

BAG001

John Herron Art Institute Architectural Drawings, ca. 1905-1960s, n.d. | Indianapolis Museum of Art Archives

By Rebecca Denne

Collection Overview

Title: John Herron Art Institute Architectural Drawings, 1905-1960s, n.d.

Collection ID: BAG001

Primary Creators:

Vonnegut & Bohn;

Cret, Paul Philippe, 1876-1945;

Foltz, Osler and Thompson;

Sheridan, Lawrence V.

Extent: 12 linear feet

Arrangement: This collection is arranged in three series:

Series I: John Herron Art Museum, ca. 1905-1931

Series II: John Herron Art School, 1928-1930

Series III: Architectural Projects and Additions, 1930-1960s, n.d.

Date Acquired: April 7, 2016

Languages: English

Scope and Contents of the Materials

This collection is comprised of architectural drawings of the buildings and grounds of the John Herron Art Museum (Vonnegut & Bohn, 1906) and the John Herron Art School (Paul Philippe Cret, 1929), including additions and upgrades made to those buildings and grounds through the 1960s. Drawings include elevations, sections, lighting, electrical, landscape, and floor plans in

the form of blueprints and architectural drawings on drafting paper. Primary creators of these drawings are the architects Bernard Vonnegut, Arthur Bohn, Paul Philippe Cret, Foltz, Osler & Thompson, and Lawrence V. Sheridan.

The architectural drawings have been arranged into three series:

Series I: John Herron Art Museum, ca. 1905-1931 includes blueprints of the John Herron Art Museum building designed by Indianapolis-based architectural firm Vonnegut & Bohn and surrounding landscape designed by Lawrence V. Sheridan. The building was dedicated in 1906 and the drawings are dated from 1905 to 1931. The series is contained in 18 folders stored in one flat file drawer.

Series II: John Herron Art School, 1928-1930 includes architectural drawings of the John Herron Art School covering the years 1928 to 1930. The building was designed by architect Paul Philippe Cret (1876-1945) and dedicated in 1929. The series is contained in nine folders stored in one flat file drawer.

Series III: Architectural Projects and Additions, 1930-1960s, n.d. includes blueprints and architectural drawings on drafting paper that document projects and additions made to the John Herron Art Institute (museum and school) buildings undertaken from 1930 through the early 1960s. The series is contained in 24 folders stored in one flat file drawer.

Historical Note

In 1883, the Art Association of Indianapolis was founded by May Wright Sewall (1844-1920) and 17 other Indianapolis residents. Two years later, the Association received funds by the will of wealthy Indianapolis local, John Herron, to build a permanent art gallery and art school for the Association. The donation of \$225,000 allowed the Art Association to open temporary quarters in a building called Talbott House at the corner of 16th and Pennsylvania Streets in 1902. This building housed both the art museum and the associated art school, which together became formed the John Herron Art Institute beginning in 1906.

In the following years, the Art Association undertook several important building projects on that site in response to growing interest in the museum and rising enrollment at the school. Some important dates and events in the Institute's architectural history include:

- 1905: Otto Stark joined the John Herron Art School's faculty of renowned Hoosier artists including Brandt Steele (son of T.C. Steele), J. Ottis Adams, Alfred B. Lyon, Virginia Keep, Helen McKay, and William Forsyth. In the same year, Talbott House was demolished to make way for the permanent building.

- 1906: The John Herron Art Institute opened its permanent art gallery and school in a single building on the lot of the former Talbott House. Opening ceremonies took place

from November 20-22. The building was designed by a local architectural firm, Vonnegut & Bohn, in the Italian Renaissance Revival style.

- 1908: To accommodate a growing student population, a new building for the John Herron Art School, also designed by Vonnegut & Bohn, opened directly north of the John Herron Art Museum building. The John Herron Art School, while located in a separate building on the campus, was still associated with the museum and continued to operate under the management of the Art Association of Indianapolis.

- 1920: On Thanksgiving eve, November 24th, a fire damaged the John Herron Art School building. The incident only caused temporary inconvenience, and class enrollment still continued to rise.

- 1929: A newer and larger structure replaced the original art school building on the same site. The building was funded anonymously by board member Caroline Marmon Fesler and designed by architect Paul Philippe Cret. It was dedicated on September 5th.

- 1930-1932: Minor additions were made to the John Herron Art Museum building, designed and executed by McClelland & Company and by Foltz, Osler & Thompson who also designed the landscape. Some additions included an elevator (1930), the north vestibule (1930), and an outside bulletin board (1932).

- 1940s: The Art Association undertook significant renovations to the John Herron Art Museum which added 2,600 square feet of gallery space to the museum building.

- 1962: Evans Woollen III designed an addition to the John Herron Art School building and construction began on his plans for Fesler Hall, a space in the John Herron Art Museum to display the modern art collection.

