

Choneva, Krasimira, Architectural Collection

Krasimira Choneva Architectural Collection

1958-1994



Title Statement

Choneva, Krasimira, Architectural CollectionKrasimira Choneva Architectural Collection, 1958-1994
Ms.2007.003

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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>



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Profile Description

Creation: This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on 2023-08-07 13:41:53 -0400.

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

Descriptive Rules: Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

Ms.2007.003

Unit Date

1958-1994

Language

The materials in the collection are in English.

Abstract

The Krasimira Choneva Architectural Collection includes conceptual and working drawings as well as supporting documents for six projects. The projects range in date from 1958-1994 and were all designed and completed in Bulgaria by Krasimira Choneva. The collection also includes one biographical sketch written by Choneva herself as well as an additional biography written by Milka Bliznakov in 2007.

Extent

3.1 Cubic Feet 1 box and 7 oversize folders

Repository

Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access

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Source of Acquisition

The Krasimira Choneva Architectural Collection was donated to Special Collections in 2007.

Processing Information

The processing, arrangement and description of the Krasimira Choneva Architectural Collection commenced in March 2010 and was completed in April 2010. Preliminary processing including a detailed inventory was completed in March 2007.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: [identification of item], [box], [folder], Krasimira Choneva Architectural Collection, Ms 2007-003, Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, Va.

Biographical Note

Krasimira Zheliazkova Choneva was born on September 23, 1935 in Varna, Bulgaria. Her father, Zheliazko Maldjiev (b.1901) was an insurance agent and her mother Elena Ivanova Maldjieva (b.1898) was a middle school teacher who moved with her family to Varna from Macedonia after the Linden uprising in 1903.

Choneva's family emphasized hard work and education, as a result Choneva's brothers attained university diplomas in electronics and technology and her cousins studied architecture. At the encouragement of her family Choneva enrolled in a Construction and Technological High School where she began her study of architecture. In addition to academia, Krasimira participated in sports, specifically swimming, eventually taking second place at a national competition in Bulgaria.

"This sport helped me to aim at being the best, to follow the prescribed rules and to organize my time and activities. I didn't continue my architectural education in the university for the following reasons," Krasimira states, "First, because I was in training to reach the international standards in swimming. Second, university entrance in the architecture program required contacts within the ruling communist party."

Choneva's professional architectural experience began in 1958 when she started working in the construction office of Varna's ship building industrial complex. The experience cemented her "love and commitment for architecture." In 1959, Choneva's won a draftsman competition in the design organization for the town of Varna.

Choneva worked for this state organization until her mandatory retirement in 1990, calling this period her "university training." The work experience provided Choneva with the opportunity to work with several architects including, Marin Marinov; Simeon Dimitrov; Kosio Khristov; Julia Angelova; Daniel Ognianov; and Philio Ginev on multiple design projects.

In 1961 Choneva married Marin Choveve (b.1932) a conductor of the leading Bulgarian choir "Morski Zvutzu" (The Sounds of the Sea). The choir performed abroad giving her the opportunity to visit multiple countries and familiarize herself with their architecture. "During the years of the 'Iron Curtain' such knowledge gave me considerable advantage," Choneva recalls.

In 1971 Choneva became involved with construction of mass-housing utilizing prefabricated panels. The system developed after WWII in Western Europe and was later imported by the Soviet Union. "Regardless of the persistent endless criticism of prefabricated multi-family apartment housing," Krasimira insists, "it was justified by the large migration of people from the agricultural sector (small towns and villages) to cities with large industrial developments. The prefabricated system gave to almost all urban dwellers the option to reside in their own apartment with adequate space and sanitary facilities. The modular panels (5.10 meters x 3.60 meters) allowed for functional arrangement of the required spaces. Speedy construction, however, allowed for sloppy finishes and shoddy appearance of the apartment buildings. I am glad to have responded to the societies demand for improved quality and to my personal desire to give the ugly panels a more attractive façade appearance."

