

(Collection #058)

R. Buckminster Fuller, 1895-1983

A Finding Aid for  
Architectural Drawings for the University of Pennsylvania Art  
Gallery, 1973  
in  
The Architectural Archives, University of Pennsylvania

## Archival Description

### Descriptive Summary

- Title: Architectural Drawings for the University of Pennsylvania Art Gallery, 1973
- Coll. ID: 058.
- Origin: Fuller and Sadao, architects.
- Extent: Architectural drawings 2 drawings.
- Repository: The Architectural Archives, University of Pennsylvania  
102 Meyerson Hall  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19104-6311  
(215) 898-8323
- Abstract: The collection comprises two presentation boards for Fuller and Sado's 1970 proposal for an Art Gallery for the University of Pennsylvania.
- 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

## **Biographical/Historical Sketch**

In 1972, at the invitation of University of Pennsylvania president Martin Meyerson, the world-renowned writer, thinker, architect and inventor, R. Buckminster Fuller (1895-1983) came to Philadelphia as a World Fellow in Residence to a consortium of institutions including the University of Pennsylvania; Bryn Mawr, Haverford, and Swarthmore Colleges; and the University City Science Center—a position he held until 1975. While the fellowship allowed Fuller to focus on his own research, it also afforded the opportunity to design an art gallery for the University of Pennsylvania. Although the 1973 project was never realized, his connection to Penn would continue through his appointment in 1975 as the University Professor Emeritus, a position he held until his death in 1983.

## **Scope and Content Note**

The collection comprises two presentation boards for Fuller and Sadao's 1973 proposal for an Art Gallery for the University of Pennsylvania.

The two presentation boards reproduce original drawings now housed in the R. Buckminster Fuller Archive, Special Collections & University Archives, Stanford University. A finding aid for this collection is available at the Online Archive of California.

## **Series Overview**

I. Architectural Drawings.

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

## **Access Points for Indexing (Controlled Vocabulary)**

Fuller, R. Buckminster (1895-1983)  
Sadao, Shoji (b. 1937)

## **Administrative Information**

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

Preferred collection citation: The Architectural Archives, University of Pennsylvania by the gift of R. Buckminster Fuller and Shoji Sadao.

Acquisition: Gift of R. Buckminster Fuller and Shoji Sadao, 1973.

Processing: The collection was processed and the finding aid prepared by William Whitaker and Nancy Thorne.

**Container list****Series I. Architectural Drawings.**

Extent: 2 architectural drawings.

Call#	Descriptive Title
058.1	Revised site plan and section perspective Collage and colored plastic film on diazotype print and photomechanical print 30 x 40 inches, mounted on foam core Note: There is a diazotype print overlay of the original site plan (34 <sup>th</sup> and Chestnut Streets) to present a revised location at 37 <sup>th</sup> and Walnut Streets.
058.2	Perspective from Chestnut Street Photomechanical print 30 x 40 inches, mounted on foam core

## Appendix A

### Project Index

#### University of Pennsylvania Art Gallery

University of Pennsylvania

34<sup>th</sup> and Chestnut Streets and 37<sup>th</sup> and Walnut Streets, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

holdings dates: 1973

note/s: Fuller and Sadao, Inc., architects.

holdings:

[058.1] Site plan and section perspective

[058.2] Perspective from Chestnut Street