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Finding aid for the Grand Rapids Public Library furniture design and designers collection Collection 276

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Prepared by R. Mayne

Grand Rapids History Center

111 Library Street NE
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503

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URL: <https://www.grpl.org/research/history/>

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Summary Information

Repository:	Grand Rapids History Center
Title:	Grand Rapids Public Library furniture design and designers collection
ID:	Collection 276
ID [Archivists Toolkit Database::RESOURCE]:	284
Date:	no date
Physical Description:	2.8 Linear Feet Six boxes
Language of the Material:	English .
Abstract:	This is a devised collection that brings together small and unknown accessions of materials under this general topic. It also contains research materials identified by staff through reference requests, gathered together as biographical files or files on other topics, related specifically to the furniture designers of Grand Rapids, Michigan. Additional information on area furniture designers can also be found in many other GRPL archival collections.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

Grand Rapids History Center

111 Library Street NE
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503

localhis@grpl.org

URL: <https://www.grpl.org/research/history/>

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Accession numbers 00.[726].1; 00.[669].1; 00.[1993].1-6; 1993.016

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Related Materials

Related Materials

Information on individual furniture designers can be found on many other GRPL Archival Collections, and other types of departmental references.

Several photo collections exist which may contain information on furniture companies, furniture designers, or furniture. A few of these are: Coll. 054, the GRPL Photo Collection; Coll. 125, the Robinson Studio Collection and Coll. 230, the Rooks Studio Collection.

See also:

Collection 204, Grand Rapids Furniture Designers Association Records. This collection includes historical documents which originally belonged to this organization. Scrapbooks provides some information on numerous designers.

Collection 084, Furniture Manufacturers Association. Focuses on the buildings and manufacturing, with little information on designers.

Collection 232, GRPL Furniture Trade Catalog Collection. Some trade catalogs give the names of the designers, many do not.

Collection 233, GRPL Furniture Industry Collection. Includes mostly publications from the companies which may refer to or give information on the designers. Also includes miscellaneous periodicals which may refer to the designers.

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Controlled Access Headings

- Furniture design -- Michigan -- Grand Rapids
- Furniture industry and trade -- Michigan -- Grand Rapids
- Grand Rapids (Mich.) -- History

- Furniture designers -- Michigan -- Grand Rapids

Collection Inventory

Series I. GR Designers in General Histories

Title/Description	Instances
Grand Rapids Furniture Designers Association / C.T. Witman. 1955. 1 folded sheet. Lists past presidents. 00.[2139].1	Box 1
History of Grand Rapids Furniture Designers' Workshop, 1976 / Charles T. Witman. 2007.075	Box 1
Grand Rapids Furniture Designers Association Directory, 1953. Formerly R749.048 G762d. c. 1 00.[2884].1	Box 1
Grand Rapids Furniture Designers Association Directory, 1953. Formerly R749.048 G762d. c. 2 00.[2137].1	Box 1
Grand Rapids Furniture Designers Association Directory, Dec. 1971. 00.[5260].1-2.	Box 1
Grand Rapids Furniture Designers Association Directory, April 1973. 00.[5260].1-2.	Box 1
Grand Rapids Furniture Designers Association Directory, Diamond Jubilee Directory	Box 1
Association Membership Directory. [1995]. 00.[2138].1	Box 1

General

Includes Past Presidents to 1994. Includes "A Short History of the Grand Rapids Furniture Designers Association" / by Charles T. Witman, 1969, Edited by Scott Dergins, with update by Deb Kimberlin. Includes Constitution and By-Laws, listed the various revision dates, to march 1995.

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Series II. Biographies

General

List of Known Grand Rapids Furniture Designers

- 1 Guido Alessandrini (Mr. & Mrs.)
- 2 William R. Balbach
- 3 Barnes, Victor S.