In the latter part of the 1980's the Union of Bulgarian Architects (SAB) invited Choneva to join their

organization. This was a distinct honor giving Choneva the right to open a private practice after the change in Bulgarian government between 1989 and 1990. Choneva opened a private office where she designed residential houses and apartment buildings for twelve years from 1990-2002.

Choneva had three children, two daughters and one son. Her daughter, Liuliana Marinova Choneva (b. Oct. 14, 1962) joined her at the practice when she graduated Sofia Polytechnic in 1990. Upon her retirement Choneva transferred the practice to her daughter. Her son Kalin Tchonev (b.1971), also a choral conductor and piano performer, resides in North Carolina.

Scope and Content

The Krasimira Choneva Architectural Collection span the years 1958 to 1994 and cover projects Choneva completed in Bulgaria. The collection includes conceptual drawings, working drawings and supporting documents for six projects including, Hotel "Victor" in St. Nikola; Apartment building for B. Mikhov on Linden St. in Varna; Pavilion with changing rooms to the Euxinograd Palace near Varna; Vacation house for Burov in the subdivision of Briz, Varna; Vacation house for Manasiev in Euxinograd near Varna; and a Vacation house for Shulekov on the Monastikski Rd. area. The collection also includes one biographical sketch written by Choneva herself, as well as an additional biography written by Milka Bliznakov in 2007.

The majority of Choneva's work includes architectural drawings of residential apartment buildings and vacation homes. Items of particular distinction in the collection include Choneva's early work on the Pavilion for Euxinograd Palace and her apartment designs utilizing prefabricated panels and accent colors.

Keywords

Architects -- Bulgaria

Architectural drawings (visual works)

Architectural drawing -- 20th century

History of Women in Architecture

International Archive of Women in Architecture (IAWA)

Photographs

Women -- History

Women architects -- Bulgaria

Choneva, Krasimira

Rights Statement for Archival Description

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Arrangement

The collection is arranged chronologically according to project.

Description of Subordinate Components

14 Photographs; Photos of unidentified apartment buildings with prefabricated panel housing and colorful elements

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

7 Photographs; 1 black and white image, exterior elevations for multi-family housing; 2 photos, apartment building in Varna, Bulgaria; 1 photo, single family home near Varna; 3 photos, sports pavilion at Euxinograd Palace

Unit Date 1958

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

11 handwritten slides of biography written in Bulgarian by Krasimira Choneva

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 3 (folder)

Papers 1-5; Conceptual Drawings, Pavilion with Changing Rooms

Unit Date 1958

oversize 1 (folder)

Papers 6-14; Working Drawings, Vacation House for Manasiev in Euxinograd near Varna, Bulgaria

Unit Date 1991

oversize 1 (folder)

Papers 15-23; Conceptual Drawings, Hotel "Victor" in St. Nikola near Varna, Bulgaria

Unit Date 1991

oversize 2 (folder)

Papers 24-35; Working Drawings, Hotel "Victor" in St. Nikola near Varna, Bulgaria

Unit Date 1992

oversize 3 (folder)

Papers 36-47; Conceptual Drawings, Apartment Building for B. Mikhov on "Ilinden" Street in Varna, Bulgaria

Unit Date 1993

oversize 4 (folder)

Papers 48-62; Working Drawings, Apartment Building for B. Mikhov on "Ilinden" Street in Varna, Bulgaria

Unit Date 1993

oversize 5 (folder)

Papers 63-75; Working Drawings, Vacation House for Burov in subdivision of Briz in Varna, Bulgaria

Unit Date 1994

oversize 6 (folder)

Paper 76; Site Plan, Vacation House for Shulevov in "Monastikski" Road area

Unit Date 1994

oversize 7 (folder)

Papers 77-83; Conceptual Working Drawings, Vacation House for Shulevov in "Monastikski" Road area

Unit Date 1994

oversize 7 (folder)