

Samuel I. Oshiver, 1915-1982

A Finding Aid for
Architectural Drawings, 1948 - ca. 1968,
in
The Architectural Archives, University of Pennsylvania

Archival Description

Descriptive Summary

Title: Architectural Drawings, 1948 - ca. 1968.

Coll. ID: 037

Origin: Samuel I. Oshiver, 1915-1982, architect.

Extent: Architectural drawings 153 sheets.

Repository: The Architectural Archives, University of Pennsylvania
102 Meyerson Hall
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19104-6311
(215) 898-8323

Abstract: This collection comprises architectural drawings documenting seven projects designed by Samuel I. Oshiver between 1948 and ca. 1968. Of particular note are nine rendered presentation drawings, including full color renderings of the Philadelphian, Park City West, Sutton Terrace and the architect's own house in Melrose Park. These drawings are fine examples of the prevailing commercial rendering style of the late 1950s and early 1960s. The collection also includes a full set of construction drawings and a set of design drawings for the Philadelphian totaling 144 drawings.

Indexes: This collection is included in the Philadelphia Architects and Buildings Project, a searchable database of architectural research materials related to architects and architecture in Philadelphia and surrounding regions:
<http://www.philadelphiabuildings.org>

Cataloging: Collection-level records for materials in the Architectural Archives may be found in RLIN Eureka, the union catalogue of members of the Research Libraries Group. The record number for this collection is PAUP01-A29.

Biographical/Historical Sketch

Architect and developer Samuel I. Oshiver was born in Philadelphia, the son of Rebecca Oshiver and artist and printer Harry J. Oshiver. He graduated from Overbrook High School and earned a B.Arch. from the University of Pennsylvania in 1940. During World War II, Oshiver served as a naval architect at the Philadelphia Naval Yard in Camden, NJ. Oshiver opened his first architectural office in 1947; in 1950, he established Samuel I. Oshiver & Associates, his architectural design and development firm. Oshiver is best known for his large residential and mixed-used projects (combining residential, retail, and office uses) built from the 1950s to the 1970s in the Philadelphia region.

Scope and Content Note

This collection comprises architectural drawings documenting seven projects designed by Samuel I. Oshiver between 1948 and ca. 1968. Of particular note are nine rendered presentation drawings (one signed and dated by Oshiver) including full color renderings of the Philadelphian, Park City West, Sutton Terrace and the architect's own house in Melrose Park, Pennsylvania. These drawings are fine examples of the prevailing commercial rendering style of the late 1950s and early 1960s. The collection also includes a full set of construction drawings and a set of design drawings for the Philadelphian totaling 144 drawings.

The collection is arranged in two series:

- I. Architectural Presentation Drawings, 1948-ca. 1968.
- II. Preliminary and Construction Drawings for the Philadelphian, 1959-1961.

A full index to projects represented in this collection is found in Appendix A.

Access Points for Indexing (Controlled Vocabulary)

Oshiver, Samuel I. (Samuel Israel), 1915-1982.

Architects--Archives.

Architectural design--History--20th century--Sources.

Architectural drawing--United States.

Architecture, Modern--20th century--United States--Designs and plans.

Apartment houses--Philadelphia Region (Pa.)

Multipurpose buildings--Philadelphia Region (Pa.)

Philadelphia (Pa.)--Buildings, structures, etc--History--Sources.

Administrative Information

Restrictions on access: This collection is available for research by appointment only.

Preferred citation: Samuel I. Oshiver Collection, The Architectural Archives, University of Pennsylvania.

Acquisition: Gift of Mrs. Samuel I. Oshiver, 1987.

Processing: The collection was processed and the finding aid prepared by William Whitaker, Emily Cooperman, Laura Stroffolino and Nancy Thorne. Work was substantially completed in 2001, with additions and corrections in 2003.

Container list

Series I. Architectural Presentation Drawings, 1948-ca. 1965.

Extent: 9 architectural drawings.

Arrangement: Arranged by project in alphabetical order.

Call#	Descriptive Title
[037.I.1]	Germantown House; presentation drawing, undated.
[037.I.2]	Oshiver Residence (Melrose Park); presentation drawings (2), undated.
[037.I.3]	Philadelphian; presentation drawing, undated.
[037.I.4]	Philip Murray House; presentation drawing, undated.
[037.I.5]	Park City West; presentation drawings (2), undated.
[037.I.6]	Sutton Terrace; presentation drawing, undated.
[037.I.7]	Oshiver Residence; presentation drawing, signed and dated 10/1948

Series II. Preliminary and Construction Drawings for the Philadelphian, 1959-1961.