- 4 Baxter, Bob
- 5 Bebalacqua, Aurelio
- 6 Berg, Hans
- 7 Bjorncrantz, Carl
- 8 Blickley, Ed
- 9 Borneman, Louis
- 10 Boukma, John
- 11 Briggs, Sandy
- 12 Brower, John
- 13 Burton, Frank
- 14 Buzzitta, Giacomo "Jack"
- 15 Cameron, Thomas
- 16 Chatfield, Charles B.
- 17 Clark, Earl
- 18 Warner Rains Cleveland
- 19 Clingman, J. Stuart
- 20 Colleen, Mrs. Robert
- 21 Colleen, Robert
- 22 Frank Davidhazy
- 23 Deryke, Donald
- 24 DiFiglia, Joseph (Mr & Mrs)
- 25 Dryden, E.E
- 26 Eddy, George
- 27 Carl H. Eggebrecht
- 28 William H. Eggebrecht
- 29 Ford, Mrs.
- 30 Paul T. Frankl
- 31 Fry, Frank
- 32 Fry, Frank (Mr & Mrs)
- 33 Goebel, Jack
- 34 Graham, Charles
- 35 Green, Stanley
- 36 Taylor Green
- 37 Hall, Harvey
- 38 Hall, Leon
- 39 Handley, Tom
- 40 Hawk, Clayton
- 41 Hill, Fredrick
- 42 Hoffman, William
- 43 Hohnberg, Herman
- 44 Holt, William
- 45 Hompe, Alexander
- 46 Jiranek, Otto
- 47 Johnson, Phil
- 48 Johnson, Thomas
- 49 Kendall, David W.
- 50 Kimerly, William L
- 51 Kirkpatrick, James Russell
- 52 Kirkpatrick, Marie
- 53 Kirkpatrick, Mrs.
- 54 William K. Kleaver
- 55 Kohlstedt, Donald
- 56 Krause, Max
- 57 Kuppel, Fred
- 58 Latto, Donald
- 59 LeDonne, Gerard
- 60 Loewy, Raymond

- 61 Mailloux, Lawrence O.
- 62 Margantin, Adrien
- 63 William Millington
- 64 Morgan, Guy
- 65 Morton, John
- 66 Nieuwenhuis, Mike
- 67 Orr, Edgar
- 68 Pike, George
- 69 Pischner, Barry
- 70 T.H. Robsjohn-Gibbings
- 71 Ruppel, Fred
- 72 Rutili, Renzo
- 73 Sobota, Ray
- 74 Samuelson, John
- 75 Schmidt, Karl
- 76 Somes, Edgar
- 77 Stekette, Frank
- 78 Stuart, Claude
- 79 Michael E.C. Taylor
- 80 Teal, Arthur
- 81 TenHave, Herbert
- 82 Thompon, Donald
- 83 Thompon, Mrs. Donald
- 84 Tourre, Steve
- 85 Paul Tuttle
- 86 Hendrik Van Keppel
- 87 VandenBout, Adrian
- 88 Veen, James
- 89 Veen, Mrs. James Sr.
- 90 Vennell, Jesse
- 91 Warren, Henry
- 92 Westveer, Ray
- 93 Widdicombe, Harry
- 94 Widdicombe, Ralph
- 95 John B. Wisner
- 96 Witman, Charles
- 97 Witman, Charles (Mr & Mrs)

Title/Description	Instances
William A. Balbach	Box B1
Robert Blaich. Website biographies	Box B1

General

Website Biographies

- 1 IDSA Industrial Designers Society of America:
<http://new.idsa.org/webmodules/articles/anmviewer.asp?a=1970> [Broken Link] / <http://new.idsa.org> [Broken Link]
- 2 New Orleans Build Better Project [Broken Link]
- 3 Philips Electronics web pages [Broken Link]

- 4 Reddot Design Award web pages Source: <http://en.red-dot.org/191+M57eedde9313.html>
[Broken Link]

