
Greene & Greene Virtual Archives, 1885-1957

Collection number: GGVA-01

Environmental Design Archives

University of Southern California
Los Angeles, California

Processed by:

Greene & Greene Virtual Archives staff

Date Completed:

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Encoded by:

Dayna Holz

Funding:

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Descriptive Summary

Title: Greene & Greene virtual archives,

Date (inclusive): 1885-1957

Collection number: GGVA-01

Collector: Greene & Greene Virtual Archives

Extent: Total 3,823 images available for viewing on the Internet Avery Fine Arts Library, Columbia University (1822 images); Environmental Design Archives, University of California, Berkeley (941 images); The Gamble House/Greene & Greene Archives, University of Southern California (1060 images)

Repository Information: Avery Library

Columbia University Web site: [http://www.columbia.edu/cu/lweb/indiv/avery/Finding aid:](http://www.columbia.edu/cu/lweb/indiv/avery/Finding%20aid)

<http://www.columbia.edu/cu/lweb/eresources/archives/avery/test.htm>

Environmental Design Archives. College of Environmental Design.

University of California, Berkeley. Web site: <http://www.ced.berkeley.edu/cedarchives> Finding aid:

<http://www.oac.cdlib.org/dynaweb/ead/berkeley/ceda/greene/>

Gamble House (Pasadena, Calif.)

University of Southern California Web site: <http://www.gamblehouse.org/>

Greene and Greene Archives

University of Southern California Web site: <http://www.gamblehouse.org/archives> Finding aid:

<http://www.usc.edu/dept/architecture/greeneandgreene/findingaid>

Abstract: The Greene & Greene Virtual Archives (GGVA) contains images of drawings, sketches, photographs, correspondence, and other historical documents related to the work of the architects Greene & Greene.

Physical location: For current information on the location of these materials, please contact individual repositories.

Language: English

Access

Refer to individual repositories for access materials.

Publication Rights

All requests for permission to publish, reproduce, or quote from materials in the collection should be discussed with the repository holding the particular item.

Preferred Citation

Refer to individual repository finding aids.

Acquisition Information

Collections were acquired by individual repositories.

Funding

This project funded by a grant from the J. Paul Getty Trust.

Access Points

Greene, Henry Mather, 1870-1954.

Greene, Charles Sumner, 1868-1957.

Greene & Greene.

Architects -- California.

Architecture -- California.

Arts and crafts movement -- California.

Architect-designed furniture.

Architecture, Domestic.

Project Abstract

The Greene & Greene Virtual Archives (GGVA) contains images of drawings, sketches, photographs, correspondence, and other historical documents related to the work of the architects Greene & Greene, the southern California design firm (active 1894-1922) that is often associated with the finest architecture and craftsmanship of the American Arts and Crafts Movement. Recent photographic documentation of the firm's furniture and other decorative arts is also presented as part of the GGVA. A key characteristic of this project is the searchable image database which provides digital representations and text information for public study. While the web site presents a generous selection of Greene & Greene material that indicate the depth and breadth of the four collections, it is not comprehensive, and does not include a digital image of every item held by or housed at each repository. Each institution was responsible for its own processing and cataloging of images, therefore image reproduction quality and data accuracy will vary. Please see each institution's finding aid for further details.

The GGVA is made possible by a generous grant from the J. Paul Getty Trust under the Electronic Cataloguing Initiative of the Getty Grant Program. With the objective of creating a single visual resource for Greene & Greene researchers, homeowners, students, and the general public, the GGVA brings together selected material from the four major Greene & Greene collections: the Avery Architectural and Fine Arts Library at Columbia University in the City of New York; the Environmental Design Archives at the University of California, Berkeley (UCB); The Gamble House, University of Southern California (USC), in Pasadena, California; and the Greene & Greene Archives, USC at The Huntington Library Art Collections and Botanical Gardens in San Marino, California. Because of the geographical separation of these repositories, they agreed that it would be of significant benefit to researchers, homeowners, students, and others interested in the work of Greene & Greene to have access to a multi-repository selection of work as digital images presented on the Internet.