- 1964: After a series of gifts to the collection by donors such as Caroline Marmon Fesler and Eli Lilly, the John Herron Art Museum simply ran out of space. Having no land upon which to build, the board began consultations with G. A. Brakeley & Company on acquiring a new downtown site.

In 1966, the Art Association board learned that the John Herron Art School had lost its accreditation. After negotiations, Indiana University took control of the school in 1967. In 1969, when Indiana University and Purdue University joined forces in Indianapolis to form IUPUI (Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis), the IUPUI campus became the school's home. It is now known as the Herron School of Art and Design and is located on W. New York Street.

As the Art Association was considering land opportunities for relocating the museum in 1966, Ruth and Josiah K. Lilly donated their parents' estate, Oldfields, for the new museum. The historic house opened to the public as the Lilly Pavilion of Decorative Arts in 1967, and

construction of the new museum building began on the property soon after. The Association changed its name to the Indianapolis Museum of Art (IMA) in 1969, and Krannert Pavilion, the first of multiple museum pavilions to be housed on the new site, opened in 1970.

The John Herron Art Institute buildings are historically significant for their centrality to the art movement in Indianapolis. While the John Herron Art Museum and the John Herron Art School have since moved to separate locations and operate under new names, the original buildings remain important tributes to the cultural landscape of the city, and currently serve as the campus of Herron High School.

Sources

“Herron History.” *Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis*. Accessed July 14, 2016.
<http://www.herron.iupui.edu/about/herron-history>.

“History.” *Indianapolis Museum of Art*. Accessed June 30, 2016.
<http://www.imamuseum.org/about/history>.

Robinson, Anne P. and S.L. Berry. *Every Way Possible: 125 Years of the Indianapolis Museum of Art*. Indianapolis, IN: Indianapolis Museum of Art, 2008.

“School History.” *Herron High School*. Accessed July 14, 2016.
<http://www.herronhighschool.org/about/school-history/>.

Subject/Index Terms

architects,
architectural drawings (visual works),
Art Association of Indianapolis, Indiana,
art museums (institutions),
art schools (institutions),
Indianapolis (Ind.),
John Herron Art Institute,
landscape architects,
landscape architecture

Forms of Material:

architectural drawings (visual works),
annotations

Administrative Information

Repository: Indianapolis Museum of Art Archives

Alternate Extent Statement: 12 OVB folders, 38 flat file folders, 3 flat file drawers

Access Restrictions: Collection is open for research.

Use Restrictions: Permission to publish, quote, or reproduce must be secured from the repository and the copyright holder. Please contact the Archivist for more information.

Acquisition Source: IMA Facilities Department

Acquisition Method: Transfer

Preferred Citation: [Item title], [date], [Container information], John Herron Art Institute Architectural Drawings (BAG001), Indianapolis Museum of Art, Indianapolis, IN.

Box and Folder Listing

Series I: John Herron Art Institute, ca. 1905-1931 includes blueprints of the John Herron Art Museum building designed by Indianapolis-based architectural firm Vonnegut & Bohn and surrounding landscape designed by Lawrence V. Sheridan. The building was dedicated in 1906 and the drawings are dated from 1905 to 1931. The series is contained in 18 folders stored in one flat file drawer.

Flat File Vf

Folder 1: JHAI, Changes in Sculpture Hall and Stairway, Vonnegut & Bohn, ca. 1905

Folder 2: JHAI, Detail of Main Entrance Doors, Vonnegut & Bohn, ca. 1905

Folder 3: JHAI, Detail Showing Mosaic Panel, Vonnegut & Bohn, ca. 1905

Folder 4: JHAI, Exterior Stonework Details set, Vonnegut & Bohn, ca. 1905

Folder 5: JHAI, Proposed Foreground Treatment (landscape design), Arthur Bohn, ca. 1905

Folder 6: JHAI, First Floor Plans, Vonnegut & Bohn, ca. 1905

Folder 7: JHAI, Second Floor Plans, Vonnegut & Bohn, ca. 1905

Folder 8: JHAI, Basement Plans, Vonnegut & Bohn, ca. 1905

Folder 9: JHAI, Truss, Ruff, and Foundation plans, Vonnegut & Bohn, ca. 1905

Folder 10: JHAI, Sections, Vonnegut & Bohn, ca. 1905

Folder 11: JHAI, Elevations, Vonnegut & Bohn, ca. 1905

Folder 12: JHAI, Framing Plans, Vonnegut & Bohn, ca. 1905

- Folder 13: JHAI, Staircase, Skylights, and Ceiling Lights Details, Vonnegut & Bohn, ca. 1905
- Folder 14: JHAI, Interior Finishes plans, Vonnegut & Bohn, ca. 1905
- Folder 15: JHAI, Exterior Details, Vonnegut & Bohn, ca. 1905
- Folder 16: JHAI, Sections and Elevations set, Vonnegut & Bohn, ca. 1905
- Folder 17: JHAI, Interior and Exterior Finishes set, Vonnegut & Bohn, ca. 1905
- Folder 18: JHAI, Plot Plan (Landscape), P.E. Middleton Co. Engineers, Lawrence V. Sheridan (Landscape Architect), May 14, 1931

Series II: John Herron Art School, 1928-1930 includes architectural drawings of the John Herron Art School covering the years 1928 to 1930. The building was designed by architect Paul Philippe Cret (1876-1945) and dedicated in 1929. The series is contained in nine folders stored in one flat file drawer.

