

Vincent G. Kling, architect

A Finding Aid for
Architectural Drawings and Photographs for the William B.
Nicholson House, Short Hills, New Jersey, 1947-48
in
The Architectural Archives, University of Pennsylvania

Archival Description

Descriptive Summary

- Title: Architectural Drawings and Photographs for the William B. Nicholson House, Short Hills, New Jersey, 1947-48
- Coll. ID: 279
- Origin: Vincent C. Kling, b. 1916, architect.
- Extent: Architectural drawings 19 drawings (7 originals, 12 prints);
Photographs 6 photoprints
- Repository: The Architectural Archives, University of Pennsylvania
102 Meyerson Hall
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19104-6311
(215) 898-8323
- Abstract: The collection consists of nineteen architectural drawings and six photo-prints documenting Vincent G. Kling's designs for the William B. Nicholson House, Short Hills, New Jersey, 1947-48.
- 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

Vincent Kling, who would head the largest architectural practice in the Philadelphia region in the 1960s and 1970s and shape much of downtown Philadelphia in the post-World War II era, was born and raised in East Orange, NJ. The son of a builder, Kling worked for his father's construction firm in the summer during high school. He began his architectural training at Columbia University and earned his tuition through a variety of jobs during the lean years of the Depression when his father had little work. Kling was an outstanding student at Columbia, winning numerous prizes and completing a B.Arch. in 1940. This degree was followed by an M.Arch. from M.I.T. in 1941. Kling enlisted in the U.S. Navy after the attack at Pearl Harbor, and served as a pilot in the Atlantic fleet naval air force until the close of the war.

After the war, Kling returned to New York, where he entered the office of Skidmore, Owings & Merrill as a designer. The corporate organization of the growing firm undoubtedly served as the model for the practice Kling would later build in Philadelphia. He left Skidmore, Owings & Merrill in 1946 to establish his own office.

As SOM also did, Kling grew his firm into a group of studios, each headed by an architect supervising a team of designers and draftsmen. In the 1970s, this process was further refined by the corporate subdividing of the firm into architecture and related specialties (including engineering and landscape design). This highly organized and efficient system was a key element in the successful completion of a prodigious number of projects, many on a large scale, in the Philadelphia region and beyond. One of the earliest of these was the creation of Penn Center in Philadelphia in the 1950s, for which Kling was the principal architect and planner. By the late 1960s, Kling's firm had become the largest in Philadelphia, and by 1973, Kling was at the head of the largest architectural practice in Pennsylvania, with an office of nearly 400 employees.

Written by Emily T. Cooperman

Scope and Content Note

The collection consists of nineteen architectural drawings and six photo-prints documenting Vincent G. Kling's designs for the William B. Nicholson House, Short Hills, New Jersey, 1947-48. The collection, which documents one of the earliest of Kling's known commissions, was assembled from materials held by the original clients for the project.

Series Overview

- I. Architectural Drawings.
- II. Photographs
- III. Furniture

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

Access Points for Indexing (Controlled Vocabulary)

[List names of persons and corporate bodies, names of important buildings/projects, names of important clients. **These names should all appear in the prose of the Scope and Content Note or the Biographical/Historical Sketch.**

Geographical access points may be listed here also if they are considered important enough to be mentioned specifically in the Scope and Content Note or the Biographical/Historical Sketch.]

Administrative Information

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

Preferred collection citation: Nicholson Collection, The Architectural Archives, University of Pennsylvania.

Acquisition: Gift of Donor Name, 2005.

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

Container list

Series I. Architectural Drawings.

Extent: 19 architectural drawings (7 originals, 12 prints).

Arrangement: Arranged by project in chronological order.

Call#	Descriptive Title
297.1	Nicholson House, design, presentation and construction drawings, dated ca. 1947-February 1948 (7 originals, 12 prints)

Series II. Photographs.

Extent: 6 photographs.

Arrangement: Arranged by project in chronological order.

Call#	Descriptive Title
297.2	Nicholson House (6 photographs)

Series III. Furniture.

Extent: 1 object

Arrangement: Arranged by project in chronological order.

Call#	Descriptive Title
297.3	Screen by Clifford Pascoe Mahogany veneer plywood 96 x 96 x 3/8 inches

Appendix A

Project Index

Nicholson House

William B. Nicholson

46 Farley Road, Short Hills, New Jersey

holdings dates: ca. 1947-48

note/s: Vincent G. Kling, architect

holdings:

[297.1] Nicholson House, design, presentation and construction drawings, dated ca. 1947-February 1948 (7 originals, 12 prints)

[297.2] Nicholson House (6 photographs)