J. Stuart Clingman	Box B1
Eames. Ray Eames. Charles Eames. 1stdibs. http://www.1stdibs.com/furniture_search.php?type=3&i_creator=Eames+Ray+Charles	Box B1
Frederick E. Hill, Jr.	Box B1
Otto J. Jiranek	Box B1
Arthur Kirkpatrick	Box B1
Charles Limbert. Arts & Crafts. Arts & Crafts Society Web page: http://www.arts-crafts.com/archive/limbert.shtml . Accessed on 2019-03-14.	Box B1
Forrest Emerson Mann (Forest)	
<u>Related Materials:</u>	
Related Materials	
See biographical information in Coll. 224	
Paul McCobb, 1917-1969. Biographies from searchable sources	Box B1
Paul McCobb. Examples of Furniture from web sources.	Box B1
A. Linn Murray. Correspondence. Letter & Envelop, Aug. 18, 1895, per postal mark, from A. Linn Murray to his wife in Grand Rapids. On letterhead for The Norwood, Waverly, N.Y. 2009.044.2	Box B1
<u>Physical Description:</u> Hand written in black ink on lined paper, 5 sheets, 9 pages.	
General	
RE the life and strain of sales business & travel. Accompanied by a webpages showing a 1901 Ladies Home Journal ad for A. Linn Murray clock, Grand Rapids, Michigan.	
A. Linn Murray. Misc.	Box B1
George Nelson. Web pages. 1stdibs. Source: http://www.1stdibs.com/furniture_search.php?type=3&i_creator=George+Nelson	Box B1
William Pahlmann. Objects in the Loft site. Source: http://objectsintheloft.1stdibs.com/search.php	Box B1

T.H. Robsjohn Gibbings (Terence Harold Robsjohn-Gibbings, 1905-1976)

General

This section includes copies of some of the items cited. But, in other cases, users will need to see the location or item referenced on the following list of sources

Title/Description	Instances
Misc. Biographical	Box B1
Web Biographies	Box B1

General

Web Bios

- 1 Answer.com. Source: <http://www.answers.com/topic/t-h-robsjohn-gibblings> [Broken Link]
- 2 Lost City Arts. Source: <http://www.lostcityarts.com/designers/showcase/gibblings.htm> [Broken Link]
- 3 Time. Jan. 30, 1950. Source: <http://www.time.com/time/magazine/article/0,9171,856508,00.html>
- 4 WikipediaSource: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/T._H._Robsjohn-Gibblings
- 5 1stdibs [Broken Link]

Books

Title/Description	Instances
Good-bye, Mr. Chippendale / T.H. Robsjohn-Gibblings. Illustrated by Mary Petty. N.Y., Knopf, 1944.	Box B1

General

This item is currently in the departments book collection under: M749.2.R576, and also in general library storage. Photocopy of book jacket & copy of online catalog entry.

Furniture Manufacturer. March 1944. Book Review. Article from Pilastered.com website. Source: http://www.pilastered.com/reviews/good-bye-mr-chippendale [Broken Link]	Box B1
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Related Materials:

Related Materials

See also items listed in the online catalog for the Furniture Room, and for the general library collections.

Periodical Articles

Furniture Age, 1953-12	Box B1
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Furniture Forum All-American Gal [newspaper type clipping, only part of the article found], 1948-01-05	Box B1
Furniture Manufacturer & Artisan, 1944-06-01	Box B2
Furniture Manufacturer & Artisan, pg. 29, 1944-03	Box B2
Grand Rapids Furniture Forum (Report of the Grand Rapids Furniture forum) / Grand Rapids Furniture Exposition Association. Where is Madame X? / by T.H. Robsjohn-Gibbings. pg. 6-9, 1948-01-05 <u>Physical Location:</u> Located in Coll. 232, Box 2 and Coll. 84, Box 50.	
Home Furnishings Feb. 1954	Box 2

Newspaper clippings (photocopies)

Related Materials:

Related Materials

For trade literature, see Coll. 225 & Coll. 232

Title/Description	Instances
Grand Rapids Herald, 1947-01-09	Box B1
Grand Rapids Herald, 1948-01-06	Box B1
Grand Rapids Herald, 1950-08-11	Box B1
Grand Rapids Herald, 1954-01-04	Box B1
Grand Rapids Herald, 1954-02-16	Box B1
Grand Rapids Herald, 1959-06-24	Box B1
Grand Rapids Press, 1950-01-03	Box B1
Grand Rapids Press, 1956-07-02	Box B1

Web Illustrations.