Extent: 120 originals, 24 sepia prints.

Arrangement: Arranged in chronological order.

Call#	Descriptive Title
[037.II.1]	Philadelphian; design drawings, set dated 9/21/1959 (9 originals, 4 prints).
[037.II.2]	Philadelphian; architectural construction drawings, set dated 4/10/1961 (12 originals). Sheet numbers 1-0 through 5-2.
[037.II.3]	Philadelphian; architectural construction drawings, set dated 4/10/1961 (12 originals, 4 prints). Sheet numbers 6-0 through 8-2.
[037.II.4]	Philadelphian; architectural construction drawings, set dated 4/10/1961 (12 originals, 4 prints). Sheet numbers 9-0 through 20.
[037.II.5]	Philadelphian; architectural construction drawings, set dated 4/10/1961 (13 originals, 4 prints). Sheet numbers 21 through 31; R1-R3; T1; and L1.
[037.II.6]	Philadelphian; mechanical construction drawings, set dated 4/10/1961 (17 originals, 1 print).
[037.II.7]	Philadelphian; plumbing construction drawings, set dated 4/10/1961 (17 originals). Note: sheet number P-9 missing.
[037.II.8]	Philadelphian; electrical construction drawings, set dated 4/10/1961 (12 originals, 2 prints).
[037.II.9]	Philadelphian; structural construction drawings, set dated 4/10/1961 (16 originals, 5 prints). Note: title sheet is located in this tube.

Appendix A

Alphabetical Project Index

Germantown House

Housing International II, Inc.

5457 Wayne Avenue, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

holdings dates: undated

note/s: Built, ca. 1965, Samuel I. Oshiver and Associates. 1 presentation drawing, undated.

holdings:

[037.I.1] 1 drawing

Oshiver Residence

Oshiver, Samuel

1103 Valley Road, Melrose Park, Pennsylvania

holdings dates: undated

note/s: Built, ca. 1964, Samuel I. Oshiver and Associates. 2 presentation drawings, undated.

holdings:

[037.I.2] 2 drawings

Oshiver Residence

Oshiver, Samuel I.

unlocated

holdings dates: 1948

note/s: Samuel I. Oshiver. 1 presentation drawing, signed and dated 10/1948.

holdings:

[037.I.7] 1 drawing

Philadelphian

2401 Pennsylvania Avenue Corporation / J. P. Lieberman

2401 Pennsylvania Avenue, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

holdings dates: 1959-1961note/s: Built, ca. 1963, Samuel I. Oshiver and Associates. Includes presentation drawing, design drawings and construction drawings.holdings:

[037.I.3] 1 presentation drawing, undated.

[037.II.1] 13 design drawings, set dated 9/21/1959 (9 originals, 4 prints).

[037.II.2] 12 architectural construction drawings, set dated 4/10/1961 (12 originals). Sheet numbers 1-0 through 5-2.

[037.II.3] 16 architectural construction drawings, set dated 4/10/1961 (12 originals, 4 prints). Sheet numbers 6-0 through 8-2.

[037.II.4] 16 architectural construction drawings, set dated 4/10/1961 (12 originals, 4 prints). Sheet numbers 9-0 through 20.

[037.II.5] 17 architectural construction drawings, set dated 4/10/1961 (13 originals, 4 prints). Sheet numbers 21 through 31; R1-R3; T1; and L1.

[037.II.6] 18 mechanical construction drawings, set dated 4/10/1961 (17 originals, 1 print).

[037.II.7] 17 plumbing construction drawings, set dated 4/10/1961 (17 originals). Note: sheet number P-9 missing.

[037.II.8] 14 electrical construction drawings, set dated 4/10/1961 (12 originals, 2 prints).

[037.II.9] 21 structural construction drawings, set dated 4/10/1961 (16 originals, 5 prints). Note: Includes title sheet.

Philip Murray House

AFL-CIO Retirement Association

6300 Old York Road, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

holdings dates: undatednote/s: Built, ca. 1968, Samuel I. Oshiver and Associates. 1 presentation drawing, undatedholdings:

[037.I.4] 1 presentation drawing

Park City West

Oshiver, Samuel I.

3900 Ford Road, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

holdings dates: undatednote/s: Built, ca. 1962, Samuel I. Oshiver and Associates. 2 presentation drawings, undated.holdings:

[037.I.5] 2 presentation drawings

Sutton Terrace

client name unknown

50 Belmont Avenue, Bala Cynwyd, Pennsylvania

holdings dates: undated

note/s: Built, 1960, Samuel I. Oshiver and Associates. 1 presentation drawing, undated.

holdings:

[037.I.6] 1 presentation drawing