



# Smithsonian *Gardens*

## Boris V. Timchenko collection

Alanna Natanson

2020

Archives of American Gardens  
P.O. Box 37012  
Capital Gallery West, Suite 3300, MRC 506  
Washington, DC 20013-7012  
aag@si.edu  
<http://www.aag.si.edu>

# Table of Contents

Collection Overview .....	1
Administrative Information .....	1
Scope and Contents.....	2
Biographical / Historical.....	2
Arrangement.....	2
Names and Subjects .....	2
Container Listing .....	4
Project Files.....	4
Business Files.....	9
Personal Papers.....	10

---

## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives of American Gardens
<b>Title:</b>	Boris V. Timchenko collection
<b>Date:</b>	circa 1910-1976
<b>Identifier:</b>	AAG.TIM
<b>Creator:</b>	Timchenko, Boris V., 1898-1975 (Landscape architect) Boris Timchenko and Associates (Landscape_architecture_firm)
<b>Extent:</b>	3 Cubic feet
<b>Language:</b>	English, Russian, French, German
<b>Summary:</b>	The Boris V. Timchenko collection includes project files, business records, and personal papers of Boris Timchenko, a modernist landscape architect based in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area known for his work on The Watergate Development and the annual National Capital Flower and Garden Show.

---

## Administrative Information

### Provenance

Boris Timchenko deeded his professional records and personal papers to his sister, Varvara V. Sukacev, who lived in Washington, D.C. Sukacev in turn deeded the materials to her caregiver. The caregiver deeded them to her niece, Sandra Fletcher. Fletcher gave the collection to Gayley Knight, a researcher writing a history of The Watergate Complex for its fiftieth anniversary. Knight donated the collection, along with digital surrogates of the documents, several translations of foreign-language documents, and a timeline from her research, to the Archives of American Gardens.

### Preferred Citation

Smithsonian Institution, Archives of American Gardens, Boris V. Timchenko Collection.

### Restrictions

Access to original archival materials by appointment only. Researcher must submit request for appointment in writing. Certain items may be restricted and not available to researchers. Please direct reference inquiries to the Archives of American Gardens: [aag@si.edu](mailto:aag@si.edu).

### Conditions Governing Use

Archives of American Gardens encourages the use of its archival materials for non-commercial, educational and personal use under the fair use provision of U.S. copyright law. Use or copyright restrictions may exist. It is incumbent upon the researcher to ascertain copyright status and assume responsibility for usage. All requests for duplication and use must be submitted in writing and approved by Archives of American Gardens. Please direct reference inquiries to the Archives of American Gardens: [aag@si.edu](mailto:aag@si.edu).

---

## Biographical / Historical

Boris Timchenko (1898-1975) was a modernist landscape architect based in the Washington, D.C. area. Boris Vladimir Timchenko, who occasionally spelled his last name "Timtchenko" early in his life, was born in Tambov, Russia on October 1, 1898 to Vladimir Peter Timchenko and Nataly Nazarewsky. He lived in Lipetsk, Russia until he attended Moscow University from 1916-1918. From 1918-1920, he served in the White Russian Army but fled to France when Communist Bolsheviks defeated his army. He studied landscape architecture at what he termed a "Horticulture School" (possibly the École Nationale Supérieure d'Horticulture) in Versailles until 1924, and earned a degree in Agricultural Engineering at the École Nationale de Agriculture de Grignon in Grignon, France in 1926. A year later, he emigrated to the United States and worked for a landscape contractor, A. Gude Sons & Company, in Washington, D.C.

Timchenko started his own landscape architecture firm, Boris Timchenko and Associates, in Washington in 1938. Along with his colleague Leonard Bartlett, Jr., Timchenko designed outdoor spaces in the D.C. metropolitan area, Pennsylvania, and coastal Florida. (Most of the plans in the Boris V. Timchenko collection were drawn by 'L. B.' (Leonard Bartlett, Jr.) and checked by 'b. t.' (Boris V. Timchenko.) Timchenko He is perhaps best known as being the landscape architect for The Watergate Development in Washington, D.C. and the consulting designer for the National Capital Flower and Garden Show from 1950 to 1967. He also created private gardens for notable clients such as former First Lady Mamie Eisenhower and the Auchincloss family, owners of Hammersmith Farm in Newport, Rhode Island. Organizations and businesses, such as the International Brotherhood of Teamsters in D.C. and the historic Gadsby's Tavern in Alexandria, Virginia, hired him as well.

Timchenko was a member of professional organizations including the American Institute of Landscape Architects (later American Society of Landscape Architects) and the Texas Association of Nurserymen. He was a founding member of the Russian Orthodox Church of St. Nicholas in D.C. By the time he died in 1975, Timchenko had contributed significantly to the design of D.C.'s urban landscape.

