

Paul Nelson, 1895-1979

A Finding Aid for  
Architectural Drawing for the Suspended House,  
ca. 1937-1938,  
in  
The Architectural Archives, University of Pennsylvania

## Archival Description

### Descriptive Summary

Title: Architectural Drawing for the Suspended House, ca. 1937-1938.

Coll. ID: 198

Origin: Paul Nelson, 1895-1979, architect.

Extent: Architectural drawings 1 sheet.

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

Abstract: The collection comprises one rendered plan for Nelson's Suspended House project of 1937-1938.

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.philadelphiabuilding.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 PAUP02-A7.

**Biographical/Historical Sketch**

Paul Nelson (1895-1979) was born and educated in the United States, and established himself as an architect in Paris in the 1920s. Nelson worked within a circle that included architects Auguste Perret and Le Corbusier and painters Fernand Léger, Hans Arp and Joan Miró. Nelson produced innovative and imaginative designs for hospitals and residences that incorporated modern technology and flexibility as central themes. Among Nelson's best-known projects is his Suspended House (1937-1938), which incorporated prefabricated units dedicated to different functions hung within a single steel structure.

**Scope and Content Note**

The collection comprises one rendered plan for Nelson's Suspended House project of 1937-1938.

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

Nelson, Paul, 1895-  
Maison suspendue (Project)  
Suspended house (Project)  
Architects--Archives.  
Architectural design--History--20th century--Sources.  
Architectural drawing--France.  
Architecture, Modern--20th century--France--Designs and plans.  
Architectural drawings--American.  
Architectural drawings--French.

**Administrative Information**

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

Preferred citation: Paul Nelson, 1895-1979. Architectural Drawing for the Suspended House, ca. 1937-1938.

Acquisition: Gift of Joseph and Anne Rykwert, 1995.

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 Drawings.

Extent: 1 architectural drawing.

Call#	Descriptive Title
[198.1]	Suspended House, presentation drawing, undated (ca 1937-1938), watercolor and pencil on paper.