



## **DESIGN AND THE ARTS LIBRARY SPECIAL COLLECTIONS**

### **BENNIE GONZALES COLLECTION**

**Collection #: MS MSS 33**

**Location: DESIGN SPECIAL COLLECTIONS**

**Drawings and Papers: 1968-2008, undated**

**No. of Items: 2 boxes, 2 ln. ft.**

#### **Biographical Note**

Barnaby (Bennie) Montague Gonzales was born on June 11, 1924 in Phoenix, Arizona. His father owned a 20-acre farm in Phoenix near present-day 20th Street and Osborn and also managed a saloon. As a child, Gonzales worked at his uncle's adobe brick factory, which produced materials for the Arizona Biltmore Hotel.

Gonzales attended Phoenix Union High School and then enlisted in the United States Coast Guard in 1941. After serving six years in the Coast Guard, Gonzales returned to the Phoenix area, marrying Lupe Baca in 1947 and shortly thereafter enrolling in the architecture program at Arizona State College, now Arizona State University. He was a member of Arizona State College's School of Architecture's first graduating class in 1953. After studying at the University of Mexico Architectural School in Mexico City, Gonzales returned to Arizona and pursued postgraduate studies at Arizona State University while working for a number of area architects, including James Elmore, Blaine Drake, and Ralph Haver.

In 1958 Gonzales established his own architectural practice in Scottsdale. The business thrived in the rapidly growing Phoenix area, taking on additional architects under the name Bennie M. Gonzales Associates Incorporated. In the 1960s and 1970s the firm designed many municipal buildings in Scottsdale, including the library, city hall, and art complex.

Throughout a lengthy architectural career, Gonzales designed many residences, churches, and public buildings throughout Arizona. Notable projects include the Cotton Hotel in Phoenix, Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in Paradise Valley, and a large-scale renovation of the Heard Museum in Phoenix. His work also encompassed buildings in other states, such as the Woodlands Visitor Center in Texas, and internationally, including the Los Sabalos Condominium and Hotel Complex in Mazatlán, Sinaloa, Mexico. Gonzales won over 100 architectural and design awards and became a Fellow of the American Institute of Architects in 1976.

Gonzales was known for a distinctive style of Southwestern architecture that incorporated elements of traditional Native American and Mexican adobe structures combined with modernist influences. His designs frequently used wide angles to open up interior spaces and featured tapered columns to make structures more aesthetically pleasing. Gonzales also chose building materials based on their durability, accessibility and appropriateness to their environment. After a lengthy illness, Gonzales died on November 20, 2008 in Nogales, Arizona, survived by his wife Diane, son Barney Gonzales, and daughter Bianca Gonzales-Borman.

### **Scope and Content Note**

The collection consists of architectural drawings, plans, reports, and photographs documenting various projects by architect Bennie Gonzales. The collection also includes a small amount of related news clippings, articles, and ephemera.

### **Provenance**

The collection was assembled by architect George Gotsis, who worked for Bennie M. Gonzales Associates, and donated to Arizona State University by Mr. Gotsis in April 2016.

## **Container List**

### **Box 1**

Folder 1 Palm Desert Civic Center, Palm Desert, California, 1982, undated

Folder 2 Medical Offices, Tucson, Arizona, undated

Folder 3 Proposed Office Complex, 36th Street and Camelback Road, Phoenix, Arizona (Project), undated

Folder 4 Miscellaneous Articles, 1974-2008

Folder 5 Summary Report, Proposed U.S. Chancery in Benin, Africa, 1982

Folder 6 Chinle Medical Center, Indian Health Service, Navajo Reservation, Chinle, Arizona, undated

Folder 7 Scottsdale Civic Center Plaza, City Hall and Library, Scottsdale, Arizona, 1968, undated

Folder 8 Scottsdale Conference Center and Resort Hotel, McCormick Ranch, Scottsdale, Arizona, undated

Folder 9 Mayor's Residence, North Central, Phoenix, Arizona, undated

Folder 10 Carefree Residence, Carefree, Arizona, undated

Folder 11 Pinnacle Peak Residence, Scottsdale, Arizona, undated

Folder 12 Stories of Arizona, Bennie Gonzales, Architect, VHS tape, 2002

### **Box 2**

Folder 1 Scripps Research Facility Lab, University of California-San Diego, La Jolla, California, undated

Folder 2 Proposed Development, Biltmore Galleria, Phoenix, Arizona (Project), undated

Folder 3 Proposed Commercial Center, Scottsdale, Arizona (Project), undated

Folder 4 Proposed Condominiums at North Central, Phoenix, Arizona (Project), undated

Folder 5 Los Sabalos Resort, Mazatlán, Sinaloa, Mexico, undated

Folder 6 Los Sabalos Commercial Center, Mazatlán, Sinaloa, Mexico, 1979, undated

Folder 7 Hopi Cultural Center, Hopi Reservation, Arizona, 1968-1969

Folder 8 Woodlands Information Center, Woodlands, Texas, 1976, undated

Folder 9 Scottsdale Civic Center, New Public Services Building, Scottsdale, Arizona, 1970

Folder 10 Scottsdale Center for the Arts, Scottsdale, Arizona, 1975, undated

Folder 11 Saint Elizabeth Seton Catholic Church, Sun City, Arizona, 1977

Folder 12 Residence for Mr. and Mrs. Germain Ball, 5700 N. 33rd Place, Paradise Valley, Arizona, 1980

Folder 13 First Christian Church of Scottsdale, 7405 E. McDonald Drive, Scottsdale, Arizona, 1978

Folder 14 Residence for Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Mosier, 23825 N. 96th Street, Maricopa County, Arizona, 1977

Folder 15 Fletcher Studio, Tubac, Arizona, 1968

**Finding aid by Harold Housley (February 2018)**