



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

Oral history interview with Pietro Belluschi

Funding for the digital preservation of this interview was provided by a grant from the Save America's Treasures Program of the National Park Service.

Archives of American Art
750 9th Street, NW
Victor Building, Suite 2200
Washington, D.C. 20001
<https://www.aaa.si.edu/services/questions>
<https://www.aaa.si.edu/>

Table of Contents

Collection Overview	1
Administrative Information	1
General.....	2
Scope and Contents.....	1
Scope and Contents.....	1
Biographical / Historical.....	1
Names and Subjects	2
Container Listing	

Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Oral history interview with Pietro Belluschi
Identifier:	AAA.bellus83
Date:	1983 August 22-September 4
Creator:	Belluschi, Pietro, 1899-1994 (Interviewee) Clausen, Meredith L. (Interviewer)
Extent:	78 Pages (Transcript)
Language:	English .
Digital Content:	Digital Content: Oral history interview with Pietro Belluschi, 1983 August 22-September 4, Transcript Audio: Oral history interview with Pietro Belluschi, 1983 August 22-September 4, Digital Sound Recording (Excerpt)

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

This interview is part of the Archives' Northwest Oral History Project, begun in 1982 to document the Northwest artistic community through interviews with painters, sculptors, craftsmen, educators, curators, and others, in Oregon, Washington and Montana.

Location of Originals

Transcript also available at the University of Washington, Manuscripts Collection, and at the Oregon Historical Society.

Biographical / Historical

Pietro Belluschi (1899-1994) was an architect from Portland, Oregon.

Scope and Contents

An interview of Pietro Belluschi conducted 1983 August 22-September 4, by Meredith Clausen, for the Archives of American Art's Northwest Oral History Project.

Scope and Contents

Belluschi speaks of his family background, his military service, his education, the beginning of his interest and experience in architecture, his gradual transition into modernism and his experiences as a dean at M.I.T. He discusses his design philosophy and the roles of style versus problem solving, shopping center design,

church design, the stylistic differences between architects, and historic preservation. He comments on the influence of Le Corbusier and Alvar Aalto on his work and talks about some of his major designs, including the Portland Art Museum, the Equitable Building, the Seattle Convention Center, and others.

General

Originally recorded on 8 sound cassettes. Reformatted in 2010 as 14 digital wav files. Duration is 7 hrs., 10 min.

Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:

- Architects -- Oregon -- Portland -- Interviews
- Architecture -- United States
- Church architecture -- United States

Types of Materials:

- Interviews
- Sound recordings

Names:

- Aalto, Alvar, 1898-1976
- Le Corbusier, 1887-1965
- Massachusetts Institute of Technology