Collection Summary
Title: Yousef Waffa Papers
Span Dates: 1932-1934
ID No.: MSS86319
Creator: Waffa, Yousef, 1903-
Extent: 10 items
Extent: 8 containers
Extent: 3 linear feet
Language: Collection material in English
Location: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.
LC Catalog record: https://lccn.loc.gov/mm2019086319

Summary: Landscape design student. Ten scrapbooks consisting of photographs, maps, blue prints, and notes detailing the urban and park planning of different cities and subdivisions across the United States at the outset of the New Deal.

Selected Search Terms
The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the LC Catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically.

People
Burnham, Daniel Hudson, 1846-1912.
Eliot, Charles, 1859-1897.
Olmsted, Frederick Law, 1822-1903.
Waffa, Yousef, 1903-

Organizations
Century of Progress International Exposition (1933-1934 : Chicago, Ill.)
Denver Planning Commission (Denver, Colo.)
Graceland Cemetery (Chicago, Ill.)
Henry E. Huntington Library and Art Gallery.
Rosehill Cemetery (Chicago, Ill.)

Subjects
Cities and towns, Ancient.
Cities and towns, Medieval.
Cities and towns, Renaissance.
Cities and towns--United States.
Cities and towns.
City planning--California.
City planning--Colorado.
City planning--Illinois.
City planning--Indiana.
City planning--Michigan.
City planning--Missouri.
City planning--New York (State)
City planning--Ohio.
City planning--United States.
City planning--Washington (D.C.)
City planning--Wisconsin.
City planning.
Gardens, Japanese--Designs and plans.
Gardens--California--Designs and plans.
Land use, Urban--United States.
Landscape architects--United States.
Landscape architecture--United States.
Landscape design--United States.
Local transit--Colorado--Denver--Designs and plans.
National parks and reserves--Government policy--United States.
Neighborhoods--California--Designs and plans.
Neighborhoods--United States--Designs and plans.
New Deal, 1933-1939.
Parks--California--Designs and plans.
Parks--New York (State)--New York--Designs and plans.
Parks--United States--Designs and plans.
Playgrounds--New York (State)--New York--Designs and plans.
Recreation areas--United States--Designs and plans.
Urban parks--United States--Designs and plans.
Urban policy--United States.

**Places**
Baywood (San Mateo, Calif.)
Bel Air (Los Angeles, Calif.)
Bernheimer Estate (Calif.)
Chicago (I11.)
Cleveland (Ohio)
Columbus (Ohio)
Denver (Colo.)
Detroit (Mich.)
Golden Gate Park (San Francisco, Calif.)
Henry E. Huntington Estate (Calif.)
Hope Ranch (Calif.)
Indianapolis (Ind.)
Kansas City (Mo.)
Los Angeles (Calif.)
Los Angeles County (Calif.)
Madison (Wis.)
Milwaukee (Wis.)
New York (N.Y.)
Palos Verdes Estates (Calif.)
Saint Francis Wood (San Francisco, Calif.)
Saint Louis (Mo.)
San Francisco (Calif.)
San Mateo (Calif.)
Santa Barbara (Calif.)
Washington (D.C.)

**Occupations**
Students.

**Acquisition Information**
The papers of Yousef Waffa were purchased by the Library of Congress in 2019.

**Processing History**
The papers of Yousef Waffa were arranged and described by Michael Folkerts in 2019.
Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Yousef Waffa is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The papers of Yousef Waffa are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, Yousef Waffa Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

Yousef Waffa was born in 1903 in Cairo, Egypt. He received a B.A. in 1927 and an M.A. in 1928 in Sociology from Michigan State College of Agriculture and Applied Science. In 1931, Waffa studied landscape architecture at University of California-Berkeley under the guidance of John W. Gregg, H. Leland Vaughan, and Harry W. Shepard. He later worked for the Egyptian government and Standard Oil Co. of Egypt.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Yousef Waffa contain ten scrapbooks compiled during the span of 1932 to 1934, presumably while he was a student at University of California, Berkeley. The scrapbooks take an academic approach by first establishing historical contexts and philosophies behind urban development in regards to traffic and streets, utilities, mass transit, ports, parks, zoning, and public buildings. Waffa uses these contexts to document various cities and subdivisions across the country during the nascent stages of the New Deal era. Many of the volumes contain original photographs and blueprints, while others contain published maps, brochures, and magazine cutouts. These photographs and printed matter showcase specific examples of the landscaping and development being used at the time.

The first portion of the “Parks and Parks Organizations” volume expounds on the philosophies of Frederick Law Olmstead and Charles Eliot in regards to park and recreation development and provides an overview of their incorporation in urban planning. Waffa uses a portion of this volume to elaborate on the National Park Service and its policies and organization, before moving on to documenting Golden Gate Park of San Francisco, Calif., and multiple smaller parks within Los Angeles and Pasadena, Calif.

The two volumes titled “Garden Design” continue Waffa’s focus in California, focusing on the design planning of large estates, garden architecture, lawn construction and upkeep, planting of trees and shrubs, special purpose gardens, outdoor theaters, and public gardens including the Henry E. Huntington Estate (now Henry E. Huntington Library and Art Gallery) and the Bernheimer Estate Japanese gardens. Aside from elaborating on the fundamental philosophies of estate and garden design, Waffa photographed specific examples of many private homes throughout metropolitan California including Menlo Park, Woodside, San Mateo, Santa Barbara, Montecito, Hope Ranch, Palos Verdes Estates, Bel Air, and Pasadena.

The “City and Subdivision Planning” volume is also focused entirely on California, though shifting to the development of subdivisions within cities alongside regional and county planning. Highlighted in this volume are: Saint Francis Wood of San Francisco, Calif., Baywood of San Mateo, Calif., Hope Ranch of Santa Barbara, Calif., Palos Verdes Estates and Bel Air of Los Angeles, Calif.

The four volumes titled “City Planning” begin in Volume 1 with a historical overview of urban development covering ancient, medieval, and renaissance cities, before turning to modern design philosophies in the United States. Volume 1 serves as a general overview of the concepts and examples used in the proceeding volumes, which focus on specific cities.
across the country and their unique approaches to city planning. Volume 2 of “City Planning” documents Chicago, Ill., Cleveland, Ohio, and Columbus, Ohio. Chicago is described in detail, beginning with Daniel Burnham’s city planning before moving on to the then-ongoing “Century of Progress International Exposition” World’s Fair. Waffa also documents Chicago’s Rosehill and Graceland Cemeteries and their landscaping. Volume 3 of “City Planning” details Denver, Colo., Detroit, Mich., and Indianapolis, Ind. The majority of this volume is dedicated to Denver, with particular focus on both mass transit and the Denver Planning Commission’s planning of street layouts, city parks, and recreational facilities. Volume 4 of “City Planning” explores Kansas City, Mo., St. Louis, Mo., Madison, Wis., and Milwaukee, Wis.

Yousef Waffa’s “City Planning of the Capital of the United States” details Washington D.C. and carries the same approach of expounding upon the history and approaches to urban planning as the previous four “City Planning” volumes. Housing, zoning and parks are a particular focus in this volume.

The “Parks and Park System of the Metropolis” volume focuses on New York City and its five boroughs: Manhattan, Brooklyn, The Bronx, Queens, and Staten Island (called Richmond in this volume). This volume focuses on the development and design of the city's parks and playgrounds.

**Arrangement of the Papers**

This collection is arranged chronologically.
## Container List

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