Website Specifications

Approximately 4000 of the most important and frequently requested materials from the four collaborating repositories are available for viewing at the GGVA website. Standards developed and refined by the California Digital Library have been used for cataloging and presentation. All images are accompanied with descriptive information. In a spirit of providing comprehensive universal access to the world's primary cultural and historical resources, the GGVA facilitates access and use by making a large portion of the collections available on the Internet. The website is both a portal to the work of the architects Greene & Greene and a resource for information about them. The collaborating institutions have created content to this end by providing:

- * Information about the architects' design projects selected for the GGVA
- * Reference material, such as a bibliography and a list of links to significant websites
- * A searchable image database of both personal papers and project records
- * Links to the finding aids of each repository's Greene & Greene collection

For a detailed description of the project and to view images, please refer to the project website:
<http://www.usc.edu/dept/architecture/greeneandgreene> (please copy and paste website address)

Charles Sumner and Henry Mather Greene Biography

Charles Sumner Greene was born on October 12, 1868, to Lelia Ariana Mather Greene and Thomas Sumner Greene in Cincinnati, Ohio. Fifteen months later, on January 23, 1870, Henry Mather Greene was born. The family later moved to St. Louis where, as teenagers, Charles and Henry attended Calvin Woodward's Manual Training School of Washington University, which offered a revolutionary curriculum based on the education of the hand as well as the mind. This early training was the primary source of the brothers' focus on tools, materials, and craftsmanship. In 1888, the brothers enrolled in the architectural program at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Boston. In 1891, both brothers completed their studies with Certificates of Partial Course, the two-year program followed by most MIT architecture students. They then apprenticed with several of the finest architectural firms in Boston, including those whose principals had been associates of the noted Henry Hobson Richardson.

In 1893, the Greene brothers traveled west to Pasadena to visit their parents, who had moved from St. Louis the previous year, and in the fall of 1894, they opened their architectural practice.

Henry Mather Greene married Emeline Augusta Dart in 1899, and in 1901, Charles wed Alice Gordon White. Charles and Alice's four-month honeymoon in England, Scotland and Europe sparked Charles' interest in the English Arts and Crafts Movement.

Activity in the Greene & Greene office was at its peak during the years 1902-1910, with primary focus on residential design. It was during this period that they created some of their finest work. By 1903, Greene & Greene began to offer integrated design services for their clients, providing design and construction supervision of furniture and other interior appointments. They completed approximately 150 projects during these prolific years.

After 1911 the practice began to decline because Greene & Greene designs demanded higher fees and clients experienced frequent schedule overruns. The situation became unacceptable to most clients and by 1916, the brothers' personal interests diverged. Charles moved to Carmel, California to pursue other creative paths, while Henry continued the firm's work in Pasadena until the dissolution of the firm in 1922. Henry practiced independently after the separation and Charles, too, worked on occasional commissions into the 1940s, most being additions and renovations for former clients.

The death of Henry's wife in 1935 affected him deeply, and he had little work after that. He reunited with Charles, however, on a few commissions. Charles managed to remain more active in architecture during the Depression of the 1930s, but his interests soon shifted to passionate study of Eastern philosophy, spiritualism and creative writing. Henry died October 2, 1954, in Pasadena, California and Charles died on June 11, 1957 in Carmel-by-the-Sea, California.

The Greene & Greene Legacy

Charles and Henry Greene are widely considered to have brought high-art aesthetics and exquisite craftsmanship to the American Arts and Crafts Movement in the early part of the 20th century. Their work continues to be exhibited worldwide and is included in decorative arts collections in museums in the United States and throughout Europe. Greene & Greene designs strongly influenced California's architectural heritage. Their work has had international significance as well, inspiring countless architects and designers around the world through a legacy of extant structures, scholarly books and articles. They were recognized by the American Institute of Architects in 1952 for contributing to a "new and native architecture" and are generally credited with fostering a new way of considering buildings and their furnishings as examples of artistic craft.

