
Moreover, pop-ups are fun to show and exhibit. Watching the faces of people during presentations as the pop-ups are cautiously opened and put through their paces is always a joy for both demonstrator and the observers. They always establish and capture their own audience. In this academic year alone, seven classes from English, Art, Graphic Arts, and Education have made nine visits to see the pop-up books. Those visits brought over 270 people to the Libraries. Sixty-eight readers have come to use the pop-ups for assignments which range from class papers to making their own pop-up books. Another fifteen have come in for reasons that involve smiles of satisfaction. And, there is no doubt, as word of the collection spreads, that audiences will only grow over time. In fact, in a world of declining library turnstile counts, Special Collections readership has continued to increase every year.

But, in the end, the simplest and most direct response to why the University Libraries should spend money on pop-up books is also obvious: the collection supports the teaching and research missions of WMU. That, as the current television vernacular has it, is our final answer. But, if you only come because they’re fun, we’re here for you!
maps of the area, and correspondence about the project. In 1951, the Michigan Chapter of the American Institute of Architects gave Stone their Grand Award for Residences for the design of his own home at 529 Pinehurst Boulevard.

The LOUIS C. KINGScott & ASSOCIA TE COLLECTION is the Regional History Collections largest architectural collection, encompassing over 37 cubic feet of material. It includes blueprints, photographs, and manuscripts relating to projects primarily located in Michigan, although Kingscott & Associates was registered in Iowa, Illinois, Washington DC, Indiana, Ohio, and Wisconsin.

Louis Clifton Kingscott, Sr. was born in Bear Lake, Michigan, in 1898. He received a degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Michigan in 1922. As of 1922, he was also partner in the firm of Stewart & Kingscott, where he worked with Donald A. Stewart until 1929, when Stewart died and Kingscott became an independent architect. The firm was then known as Louis C. Kingscott & Associates.

From 1940-45, Kingscott Sr. served as chairman of the Michigan International Bridge Authority, which studied plans for the eventual construction of the Sault Ste. Marie Bridge linking the U.S. and Canada. Some of his principal works include the old Kalamazoo Public Library & Museum, a number of buildings on the West Campus at Western Michigan University as well as buildings at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. He died in November 1962.

Louis C. Kingscott, Jr. was born in Kalamazoo in 1928. He graduated from the University of Michigan in 1953, worked for an engineering firm in Morocco, North Africa, and then joined his father's firm. He was elected president of Louis C. Kingscott & Associates, Inc. after his father's death. In 1972, Louis Jr. sold the firm and retired a year later. Some of his principal works include Kohrman Hall, the industrial and engineering technology building at Western (1965); dormitories at Northern Michigan University (1966); Union High School in Grand Rapids (1967); and Fenton Public School (1969). He died in November 1994 in Battle Creek.

The Kingscott architectural materials arrived in the Regional History Collections in several stages. The first acquisition was in 1980, the second in 1983, and a third deposit came in 1988. Because of space and time limitations, the curator, then Phyllis Burnham, established criteria to select from the vast amount of materials offered. The majority of the Kingscott materials cover the city of Kalamazoo. Second, anything related to southwestern Michigan was chosen, and, finally, materials related to Michigan in general were selected. In addition, several out-of-state projects were chosen due to their unique nature. In 1989, more plans were added to the Kingscott collection. These were primarily buildings at Western Michigan University designed and or renovated by Kingscott. The Kingscott blueprints for the Kalamazoo public school buildings are housed in East Hall, but the majority of the Kingscott collection is in off-site storage, where it can be retrieved by staff upon request.

Because of its historical coverage and size, the Kingscott & Associates Collection contains blueprints and photographs for all of the following building categories: commercial and industrial; religious; educational; recreational; health facilities; penal institutions; public buildings; military structures; and transportation, communications, and scientific structures.

An inventory of the earlier drawings received in 1980 was provided by Kingscott, but later acquisitions do not have an inventory or a finding aid, which makes access more time consuming, but not impossible. While the Regional History Collections does not have the entire run of the Kingscott architectural materials from 1935 through late 1980, there are enough blueprints, photographs, negatives, and correspondence to make this the largest and most significant collection of architectural design in the Regional History Collections.

While preparing this article, two additional collections came to my attention as key research resources found in WMU's architectural databank. First, our "blueprints of the past" would not be complete without mentioning the very first set of drawings that the Regional History Collections received. They are not by a local architect, but are of an important landmark on Kalamazoo's historic landscape. In 1878, the LADIES LIBRARY ASSOCIATION in Kalamazoo built the first structure erected by a women's literary group in the United States. The drawing of hand colored ink on linen drawings is not only beautiful to look at, but extremely practical as well. The blueprints were invaluable in the 1975 and 1991 restorations to the century old building when copies were made for the consulting architects. The unique building, still maintained and used by the Ladies Library Association as well as for many special cultural events, is on the National Register of Historic Places.

The last set of blueprints brings us full circle to the windows of East Hall and the campus itself. Numerous architectural drawings are available for buildings and landscaping located on WMU's campus. The most famous are the Olmsted brothers drawings for landscaping the East Campus, or Prospect Hill, as it is called on the 1904 drawings. Additional world-renowned landscaping designed by Frederick Law Olmsted, and later his sons, includes the original landscaping of Central Park in New York City, Belle Isle Park in Detroit, the grounds of the 1893 Columbian World's Fair, and the grounds at the Biltmore Estate in North Carolina.

The original Prospect Hill plans submitted to the State Board of Education proved to be too costly, and were modified. There are 11 sheets of drawings, showing the exact location of proposed plantings. A botanical list is included on one of the sheets and a copy is also found in the Papers of Dwight B. Waldo. Nothing physical remains today of the modified plan but, as the University plans for WMU's Centennial in 2003, these drawings have been of considerable interest to our own landscape staff as well as those interested in the history, preservation, and restoration of the East Campus.

Also found in the University Archives, not the Regional History Collections, are select older architectural drawings of East Hall and some buildings of the West Campus such as Wood Hall. The Archives material has not been cataloged and is not generally open to the public. This is also true of a large collection of the more contemporary blueprints of the University's buildings held by the Planning Department of Campus Facilities. Regardless, the University and the Regional History Collections are preserving a significant portion of the architectural record of the University. Indeed, as with all of our "blueprints of the past," future researchers will be able to see through the eyes of creative, imaginative designers who established, through their design, the solid and enduring structures that define our living space.