---

## Scope and Contents

The collection contains the professional files of landscape architect Boris V. Timchenko. These include architectural drawings and photographic prints from landscape design projects; a client list; brochures Timchenko used to promote his firm; and photographic prints showing him at work. There are a few architectural drawings related to his work on The Watergate Development in 1965 and many photographic prints from the National Capital Flower and Garden Show dated 1950-1961. The collection also contains some personal papers, including forms and licenses Timchenko acquired from the Russian and United States governments; certificates from a French university he attended; correspondence; portraits and photographic prints of his leisure activities; and newspaper profiles and obituaries about him. The collection documents only a portion of Timchenko's known professional design work and personal life.

---

## Arrangement

The collection is arranged into three series. Series 1: Project Files (arranged geographically by state and city). Series 2: Business Files. Series 3: Personal Papers.

---

## Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Flower shows  
Gardens -- United States  
Landscape architecture  
Landscape design

Types of Materials:

Clippings  
Correspondence  
Diplomas  
Photographs  
Plans (drawings)

Places:

Watergate Gardens (Washington, D.C.)

---

## Container Listing

### Project Files

#### District of Columbia

##### DC185: Washington – Cecchi Garden

Box 2 DC185-001: Landscape Plan, 1970  
1 Drawing

Box 1, Folder 3-5 DC079: Washington -- National Capital Flower and Garden Show, circa 1950-1967  
3 Folders

##### DC183: Washington – Washington Hilton

Box 2 DC183-001: Landscape Development Plans, Planting Plan, 1962, 1964  
1 Drawing  
Landscape architect: Boris Timchenko and Associates  
Architect: Tabler, William D.

##### DC184: Washington – Watergate Complex

Box 2 DC184-001: Landscape Development Plans, Planting Plan, Stage I, 1965  
1 Drawing (plan is folded and in poor condition)  
Landscape architect: Boris Timchenko and Associates  
Architect: Moretti, Luigi, 1907-1973  
Corning, Moore, Elmore & Fischer

---

#### Maryland

##### MD394: Bethesda – Bernhard Garden

Box 2 MD394-001: Landscape Development Plan, Planting Plan, 1972, 1973  
1 Drawing  
Landscape architect: Boris Timchenko and Associates  
Notes: Plan is stamped: State of Maryland / Boris V. Timchenko / Registered Landscape Architect.

##### MD396: Chevy Chase -- Chevy Chase Lake Building

Box 2 MD396-001: Site Plan, 1969

1 Drawing  
Architect: Bagley, Soule & Associates

MD259: Emmitsburg -- St. Joseph's

Box 2 MD259-001: Landscape Development Plans, Dormitory, Planting Plan, 1964  
1 Drawing  
Landscape architect: Boris Timchenko and Associates  
Architect: Faulkner, Kingsbury & Stenhouse

MD393: Gaithersburg -- National Geographic Society

Box 2 MD393-001-sh1: Membership Operations Building, Lake Level Floor Plan, Area A West, 1966  
1 Drawing  
Architect: Mills, Petticord & Mills

Box 2 MD393-001-sh2: Membership Operations Building, Lake Level Floor Plan, Area B East, 1966  
1 Drawing  
Architect: Mills, Petticord & Mills

Box 2 MD393-001-sh3: Membership Operations Building, Lake Level Floor Plan, Area C North, 1966  
1 Drawing  
Architect: Mills, Petticord & Mills

Box 2 MD393-001-sh4: Membership Operations Building, Ground Floor Plan, Area A West, 1966  
1 Drawing  
Architect: Mills, Petticord & Mills

Box 2 MD393-001-sh5: Membership Operations Building, Ground Floor Plan, Area B East, 1966  
1 Drawing  
Architect: Mills, Petticord & Mills

Box 2 MD393-001-sh6: Membership Operations Building, Building Elevations and Cross Section, 1966  
1 Drawing  
Architect: Mills, Petticord & Mills

Box 2 MD393-001-sh7: Membership Operations Building, Building Elevations, 1966  
1 Drawing  
Architect: Mills, Petticord & Mills

Box 2 MD393-002-sh1: Membership Operations Building, Grading Plan (Parking Lot and Building), 1966

