



Smithsonian  
*Archives of American Art*

A Finding Aid to the Olav Hammarstrom Papers,  
1939-1980, in the Archives of American Art

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Archives of American Art  
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<https://www.aaa.si.edu/services/questions>  
<https://www.aaa.si.edu/>

# Table of Contents

Collection Overview .....	1
Administrative Information .....	1
Biographical / Historical.....	2
Scope and Contents.....	2
Names and Subjects .....	2
Container Listing .....	4
Series 1: Olav Hammarstrom Papers, 1939-1980.....	4

## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives of American Art
<b>Title:</b>	Olav Hammarstrom papers
<b>Identifier:</b>	AAA.hammolav
<b>Date:</b>	1939-1980
<b>Extent:</b>	0.7 Linear feet
<b>Creator:</b>	Hammarstrom, Olav, 1906-2002
<b>Language:</b>	English
<b>Summary:</b>	The scattered papers of architect and furniture designer Olav Hammarstrom measure 0.7 linear feet and date from 1939 to 1980. The bulk of the collection consists of project files of architectural works in the United States and around the world. Project files may include correspondence, drawings and architectural renderings, photographs, and printed material.

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

Olav Hammarstrom donated his papers to the Archives of American Art in 1983.

### Related Materials

The Archives of American Art also holds an oral history interview with Olav Hammarstrom, conducted 1982 October 21-1983 March 10 by Robert F. Brown. The Cranbrook Archives also holds a collection of Olav Hammarstrom's papers.

### Processing Information

The collection was processed, and a finding aid prepared by Jayna Josefson in 2019.

### Preferred Citation

Olav Hammarstrom papers, 1939-1980. Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution.

### Restrictions

The collection is open for research. Access to original papers requires an appointment and is limited to the Archive's Washington, D.C. Research Center.

### Conditions Governing Use

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## Biographical / Historical

Olav Hammarstrom (1906-2002) was a Finnish-born architect active in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan and Wellfleet, Massachusetts.

Born in Heinola, Finland in 1906, Olav Hammarstrom studied and began his career as an architect in Helsinki. In 1948, Hammarstrom came to the United States to work on a project with Alvar Aalto in Massachusetts. He stayed in the United States after marrying textile artist Marianne Strengell and settled in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan.

Together, Strengell and Hammarstrom served as consultants for the United States government and the United Nations and reported on the cottage industry of weaving in the Philippines and Jamaica. After Strengell retired from the Cranbrook Academy of Art, she and Olav moved to Wellfleet, Massachusetts where Hammarstrom took many commissions.

Olav Hammarstrom died in 2002 in Wellfleet, Massachusetts.

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## Scope and Contents

The scattered papers of architect and furniture designer Olav Hammarstrom measure 0.7 linear feet and date from 1939 to 1980. The bulk of the collection consists of project files of architectural works in the United States and around the world. Project files may include correspondence, drawings and architectural renderings, photographs, and printed material.

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## Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Finnish Americans  
Furniture design -- United States

Types of Materials:

Drawings

Names:

Strengell, Marianne, 1909-1998

Occupations:

Architects -- Massachusetts -- Wellfleet  
Architects -- Michigan -- Bloomfield Hills

Furniture designers -- Massachusetts -- Wellfleet  
Furniture designers -- Michigan -- Bloomfield Hills

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## Container Listing

### Series 1: Olav Hammarstrom Papers, 1939-1980

#### *0.7 Linear feet (Box 1-2)*

Correspondence includes scattered letters from architectural groups. Additional correspondence, printed material, and a report concerning furniture design concerns Strengell's and Hammarstrom's trip to the Philippines in the mid-1950s. Project files for Hammarstrom's commissions date from the 1930s to the 1970s and may include drawings and architectural renderings, photographs, correspondence, and printed material. The material is scattered, with some files only containing clippings. Also found is printed material, photographs of Hammarstrom and photographs of artworks, and unlabeled architectural drawings.

Box 1, Folder 1	Correspondence, 1952-1958
Box 1, Folder 2-3	United National Technical Assistance Administration, Philippines Trip, 1949-1952
Box 1, Folder 4	Project File--Air Force Museum (Akron, Ohio), 1963
Box 1, Folder 5	Project File--Angove Residence, 1957
Box 2, Folder 3	Project File--Oversized Bellapaise Villas (Cyprus, Greece), circa 1960
Box 1, Folder 6	Project File--Chapel of St. James the Fisherman (Cape Cod, Massachusetts), 1957
Box 2, Folder 2	Project File--Oversized Chapel of St. James the Fisherman Photos, 1957
Box 1, Folder 7	Project File--Ellis Residence, 1957
Box 1, Folder 8	Project File--General Motors Technical Center, circa 1950s
Box 1, Folder 9	Project File--Hammarstrom Residence, 1956-1970s
Box 1, Folder 10	Project File--Harsen's Island Residence, 1959-1960
Box 2, Folder 5	Project File--Hotel Bernadin (Piran, Slovenia), 1973
Box 1, Folder 11	Project File--Immanuel Lutheran Church (Amherst, Massachusetts), 1965
Box 1, Folder 12	Project File--Kumo River Valley Association (Russia), 1946-1948
Box 1, Folder 13	Project File--Levy Residence, 1963

Box 2, Folder 1	Project File--Oversized Levy House Drawing, 1963
Box 1, Folder 14	Project File--Missionary Chuches, 1960
Box 1, Folder 15	Project File--Oakland Museum, 1961-1962
Box 2, Folder 4	Project File--Oversized Oakland Museum, 1961-1962
Box 1, Folder 16	Project File--Nurme Residence, 1962-1965
Box 1, Folder 17	Project File--Petsamon Nikkeli, 1939-1945
Box 1, Folder 18	Project File--Saarinen Residence (Lily Swann), circa 1960
Box 1, Folder 19	Project File--St. Anselm's Episcopal Church (Lafayette, California), 1960
Box 1, Folder 20	Clippings, 1945-1959
Box 1, Folder 21	Press Releases and Announcements, 1945-1958
Box 1, Folder 22	Photographs, 1952-1980
Box 1, Folder 23-24	Artwork, 1952-1954

*[Return to Table of Contents](#)*