Popular architecture and design magazines such as *The Craftsman*, *House Beautiful*, *The International Studio*, *Country Life in America*, *House and Garden*, *Good Housekeeping*, and *American Home and Garden* began featuring articles on Greene & Greene work in 1902, this acclaim helped spread their designs throughout the country. The rediscovery of their work by the architectural press in the 1950s created a new group of admirers who celebrated their distinctly American interpretation of the Arts and Crafts style as an antidote to the International style, which had gained popularity in Europe and elsewhere.

Today, the current generation of Greene & Greene aficionados tour the Greene & Greene residences and other buildings in California with reverence, like pilgrims paying homage to honored monuments. The Gamble House, one of their masterpieces, receives 30,000 visitors a year from all over the world. Recently available public tours of the Thorsen and Blacker houses drew thousands of visitors and raised awareness of both Greene & Greene residential architecture and furniture design. Interior, architectural design, and architectural history journals such as *Style 1900* and *American Bungalow* are now full of vendors offering reproductions of their furniture and other decorative arts.

Scope and Contents Note

The Greene & Greene Virtual Archives (GGVA) contains digital images of drawings, sketches, photographs, correspondence, and other historical documents related to the lives and work of the architects Charles Sumner and Henry Mather Greene, founders of the southern

California design firm Greene & Greene (active 1894-1922) that is often associated with the finest architecture and craftsmanship of the American Arts and Crafts Movement. Recent photographic documentation of the firm's furniture and other decorative arts is presented as part of the GGVA.

The GGVA is organized into three series: Personal Papers, Office Records and Project Records. Series I: Personal Papers includes correspondence with family and friends, art work, certificates, awards and documentation of creative interests including Charles Greene's fictional writing, poetry and essays. It covers the years 1885-1957. Series II: Office Records contains professional correspondence with colleagues in the field and related professions, Greene & Greene office photographs, business correspondence, time sheets and other documents that reflect the daily business of the Greene & Greene firm. It covers the years 1904-1942. Series III: Project Records is the largest part of the Greene & Greene Virtual Archives and contains drawings (both of buildings and furniture), specifications, sketches, photographs and correspondence between the Greenes, clients, vendors and craftspeople. It also contains a selection of documentation of Greene & Greene furniture and decorative art work. It covers the years 1894-1947.

To view images, please refer to the project website: <http://www.usc.edu/dept/architecture/greeneandgreene> (please copy and paste web address)

Project Index

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 - C. J. Willett House, (Pasadena, California, 1904)
 - Dr. Nathan H. Williams House, (Altadena, California, 1915-1916)
 - Dr. Nathan H. Williams House Garage, (Altadena, California, 1916)
 - Mrs. O.G. Wilson House, (Los Angeles, California, 1922)
 - Charles S. Witbeck House, (Santa Monica, California, 1916-1917)
 - Charles S. Witbeck House Garage, (Santa Monica, California, 1917)

Related Collections

Harwell Hamilton Harris papers 1906-1990, Alexander Architectural Library, University of Texas at Austin --
<http://www.lib.utexas.edu/apl/aaa/collections.html> (A partial typescript of the Greene & Greene job book, along with notes by Jean Murray Bangs reside in this collection.)

Prints and Drawings Collection, The Octagon, Museum of the American Architectural Foundation, Washington, D.C.--
<http://www.archfoundation.org/octagon/index.htm> (Charles Greene's drawings of the D.L. James House reside in this collection.)

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I. Personal Papers, 1885-1957

Physical Description: 395 images

A. Family Correspondence 1890-1948,

Physical Description: 41 images

Scope and Content Note

Includes correspondence between Henry Mather Greene and Charles Sumner Greene, correspondence between the Greene brothers and other family members.