Related Materials:

Related Materials

Coll. 125-H009604. Robinson Studio Collection. Herald Series negatives. Jan. 6, 1948. And perhaps also a newspaper article on microfilm for that date.

Coll. 204

Coll. 232

Coll. 225

Coll. 233

Departmental furniture periodicals and indexes.

Title/Description	Instances
cDecor.com Magazine, 2001-01	Box B1
An American in Paris. http://www.cdecor.com/magazine/eric.asp	Box B1
Lost City Arts. http://www.lostcityarts.com/designers/showcase/gibbings.htm	Box B1
1stdibs : the decorative arts source. http://www.1stdibs.com/furniture_search.php?type=3&i_creator=T.H.+Robsjohn-Gibbings	Box B1

Bill Stumpf

Title/Description	Instances
GR Press, 2006-09-01	Box B1
Designer made office more comfortable : Bill Stumpf created Herman Miller's iconic Aeron, other ergonomic chairs.	Box B1
GR Press Business Section C.	Box B1

Ralph Hewitt Widdicombe

Title/Description	Instances
Ralph Hewitt Widdicombe Materials	Box B1

Publications by or about Designers

Title/Description	Instances
A Brief Outline of Furniture History during the 18th Century / by Leon W. Hall, designer. G.R., Mi. 1937. Formerly R749.092.H144b 00.[726].1	Box 1
Design Piracy : plan adopted by the Furniture Code Authority for make effective section 4, article VIII, the Design Piracy Clause of the furniture Manufacturing Industry Codes. May 15, 1934.	Box 1
Details of Furniture Construction : a study ... / Arthur Kirkpatrick, Instructor, GR School of Designing. In Furniture Manufacturer & Artisan. Nov. 1920. p. 230 + "Rod making."—cover title/subject matter 00.[3993].1	Box 1
The Eames Lounge Chair : an Icon of Modern Design / Martin Eidelberg, Thomas Hine, Pat Kirkham, David A. Hanks, C. Ford Peatross. London ; N.Y. : Grand Rapids Art Museum in assoc. with Merrell, 2006. P2006.047.1	Box 1

Four Original Sources of Inspiration for Designs of Furniture / Arthur Kirkpatrick. Formerly M749.K63 00. [669].1	Box 1
44 Suggestions for Furniture Workers. Grand Rapids School of Designing, 542-545 Houseman Building. Furniture illustrations on a poster sized sheet, used as a mailer. Mailed to Herzog Art Furniture Co., Saginaw, Mi. Aug. 1915. Alternative title: Forty four suggestions ... P2009.038 <u>Physical Location:</u> Flat Files, oversize	
Full Instructions in the Art of Parchment Shade Making and Decorating. G.R. : Home Institute of Trades, 1921. Formerly MKG751.G76. Formerly bound with "Instructions in the Ar of Creating Oil ..." 00.[3179].1	Box 1
History of Furniture Designing ... / by Stephen M. Wirts. Detroit : Wolverine Manufacturing Co., 1915. ...Summary of an Address ... National Table Assoc. at Pittsburgh, Oct. 15, 1915. Univ. of Mich. Mar. 22, 1915, and Detroit Museum of Art, March, 26, 1915.. Formerly R749.09.W748. 00.[0545].1	Box 1
An Illustrated Story of Furniture and ornamentation / by Herman Holmberg, instructor of Furniture Design and Furniture Craft, George Davis Vocational and Technical High School. 1993.016	Box 2
Instructions in the Art of Creating Oil Colors and Color Blends for Parchment Shade Decorating. G.R. : Home Institute of Trades, 1921. Formerly MKG751.G76. Formerly bound with "Full Instructions in the Art of parchment ..." 00.[3173].1	Box 1
Nelson, Eames, Girard Propst : the design process at Herman Miller. Design Quarterly 98/99. 00.[2198].2 Accompanied by a Checklist of the Exhibit, Walker Art Center 25 November 1975-18 January 1976. 00.[2198].2a	Box 1
Salute to Grand Rapids Designers / by Jay Gary. Furniture Age, 1953-12	Box 1

