



DESIGN LIBRARY SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

K.J. KOSSAK COLLECTION

Collection #: MS MSS 22

Location: DESIGN SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

Drawings and Specifications: 1957-1972

No. of Items: 7 oversize folders, 1 box (1 cubic foot)

Biographical Note

Krzysztof J. Kossak was born in Krakow, Poland in 1922. He graduated from high school at the outbreak of World War II in 1939 and fled with his father from war-torn Poland to Czechoslovakia. Kossak enlisted with the Allied Forces in Palestine and served with the British Army and the British Royal Air Force in North Africa.

In recognition of his wartime service, Kossak was awarded a full university scholarship and earned a degree in architecture from Manchester University in England, graduating in 1951. He then worked in London for Fry, Drew, Drake, & Lasdun, a leading architectural, town planning, and industrial design firm. In 1954 he was appointed architect to the Terna Development Corporation in Gold Coast, British West Africa, for the purpose of planning and developing the new town of Terna. Upon completing his duties he moved to Toronto and was a staff architect in the office of Marani, Morris, & Allan.

Kossak came to the United States in 1960 and for eight years worked with the architectural firm Harrison & Abramovitz in New York. In

1968 he joined the New York office of noted architect Philip Johnson and became an associate. Early in 1973 he opened an office for Johnson's firm in Houston, Texas and one year later started his own practice. He retired to Scottsdale, Arizona and died in 2008, survived by his wife, Valerie, five children, and three grandchildren.

Scope and Content Note

The collection was donated in October 1996 by Krzysztof J. Kossak and is comprised of seven oversize folders of drawings and one box of eight volumes of detailed specifications.

Series One consists of diazos, blueprints, and sketches. Of particular note are prominent buildings in New York: Philharmonic Hall, Opera House (Folder 3), United Nations Library, U.N. permanent library (Folder 5), and the New York State Theatre, Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts (Folder 6).

Series Two consists of project specifications for the Beth Zion Temple, Buffalo, New York; the Krannert Center for the Performing Arts, University of Illinois, Urbana, Illinois; and the Convention Center, City of Niagara Falls, New York.

Container List

Series One: Drawings

Folder 1 "Harrison and Abramovitz Architects, Beth Zion Temple, New York, NY, Job No. N-303" (Location 153G R2 D13)

Item 1 Sanctuary East End-Setting Out Details A-3-A, 2/24/65

Item 2 Sanctuary Wall-Dimension Key Plan S-4, 3/20/64

Item 3 Sanctuary-Balcony Land G Reflected CLG Plan & Sections A-4-B, 2/24/65

Item 4 Balcony Plan A-4-C, 2/24/65

Item 5 Sanctuary Window Details A-7-A, 2/24/65

Item 6 Details of Sanctuary Windows A-7-B, 11/11/64

Item 7 Longitudinal Section Looking North at Center Line A-8-A,
2/24/64

Item 8 Sanctuary Transverse Section Looking West A9, 9/9/64

Item 9 Lobby Screen Wall Details SK 189, 12/30/64

Item 10 Details of Precast Concrete Window-wall, 3/64

**Folder 2 “Harrison and Abramovitz Architects, Krannert Center
for the Performing Arts, University of Illinois, Urbana, Illinois Job
No. N-338” (Location 153G R2 D13)**

Item 1 Great Hall, sketches, 1965, (6 sheets)

Item 2 Section Sides Stairs Great Hall N-1, 12/66

Item 3 Great Hall Balcony Plan N-2, 4/6/67

Item 4 Great Hall Balcony Reflected Ceiling Plan N-3, 12/66

Item 5 Great Hall Reflected Ceiling Plan, N-4, 12/66

Item 6 Great Hall Long Section N-5, 12/66

Item 7 Music Theatre Orchestra, Balcony and Booth Plans N-6, 12/66

Item 8 Music Theatre Long Section Reflected Ceiling Plans N-7,
8/26/66

Item 9 Great Hall Wall Panels, c. 6/28/65

Item 10 Great Hall Wall Panels, c. 6/28/65

Item 11 Great Hall Stage and Moving Walls N-14, 1/9/67, 3/3/67

Item 12 Great Hall Balcony Details N-76, 3/17/67

Item 13 Great Hall Typical Details of Side Balcony Step Up N-109,
4/3/68

Item 14 Diagrammatic Sections- Great Hall, Studio, Drama and Music A-11, 4/5/66

Folder 3 “Harrison and Abramovitz Architects, Philharmonic Hall, Opera House, New York, NY, Job No. N-150-G” (Location 153G R2 D13)

Item 1 West 65th Street Bridge at North Plaza Plan and Sections A-11, 1961

Item 2 Projection Booth Details A-172, 6/29/61

Item 3 Organ Wall, Screen and Misc. Details A-163, c. 11/28/61

Item 4 Size Details of Grilles SK-180, 11/1/60

Item 5 Pylon Detail West 62nd Street SK-118, 6/30/60

Item 6 Details of Lightbooths #1 & #2, Opera House, A182B, 4/9/65

Item 7 Details of Lightbooths #2 & #3, Opera House, A182C, 7/64

Folder 4 “Harrison and Abramovitz Architects, Phoenix Mutual Life Insurance Company, Hartford, Connecticut Job No. N-258” (Location 153G R2 D13)

