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Archives of American Art

Minoru Yamasaki interview

Archives of American Art
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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Minoru Yamasaki interview
Identifier:	AAA.yamamino2
Date:	[ca. 1959 Aug.]
Creator:	Yamasaki, Minoru, 1912- (Interviewee) Harriman, Virginia (Interviewer)
Extent:	2 Items (Sound recording, duplicate: 2 compact discs; 4 3/4 in.) 1 Sound tape reel (Sound recording, master; 7 in.) 33 Pages (Transcript)
Language:	English .
Digital Content:	Digital Content: Minoru Yamasaki interview, [ca. 1959 Aug.], Transcript

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Donor unspecified.

Available Formats

Transcript is available on the Archives of American Art's website.

Biographical / Historical

Minoru Yamasaki (1912-1986) was a Japanese American architect based in Detroit, Michigan.

Scope and Contents

An interview with Minoru Yamasaki conducted by Virginia Harriman.

Scope and Contents

Yamasaki discusses his philosophy of architecture; his belief that architecture should be based on human experience; and his design of the Detroit Institute of Arts. Using architectural models present at the interview, Yamasaki discusses several of his architectural projects, including the Conservatory of Music for Oberlin College; the Michigan Consolidated Gas Company, it being the first high building built in Detroit in some years, building to convey a sense of upwardness; World Agricultural Fair for India (temporary) opening December 11, 1959, participating with other countries, Trade Fair Building, exhibit entitled "Mala U.S.A." [Mala means fair in Indian], showing a series of different experiences at a country fair; St. Louis Air

Terminal; Benjamin Franklin Junior High School; Wayne Education Building; McGregor Building; Daran Air Terminal (Arabia); trying to be consistent in buildings; Gothic arch; learning from the past about qualities one seeks in architecture; being true to technology; Japanese architecture; serene buildings; machine-made buildings; and limiting himself to public buildings.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Architects -- Michigan -- Troy -- Interviews
- Architecture
- Architecture, Japanese
- Asian American architects
- Asian American art
- Asian American artists
- Japanese American art
- Japanese American artists

Types of Materials:

- Interviews
- Sound recordings

Names:

- Detroit Institute of Arts
- Oberlin College. Conservatory of Music

Occupations:

- Architects -- Michigan

Functions:

- Public buildings
- School buildings