B. Education 1885-1890,

Physical Description: 3 images

Scope and Content Note

Images are of studies, sketches, drawings and watercolors from the Greenes' student years.

C. Photographs 1887-1947,

Physical Description: 219 images

Scope and Content Note

Included here are personal photographs of the Greenes', their family, friends and professional associates

D. Creative works 1888-1916,

Physical Description: 64 images

Scope and Content Note

A variety of personal notebooks, poetry, and essays, including Charles Sumner Greene's extensive notes on Claude Bragdon's *The Beautiful Necessity*, some early paintings and sketches.

E. Financial Records 1916-1928,

Physical Description: 26 images

Scope and Content Note

Includes some correspondence with vendors, receipts, bank records, notes.

I. Personal Papers, 1885-1957

F. Professional Papers 1914-1957,

F. Professional Papers 1914-1957,

Physical Description: 30 images

Scope and Content Note

Documents of professional associations, memberships, honors.

G. Ephemera 1890-1922,

Physical Description: 12 images

Scope and Content Note

Certificates and awards, City Planning records.

II. Office Records, 1904-1942

Physical Description: 31 images

A. Correspondence and Business Records 1911-1942,

Physical Description: 21 images

Scope and Content Note

Includes photographs of Greene & Greene office, Correspondence between the Greenes and other architects including Frank Lloyd Wright, patent certificates, time sheets.

B. Vendor Files 1904-1937,

Physical Description: 10 images

Scope and Content Note

Includes correspondence between the firm, vendors and clients

Project Records, 1894-1947

Physical Description: more than 3,000 images

Scope and Content Note

Project- records, correspondence, drawings, and photographs are organized by client or project name. A list that contains the project/client name, geographic location, and dates for all projects within the GGVA can be found in the Project Index.

Guide to the drawings and photographs from The Avery Fine Arts Library, Columbia University

Contributing Institution: Avery Architecture and Fine Arts Library

Columbia University in the City of New York 1172 Amsterdam Ave. New York, NY 10027 212-854-6738

<http://www.columbia.edu/cu/lweb/indiv/avery>

Physical Description: 1822 items in the GGVA (chiefly consists of architectural drawings dated ca. 1896-ca.1931)

Scope and Content Note

Greene & Greene documents were donated to Avery Library in 1960 by Jean Murray Bangs. Charles and Henry Greene had provided the records to Ms. Bangs while she prepared to write a book on the Greenes' work. A second group of records, mainly photographs, was donated to the Avery Architectural and Fine Arts Library after the death of Ms. Bangs by her husband, architect Harwell Hamilton Harris. The Greene & Greene collection consists of 4,764 drawings, 585 photographs, and two boxes of archival material, the dates ranging from ca. 1896-1931. The Greene & Greene drawings represent approximately 120 projects with related notes, correspondence, and specifications for designs located primarily in California. Approximately 1822 drawings and photographs were selected for inclusion in the Greene & Greene Virtual Archives. There is a unique group of photographs of Greene & Greene projects by the photographer Leroy Hulbert.

View Finding Aid at: <http://www.columbia.edu/cu/lweb/eresources/archives/avery/greene>

Guide to the drawings and photographs selected from The Environmental Design Archives, University of California, Berkeley

Contributing Institution: Environmental Design Archives

University of California, Berkeley 230 Wurster Hall #1820 Berkeley, CA

94720-1820510-642-5124 archives@socrates.berkeley.edu <http://www.ced.berkeley.edu/cedarchives>