General

Includes a photo and brief information on 14 Grand Rapids, MI designers

- 1 T.H. Robsjohn-Gibblings
- 2 Renzo R. Rutili
- 3 Paul T. Frankl
- 4 John B. Wisner
- 5 Hendrik Van Keppel and Taylor Green
- 6 William K. Kleaver
- 7 Herbert Ten Have
- 8 Warner Rains Cleveland
- 9 William Millington

- 10 William H. Eggebrecht
- 11 Carl H. Eggebrecht
- 12 Michael E.C. Taylor
- 13 Paul Tuttle

Oversized copy of Salute to Grand Rapids Designers	Box B2
The Symbolic Interpretation of Our Playing Cards / by Arthur Kirkpatrick. 1925.	Box 1
The Waddell Book of Projects : Designs of Furniture You Will Like to Build, c. 1931. P2002.026	Box 1

General

Includes attached inside front cover

- 1 Student Context (pink sheet)
- 2 Letter. "To Instructors and Teachers"

Waddell Manufacturing Co. illustrated trade letters, n.d. 00.[1993].1-6	Box 1
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General

Includes designs by Arthur Gommesson, Randolph R. Mohlhenrich (Baltimore)?, Kirkpatrick & Kirkpatrick, Henry Warren Jr., Mr. Guenaux, and illustrations by Oakley V. Weeks.

What is Beautiful in Furniture and Why, or the Historical Development of Furniture as Compared with the Passions of men / by Arthur Kirkpatrick. GR School of Designing. Illustrated by Lyle Newman. GR : Mills Printing Co., [1910]. Formerly MKG749.K63. 00.[3175].1	Box 1
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General

Other illustrations included

- 1 Arthur Kirkpatrick. Sketched by student Frank Johnson, Chicago.
- 2 Suggestion for Cigar Store Outfit / R.B. Leibius, Jr. (Robert Leibius, the Designer for Kansas City Show Case Works). Interior Perspective showing counter set up and wall treatment.
- 3 A Detail and sketch of rocker. A cut from one of our lesson plates. Source not given.

What the Furniture Designer Sees in Mythology / by Arthur Kirkpatrick, Instructor & Designer of the GR School of Designing. G.R. : Duhamel Printing Co., n.d. 00. [5611].1	Box 1
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Why are Period Styles Evolved? / A. Kirkpatrick. Grand Rapids School of Designing. Formerly MKG740.K63. 00.[3176].1	Box 1
What Suggested Form or Design of figures / by Arthur Kirkpatrick. GR School of Designing, n.d. Formerly MKG740.K63. c.1 00.[3177].1 Bound with "Why are Period Styles Evolved?" / c.2 00.[3177].2	Box 1
What Suggested Form or Design of figure seven (7) / by Arthur Kirkpatrick. GR School of Designing, n.d.. Formerly MKG740.K63. 00.[3178].1 Bound with "Why are Period Styles Evolved?"	Box 1
Ornament by Arthur Kirkpatrick, Instructor, Grand Rapids School of Furniture Designing	Box 1

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Series III. Original Designs

Witman

Scope and Contents

Original designs of library furniture by Chas. T. Witman, Grand Rapids. (Formerly R 849.212 .W781)