Flat File Vg

- Folder 19: JHAS, Wall Shelves Details for Room A10, A11, A12, and C5, Leslie Colvin, Builder, ca. 1929
- Folder 20: JHAS, Details of Bulletin Board in B1, 1929
- Folder 21: JHAS, Closer and Cabinet Section and Elevation, Leslie Colvin, Builder, March 1929
- Folder 22: JHAS, Plan of New Drive, Foltz, Osler & Thompson, ca. 1930
- Folder 23: JHAS, Cornices, Windows, and Doors Details, Paul Philippe Cret, October 1928-February 1929
- Folder 24: JHAS, Details of Vent Openings, Leslie Colvin, Builder, February 1929
- Folder 25: JHAS, Vent, Door, and Window Frames Details, McClelland & Company, March-May 1929
- Folder 26: JHAS, Drawers, Cupboards, and Shelving Details, McClelland & Company, April-June, 1929
- Folder 27: JHAS, Floor and Roof Plans, Paul Philippe Cret, September 1928

Series III: Architectural Projects and Additions, 1930-1960s, n.d. includes blueprints and architectural drawings on drafting paper that document projects and additions made to the John Herron Art Institute (museum and school) buildings undertaken from 1930 through the early 1960s. The series is contained in 24 folders stored in one flat file drawer.

Flat File Vh

- Folder 28: JHAI, Floor Plan of First Floor Including Entrance Dimensions, Architect unknown, ca. 1930
- Folder 29: JHAI, Set of Elevation and Section Plans, Foltz, Osler & Thompson, June 30, 1930
- Folder 30: JHAI, Suggested Lighting for First Floor West Gallery, Indianapolis Power and Light Company, 1959-1960

- Folder 31: JHAI, Floor Plan of First Floor and Wall Section Details, Architect unknown, ca. 1930
- Folder 32: JHAI, Set of Floor Plans and Elevation Plans, Foltz, Osler & Thompson, June 23, 1930
- Folder 33: JHAI, Set of Addition Floor Plans, Foltz, Osler & Thompson, July-August 1930
- Folder 34: JHAI, Set of Addition Floor Plans, Foltz, Osler & Thompson, July 16, 1930
- Folder 35: JHAI, Storm Vestibule for Sculpture Court Details, Foltz, Osler & Thompson, October 24, 1930
- Folder 36: JHAI, Outside Bulletin Details, Foltz, Osler & Thompson, ca. 1930
- Folder 37: JHAI, Revised Plot Plan (Landscape), Foltz, Osler & Thompson, April-July 1931
- Folder 38: JHAI, Entrance Buttress Details, Foltz, Osler & Thompson, June 16, 1931
- Folder 39: JHAI, Proposed Entrances Plans, Foltz, Osler & Thompson, March 1931
- Folder 40: JHAI, Flower Pans for Fountain in Sculpture Court Plans (Landscape), Herbert Foltz, February 22, 1932
- Folder 41: JHAI, Alterations to First and Second Floor Plans and New Passageway, Herbert Foltz, March 1940
- Folder 42: JHAI, Second Floor Steel and Anchor Bolt Details, Central States Bridge and Structural Company, ca. 1940
- Folder 43: JHAI, Storage Panel Details, Engineering Metal Products Corporation, ca. 1940
- Folder 44: JHAI, Heating and Ventilating System with Electrical Wiring Details, G. M. Williams, Engineer, May-August 1940
- Folder 45: JHAI, Gallery, Platform, and Step Railing Details, Herbert Foltz and Son, 1940
- Folder 46: JHAI, Structural and Reinforcing Steel Details, Hugh J. Baker and Company, 1940
- Folder 47: JHAI, Lighting Detail for Second Floor Room A, Indianapolis Power and Light Company, June 8, 1956
- Folder 48: JHAI, Electrical and Telephone System Plans for Addition, Edward D. James, May 21, 1957
- Folder 59: JHAI, Fesler Hall Situation Plan Including Elevations, Allan H. Weihe, Engineer, early 1960s
- Folder 50: Miscellaneous
- Item 1: JHAI, Panel Details for Room C4, Architect Unknown, n.d.
 - Item 2: JHAI, Details for Sliding Doors, Richards-Wilcox MFG CO., Engineering Department [IMA.BLU.0018], n.d.