	1 Drawing Architect: Mills, Petticord & Mills
Box 2	MD393-002-sh2: Membership Operations Building, Site, Utilities and Grading Plan (East Entrance), 1966 1 Drawing Architect: Mills, Petticord & Mills
Box 2	MD393-002-sh3: Membership Operations Building, Site, Utilities and Grading Plan (West Entrance), 1966 1 Drawing Architect: Mills, Petticord & Mills
Box 2	MD393-002-sh4: Membership Operations Building, Site, Utilities and Grading Plan (West Entrance), 1966 1 Drawing Architect: Mills, Petticord & Mills
MD395: Laurel -- Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission	
Box 2	MD395-001: Office Building Elevations, Sections and Details, circa 1960-1970 1 Drawing Architect: Walton and Madden
MD392: Suitland -- Hickory Hills Apartments	
Box 2	MD392-001: Entrance Sign, 1966 1 Drawing Architect: W. L. Mayne & Associates

---

## Pennsylvania

### PA656: Valley Forge – Congressional Medal of Honor Grove

Box 2	PA656-001: Landscape Development Plans, Preliminary Sketch, 1964 1 Drawing Landscape architect: Boris Timchenko and Associates
-------	--

---

## Virginia

### VA518: Alexandria – Landover House

Box 2	VA518-001: Landscape Development Plan, Planting Plan, 1963, 1964 1 Drawing Landscape architect: Boris Timchenko and Associates Architect: W. L. Mayne & Associates
-------	---



## VA517: Falls Church (Seven Corners) – Lord and Taylor

Box 2                      VA517-001: Landscape Development Plans, General Planting Plan, 1965  
 1 Drawing  
 Landscape architect:      Boris Timchenko and Associates  
 Architect:                      Kasen, Michael G.

## VA520: McLean -- Oakcrest

Box 2                      VA520-001: Entrance Gate Details, Addition to Residence, 1969  
 1 Drawing  
 Architect:                      Samperton, John S. (John Stanley)  
    Procopiow, William

Box 2                      VA520-002: Landscape Development Plan, Entrance Road Layout and  
 Circle, 1969  
 1 Drawing  
 Landscape architect:      Boris Timchenko and Associates

## VA514: Middleburg – Mulberry

Box 2                      VA514-001: Landscape Development Plans, Detail Planting Plan, 1964  
 1 Drawing  
 Architect:                      Boris Timchenko and Associates

## VA519: Norfolk – The Hague Tower Apartments

Box 2                      VA519-001-sh1: Landscape Development Plans, Layout Plan, Walks &  
 Pool, 1964  
 1 Drawing (left half of plan is cut off)  
 Landscape architect:      Boris Timchenko and Associates  
 Architect:                      Mayne, Walter L.

Box 2                      VA519-001-sh2-pt1: Landscape Development Plans, Planting Plan, 1964  
 1 Drawing  
 Landscape architect:      Boris Timchenko and Associates  
 Architect:                      Mayne, Walter L.

Box 2                      VA519-001-sh2-pt2: Landscape Development Plans, Planting Plan, 1964  
 1 Drawing  
 Landscape architect:      Boris Timchenko and Associates  
 Architect:                      Mayne, Walter L.

## Unidentified Location

	TIM001: Unidentified Location – Unidentified Garden (with garden shelter and arbor)
Box 2	TIM001-001: [Plan, Sections and Elevations], circa 1960-1970 1 Drawing (right half of plan has been cut off)
	TIM002: Unidentified Location (Stamford, Connecticut?) – Lord & Taylor
Box 2	TIM002-001: [Planting and Topographic Plan], circa 1960-1970 1 Drawing (bottom half of plan has been cut off)
Box 1, Folder 2	Unidentified Gardens, circa 1950-1965 1 Folder

---

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

## Business Files

Box 1, Folder 14	Boris Timchenko and Associates Promotional Booklet, 1960 1 Booklet
Box 1, Folder 1	Professional Files (including partial list of clients), circa 1960-1968 1 Folder
Box 1, Folder 6	Publicity and Public Relations, circa 1950-1970 1 Folder
Box 1, Folder 7	Photographic Portraits, circa 1920-1975 1 Folder
Box 1, Folder 8	Office Stationery, circa 1963-1970 1 Folder
Box 1, Folder 9	Clippings, circa 1938-1976 1 Folder

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

## Personal Papers

Box 1, Folder 12	Timchenko, Family, and Friends, circa 1910-1970 1 Folder
Box 1, Folder 10	Military and Government Documents, 1918-1924 1 Folder
Box 1, Folder 13	L'Ecole National D'Agriculture de Grignon, circa 1924-1932 1 Folder
Box 1, Folder 11	Correspondence and Papers, 1925-1971 1 Folder
Box 1, Folder 9	Clippings (including Timchenko obituaries), circa 1938-1976 1 Folder
Box 1	National Geographic Society Seventy-Fifth Anniversary Pen Holder (engraved with Boris Timchenko's name), circa 1963 1 Item

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