Title/Description	Instances	
Charging Desk. Colonial Design. A.	Box 2	Folder 1
Charging Desk. Colonial Design. B.	Box 2	Folder 2
Charging Desk. Colonial Design. B.	Box 2	Folder 3
Charging Desk. Colonial Design. A.	Box 2	Folder 4
Dictionary Stand. Colonial Design. A.	Box 2	Folder 5
Rectangular Table. Colonial Design. B.	Box 2	Folder 6
Dictionary Stand. Colonial Design. B.	Box 2	Folder 7
Magazine Rack. B.	Box 2	Folder 8
Magazine Rack. Colonial Design. A.	Box 2	Folder 9
Periodical Rack and File. Colonial Design. B.	Box 2	Folder 10
Periodical Rack and File. Colonial Design. A.	Box 2	Folder 11
Table. 30 ½	Box 2	Folder 12
Periodical Rack and File. 33.	Box 2	Folder 13
Periodical Rack and File. 34.	Box 2	Folder 14
Magazine Rack. 27.	Box 2	Folder 15

Magazine Rack. 28.	Box 2	Folder 16
Table. 31	Box 2	Folder 17
Magazine Rack. 28 ½	Box 2	Folder 18
Dictionary Stand. 26.	Box 2	Folder 19
Dictionary Stand. 25.	Box 2	Folder 20
Table. 29.	Box 2	Folder 21
Table. 30.	Box 2	Folder 22
Wainscot Table. Colonial Design. 32.	Box 2	Folder 23
Straight Charging Desk. 1.	Box 2	Folder 24
Straight Charging Desk. 2.	Box 2	Folder 25
Straight Charging Desk. 3.	Box 2	Folder 26
Straight Charging Desk. 4.	Box 2	Folder 27
Straight Charging Desk. 5.	Box 2	Folder 28
Straight Charging Desk. 6.	Box 2	Folder 29
Octagonal Charging Desk. 7.	Box 2	Folder 30
Octagonal Charging Desk. 8.	Box 2	Folder 31
Odd Chairs. 23.	Box 2	Folder 32
Odd Chairs. 24.	Box 2	Folder 33
Octagonal Charging Desk. 9.	Box 2	Folder 34
Octagonal Charging Desk. 10.	Box 2	Folder 35
Octagonal Charging Desk. 11.	Box 2	Folder 36
Octagonal Charging Desk. 12.	Box 2	Folder 37
Shelving. 13.	Box 2	Folder 38
Shelving. 14.	Box 2	Folder 39
60 Tray Cabinet with leg base. 15.	Box 2	Folder 40
60 Tray Cabinet. Special Design. 16.	Box 2	Folder 41
60 Tray Cabinet with leg base. 17.	Box 2	Folder 42
60 Tray Cabinet with leg base. 18.	Box 2	Folder 43
60 Tray Cabinet, cupboard base. 19.	Box 2	Folder 44
[Chair] 22.	Box 2	Folder 45
Pennsylvania Type Windsor. Reproduction. 21	Box 2	Folder 46
[Chairs] 20.	Box 2	Folder 47

Filing Equipment Bureau. Product Sheet.	Box 2	Folder 48
Twelve blueprints. These have A-B lettering, and may correspond to the first 11 drawings above.	Box 2	Folder 49
Designs & sketches for Furniture in the Neo-Jacobean & other styles / by Bernard E. Smith, arch. Strand : 8 Buckingham St. ; London, printed by C.F. Kell, 1876. Reprint? (Formerly R749.222.Sm52) Nov. 1908 Accession 102857	Box 3	
One Hundred Designs with Full details of 'Easy-to-make' furniture / issued by Crater & Holt. G.R., Mich. N.d. (Formerly R 849.084 .C85) "Copyrighted"—stamped on intro page Accession 151451	Box 3	

Guido Alessandrini

Title/Description	Instances	
Biographical information [2019.065]	Box 4	Folder 1
Portfolio of drawings done for Peter Brill Mfg. Co. of Zeeland, MI. [2019.065], 1945	Box 4	Folder 1

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