2

Poster calling for submissions

Unit Date 1974?

oversize 5 (folder)

Poster advertising the "Women in Architecture" exhibit organized by Piomelli

Unit Date 1974

oversize 5 (folder)

Writings

Unit Date 1981, 1995

IAWA Newsletter, Fall 1995 issue, with an article by Piomelli, "Looking Back from the 10th Anniversary of the IAWA"

Unit Date 1995

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 35 (folder)

Interni 315 LA Rivistia dell'Arredamenta with article by Piomelli, "L'Architetto Ferma Il Loft"

Unit Date 1981

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 14 (folder)

List of published work by Piomelli

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 36 (folder)

Series III. Faculty Papers

Unit Date 1980-1984

City College of the City University of New York

Unit Date 1980-1984

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 12-13 (folder)

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 19 (folder)

Curriculum vitae with examples of professional work, teaching, and research activities

Unit Date 1983

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 18 (folder)

Series IV. Project Records

Unit Date 1965-1991

Subseries A. Drawings

Unit Date 1980-1991

Academy Hill Development (Hudson, NY): site plan, unit plan, typical cluster plans, section, elevation

Unit Date n.d.

oversize 3 (folder)

Artist Living-Work Quarters (New York, NY): conversion plan

Unit Date 1980

oversize 3 (folder)

Buckle My Shoe (New York, NY): cellar floor plans, first floor plan, general notes

Unit Date 1991

oversize 3 (folder)

Cerami House (12 drawings): site plan & plumbing diagram, floor plans, roof plan & schedules, elevations, bath & kitchen elevations, structural plans (2 sheets), construction details, foundation drawings, floor plans--electrical, floor plans--mechanical, wall section, kitchen flooring & steps details

Unit Date 1984-1985

oversize 3 (folder)

Little Italy Risorgimento, 100 Unit Housing and Public School by Michael Muroff, Rosaria Piomelli, Pratt Institute. Four sheets of floorplans and elevations

Unit Date n.d.

oversize 5 (folder)

Octagon Park, Washington, D.C. Five panels of architectural drawings for a competition to redesign

oversize 4 (folder)

Pierson School (Tarrytown, NY) renovation drawings, floor plans, utility and lighting drawings, details, general notes, planting and site plans

Unit Date 1983-1986, n.d.

oversize 1 (folder)

Red Hook Development (New York, NY). Piomelli listed among contributing architects, Sectional Map of New York, "Reclaiming the City's Edge, Comprehensive Waterfront Plan," site plan with photographs, elevation and perspective of the "Gateway from the Waterfront"

Unit Date 1980-1991, n.d.

oversize 2 (folder)

Schiff House, Montauk, NY: site plan, 1st and 2nd floor plan, finish & door schedule, floor

plans & sections, exterior elevations, interior elevations, foundation & framing plans, framing sections, heating & ventilation system, electrical

Unit Date 1983

oversize 3 (folder)

Tauber Apartment, drawings and photographs

Unit Date n.d.

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 34 (folder)

oversize 5 (folder)

Vyse Avenue Rehabilitation (Bronx, NY): floor plans (typical), cellar floor plan

oversize 3 (folder)

Subseries B. Files

Unit Date 1965-1987

Brown University Science Library

Unit Date 1965-1973

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 38 (folder)

oversize 5 (folder)

Cerami residence (Shelter Island, NY)

Unit Date 1983-1985

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 27-30 (folder)

Oberlin College Library (Oberlin, OH)

Unit Date 1966-1975

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 3 (folder)

oversize 5 (folder)

Scope and Content

Items related to the Seeley G. Mudd Learning Center [Library]. Includes numerous photographs of interior views, exterior views, and drawings. This is work that Piomelli did in the office of Warner, Burns, Toan & Lunde, Architects, of New York City.

Pierson School (Tarrytown, NY)

Unit Date 1984

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 26 (folder)

oversize 5 (folder)

Scope and Content

Building was converted to apartments. Materials present include building permit, newspaper article about school, photographs, and literature about building plans.

Raffle International Centre, Singapore. I.M. Pei & Partners, Architects. Twenty-one different floor plans and elevations of the structure

Unit Date August 9, 1974

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 8 (folder)

Schiff apartment (New York, NY)

Unit Date 1983

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 20 (folder)

Schiff residence (Montauk, NY)

Unit Date 1982-1987

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 21-24 (folder)

St. George Place, Staten Island, NY (designed by I.M. Pei). Piomelli was project architect

Unit Date 1972

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 6-7 (folder)

oversize 5 (folder)

Subseries C. Photographs

Unit Date 1968

Photographs of work Piomelli did in the office of E.F. Groosman in the Netherlands

Unit Date 1968

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 4 (folder)