Physical Description: 941 items in the GGVA

Scope and Content Note

The Charles Sumner Greene Collection contains a wide range of material from his Carmel, California home and studio, donated by the Charles Greene family in 1959. These records document Greene's personal and professional life, and include items from the period 1862-1956, as well as correspondence and project records from Henry Mather Greene and the Greene & Greene firm. The collection is organized into four series 1. Personal Papers, 2. Office Records, 3. Project Records, and 4. Additional Donations. The Personal Papers series is comprised largely of correspondence with family members, family photographs, education materials (mostly from MIT), records of Charles Greene's travels, honor awards, professional memberships, and material documenting his creative interests. The Office Records document the administration of the Greenes' architectural practice and contains correspondence, standard office material such as time sheets and receipts, catalogs, samples, vendor and craftsmen correspondence. The project records such as drawings, specifications, sketches, photographs, and client and firm correspondence make up the largest part of the collection. The Additional Donations series contains ancillary material related to the Greene collection such as Roy Flamm photographs of Charles' Carmel studio commissioned by the College of Architecture. Selected for inclusion in the Greene & Greene Virtual Archives project is a representation of each series, with a strong focus on the project records.

View Finding Aid at: <http://www.oac.cdlib.org/dynaweb/ead/berkeley/ceda/greene/>

Guide to the drawings and photographs selected from The Gamble House and The Greene and Greene Archives, University of Southern California

Contributing Institution: The Gamble House

4 Westmoreland Place Pasadena, CA 91103626-793-3334 <http://www.gamblehouse.org/>

Contributing Institution: Greene and Greene Archives

University of Southern California The Huntington Library 1151 Oxford Rd. San Marino, CA 91108626-405-2232

<http://www.gamblehouse.org/>

Physical Description: 1060 items in the GGVA

Scope and Content Note

The decorative arts collection at The Gamble House, University of Southern California consisted initially of furnishings given with the house by the Gamble family in 1966 to the City of Pasadena in a joint agreement with USC. Subsequent gifts of Greene & Greene objects and decorative arts from the Arts and Crafts period have significantly increased the size of the collection and help to better interpret and contextualize the work of Greene & Greene. Most of the collection's decorative arts are housed at The Gamble House, USC and in the Greene & Greene exhibition gallery within the Virginia Steele Scott Gallery at The Huntington Library in San Marino, California. The Decorative Arts and Furniture Collection includes furniture made for the Gamble House, the Thorsen House, the Bolton House, the Robinson House, and the Cordelia Culbertson House, as well as individual pieces made for Mrs. Willis Walker, Mary J. Moore, and Belle Barlow Bush, when she resided in the Bolton House. Also included are views of the interior of the Gamble House, showing interior details such as the living room friezes, art glass light fixtures and windows, the main staircase, and fireplaces. Furniture from houses other than the Gamble House is housed at the Huntington Library, Art Galleries and Botanical Gardens, where a replica of the Robinson dining room has been built to display the Robinson dining room furniture and ceiling lantern. A selection of recent photographic documentation of the firm's furniture and other decorative arts is presented as part of the Greene & Greene Virtual Archives.

The Greene & Greene Archives, USC within the Huntington Library is an eclectic collection of Greene & Greene materials. Since its inception, over four hundred donors have given Greene & Greene a wide variety of items including original job files containing client and vendor correspondence, original drawings, drawing surrogates from other repositories, personal correspondence, specifications, contracts, post cards, invoices, notes, building permits, advertisements, philosophical writings, books, newspaper and magazine articles about Greene & Greene or their projects, memorabilia, sketchbooks, and scrapbooks. These items have been divided into three groups: 1) original documents that were among the personal or firm records of architects Greene & Greene 2) Gamble family records, and 3) reference materials. The reference collection of secondary materials consists of letters, snapshots of the Greene & Greene houses at various times, postcards, owner obituaries, published articles about the houses and an array of miscellany and ephemera that are organized by project. Generally, only primary resource documents from the first two groups, or those created by Charles or Henry Greene or the Greene & Greene firm, have been selected for the GGVA.

View Finding Aid at: <http://www.usc.edu/dept/architecture/greeneandgreene/findingaid>