Item 1 Typical Details Ornamental Metal Tower Floors 2nd Third, Roof A-112, 11/20/61

Item 2 Details of Ornamental Tower A-113, 11/20/61

Item 3 Plans of Ceiling and Floor and Section, Elevation of Main Lobby A-116, 4/6/62

Item 4 Main Lobby Exterior Glass Wall Details A-117, 5/21/62

Item 5 Main Lobby Exterior Doors and Revolving Door A118, 5/21/62

Item 6 Aluminum Alternate for Ground Floor Windows and Convector Details A130A, 5/62

Item 7 Bridge Over State Street A144, 8/30/62

Item 8 Bridge Over State Street Details A145, 12/17/62

Item 9 Plaza Stair A-148, 4/11/63

Item 10 Plaza Stair Base Setting Out and Details A-150, 12/3/62

Item 11 Plaza Stair Base Setting Out and Details A-150, 2/14/63

Item 12 Plaza Stair Details A-154, 10/28/63

Item 13 Details of Planters and Benches A-156, 6/18/63

Item 14 Plaza Stair Dwg. S-13, 8/63

Item 15 Ground Floor Tel. Details SK-T31, 10/63

Item 16 Cabinet work reception Desk Main Floor Lobby T-162, 9/63

Folder 5 “Harrison and Abramovitz Architects, United Nations Library, U.N. Permanent Headquarters, Manhattan, New York, Job No. N-248” (Location 153G R2 D13)

Item 1 Woodrow Wilson Room, Transverse Section Details A-47, 3/17/61

Item 2 Finished Woodwork Details—Main Reading Room on 1st Floor and Woodrow Wilson Room on 2nd Floor A-47A, 4/61

Item 3 Typical Details of Shelves—Main Reading Room and Woodrow Wilson Room SK 83, 3/27/61

Folder 6 “Philip Johnson Associates, New York State Theatre, Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, New York, NY” (Location 153G R2 D13)

Item 1 Grid Plan and Stage House Roof Plan Dwg. 13, 2/1/62

Item 2 Sections through Promenade, Auditorium and Loading Dock; Security Grill Details Dwg. 17, 2/7/62

Item 3 Details of Stairs No. 3 and 4, Additional Details of Promenade, Balconies Dwg. 23, 2/7/62

Item 4 Bronze Windows-Wall Details Dwg. 34, 2/1/62

Item 5 Details of Exterior Bronze Work Dwg. 35, 2/1/62

Item 6 Door Buck Details 21-40 Dwg. 39, 2/1/62

Item 7 Door Buck Details 41-59 Dwg. 40, 2/1/62

Item 8 Finish Schedule-House Dwg. 41, 2/1/62

Item 9 Typical Finish Details Dwg. 43, 2/1/62

Item 10 Auditorium Steps and Rails-3rd Balcony Dwg. 67, 2/1/62

Item 11 Details of Box Office Dwg. 83, 2/1/62

Item 12 Details of Telephone Alcoves Dwg. 88, 5/10/62

**Folder 7 “Miscellaneous Architects/Miscellaneous Projects”
(Location 153G R2 D13)**

Item 1 Philip Johnson and John Burgee, Convention Center, City of Niagara Falls Niagara Falls, New York, Elevator Cab Details Dwg., 10/72 (2 sheets)

Item 2 Mies Van Der Rohe and Philip Johnson, Seagram, Park Avenue, New York, NY, Job No. 1026, 12/2/57 and 6/2/58 (2 sheets)

Item 3 Mariani and Morris, Moody and Moore, File No. 5337, Penthouse Details-Air Conditioning Dwg. M-21, 1/31/57 (1 sheet)

Series Two: Project Specifications

Box 1 (Location 153F)

Volume 1 Temple Beth Zion, Buffalo, New York, Specification for the Entire Construction, Book 1, 3/20/64

Volume 2 Temple Beth Zion, Buffalo, New York, Specification for the Entire Construction, Book 2, 3/20/64

Volume 3 Convention Center, City of Niagara Falls, New York, Book 1, 12/16/70

Volume 4 Convention Center, City of Niagara Falls, New York, Book 2, 12/16/70

Volume 5 Krannert Center for the Performing Arts, University of Illinois, Urbana, Illinois, Phase I, Specification for Plumbing Work, Division B, 5/12/66

Volume 6 Krannert Center for the Performing Arts, University of Illinois, Urbana, Illinois, Phase II, Specification for Entire Construction, Book 1, 4/5/66

Volume 7 Krannert Center for the Performing Arts, University of Illinois, Urbana, Illinois, Phase 11, Specification for Entire Construction, Book 2, 4/5/66

Volume 8 Krannert Center for the Performing Arts, University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana, Dedication April 19-20, 1969

Finding aid by Laura A. Purcell (April 1998)

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