

Arts & Humanities Council Meeting of November 2, 2023

10:00-11:30 am

[Agenda link](#)

Facilitator: L. Cunningham

Minutes: R. Haber

In attendance: Lynn Cunningham, Ruth Haber, Betsey Frederick-Rothwell, Jianye He, Sheehan Grant, Naomi Shiraishi, Claude Potts, Adnan Malik, Toshie Marra, José Adrián Barragán-Álvarez, Abby Scheel, Scott Peterson

1. Announcements:

(L. Cunningham): Planned guest, Oliver Murray (Maker Education Service Lead) cannot attend today.

(C. Potts): Tonight at 5pm: Goncourt Prize Winning author Mohamed Mbougar Sarr will talk about his novel *La plus secrète mémoire des hommes* (*The Most Secret Memory of Men*) at the French Department Library (4229 Dwinelle). Sarr is the youngest recipient of the prestigious Goncourt prize since 1976 and the first from sub-Saharan Africa. (Talk in English).

(L. Cunningham): Betsey Frederick-Rothwell is joining the Arts and Humanities Council!

2. Guest: Betsey Frederick-Rothwell, Curator, Environmental Design Archives (20-25 min.)

The [Environmental Design Archives](#) (EDA) is one of UCB Libraries' six *affiliated* libraries. EDA reports to the College of Environmental Design. Betsey will discuss EDA history, access, and current events.

- a) **History of Environmental Design Archives:** Initially conceived as a repository of teaching resources for architectural students, the collection was begun, in the then-Architectural College, by Prof. William Wurster, in 1950s. Viewing the traditional Beaux Arts architectural training (in historical styles) as outdated, and looking towards models coming out of interwar Germany (such as Bauhaus and Dessau), leadership of the college sought to provide students with other reference points in their training. Aiming to promote a modern approach to architecture, the college also stressed the architecture of this region: the Bay Area and northern California.

The archive has grown from one to over two hundred collections – in architecture and landscape architecture --, and attracts researchers from all over world. The archive's strengths are 20th c. and mid-20th century, with collections organized by creator. It's comprised mainly of drawings, photos, and documentation: from John Galen Howard to mid-late 20th c architecture, as well as collections like the Heath ceramics. When the

Architecture department merged with City Planning and Landscape Architecture departments, that also influenced the collections. [Collections](#) are organized by creator; we also provide [project indexes](#) (to discover materials across collections). And, our [exhibits](#) and curated [virtual collections](#) encourage people to think about our collections thematically. The archives are a document of place and time; we also want to be an instrument for change over time.

- b) **How to Access EDA Collections:** Archive access is by appointment based; however, we are here in 280 Bauer Wurster Hall every day, and encourage users to stop in for consultations. We can help with individual research, focused instruction sessions, group tours, and digitization requests.

We provide an [EDA LibGuide](#) (with a “[how to find materials](#)” section). The best way to find our materials (and info on the archives) is via our website:

<http://ced.berkeley.edu/archives>. (Use the portals to search for architects, landscape architects, architectural photographers, etc). Each collection has a high-level description (an alternative to launching directly into the finding aid). We also offer:

- **Project index:** scope (and specifics of) what we have for each project
 - **Finding aids:** connect via EDA main page or OAC. (OAC is helpful for cross-collection research)
 - **Virtual collections** : e.g. Blake Gardens (materials from EDA collections); Sea Ranch (& its influence on CA and modern design) – from various collections, including one at UPenn
 - **Exhibits:** 2-3 per year, at EDA, with a subsequent digital version. Give a sense of the collections. Recent: on Wurster Hall. Current: MSWM women-owned design firm (Ferry Building renovation; Mission Bay). Upcoming: BART system.
 - **Digital items on CDL/Calisphere:** looking to increase our contribution, esp. our landscape collections
- c) **Current EDA projects & events:**
- [Chair competition](#) (seating element to be made at CED & permanently installed in EDA)
 - [Research Fellowships](#) (e.g., urban renewal in SF; mid-century landscape designers work with native plants)
 - **Lectures** (tonight: MSWM Cathy Simon will speak this evening “Occupation: Boundary --”)

Note: we notice that many first-time visitors remark that they never knew about EDA. In your work with students, please spread the word about EDA.

3. Next Arts and Humanities Council meeting: December 7, 2023