



Smithsonian

National Museum of American History Kenneth E. Behring Center

Guide to the Alfons Bach Papers

NMAH.AC.1272

Alison Oswald

2022

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives Center, National Museum of American History
Title:	Alfons Bach Papers
Date:	1934-1992
Identifier:	NMAH.AC.1272
Creator:	Bach, Alfons, 1904-1999
Extent:	6 Cubic feet (4 boxes)
Language:	English .

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Collection donated by Alfons Bach in 1993.

Provenance

The collection was transferred to the Archives Center from the Cooper-Hewitt Museum in 2012.

Related Archival Materials

Materials at the Smithsonian

Cooper-Hewitt, National Design Museum, Drawings and Prints Department holds 431 drawings of designs for furniture, textiles, lamps, pianos, clocks, appliances, and retail, office, and home interiors

Processing Information

Collection processed by Alison Oswald, archivist and Isaac Meth, Intern, 2022.

Preferred Citation

Alfons Bach Papers, Archives Center, National Museum of American History

Restrictions on Access

Collection is open for research but is stored off-site and special arrangements must be made to work with it. Contact the Archives Center for information at archivescenter@si.edu or 202-633-3270.

Conditions Governing Use

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Biographical / Historical

Industrial designer, architect, and painter. Born in Germany, 1904. Bach studied film directing and design in Europe. He turned to industrial design upon immigrating to the United States in 1926. His design work from 1932-1953 include a Philco radio, furniture for Heywood-Wakefield, carpets for Bigelow-Sanford, and appliances for General Electric. Bach designed and built his own home in Stamford, Connecticut, in 1938.

In the late 1940s, he developed a plan for one of the first shopping malls in America, the Ridgeway Center in Stamford, Connecticut. He remodeled the interior and exterior of Sach's furniture store, 1948-1949, and redesigned the Seneca Textile Building on 34th Street in Manhattan in 1952. Bach moved to Florida in 1959, where he designed the Palm Trail Plaza, a marina apartment complex in Delray Beach, completed in 1961. In addition, Bach was also a noted painter. His watercolors were featured in numerous exhibitions in the United States and Europe.

Scope and Contents

Biographical files cover the period from 1938-1989 and include resumes, clippings, correspondence, certificates, awards, speeches, brochures for exhibitions, and artwork.

The project files cover the period from 1934-1961 and contain clippings, catalogs, brochures, and scrapbooks. This material documents Bach's work as an industrial designer, architect, and painter from 1934-1992.

The files on the Ridgeway Center mall are particularly extensive. Photographs cover the period from 1937-1961 and document Bach's design projects, particularly the Ridgeway Center, his house in Stamford, and the Miami and New York offices of Callaway Mills. Portraits of Bach and his family are included as well.

Glass lantern slides document Bach's interior and exterior design projects. Also included are several signed and numbered prints of Bach's watercolor scenes of the Riviera.

Arrangement

The Collection is arranged into three series.

Series 1: Biographical Materials and Project Files, 1934-1989 Series 2: Photographs, 1942-1961 Series 3: Lantern slides (glass), undated

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Apartment houses
- Architecture -- Designs and plans
- Carpets -- United States
- Design, Industrial -- United States
- Display of merchandise
- Furniture design -- United States
- Interior decoration -- United States
- Radio -- Receivers and reception
- Shopping malls -- United States

Watercolor painting -- United States

Types of Materials:

- Aerial Photographs
- Awards
- Certificates
- Clippings
- Exhibition catalogs
- Photographs -- 20th century
- Plans
- Proposals
- Scrapbooks
- Sketches
- Slides
- Speeches
- Writings

Names:

- Bigelow-Sanford Carpet Company
- Callaway Mills
- Cooper-Hewitt Design Archive
- General Electric Company
- Heywood-Wakefield Company
- Palm Trail Plaza
- Philco Corporation
- Ridgeway Center
- Sach's New York
- Seneca Textile Building

Occupations:

- Architects -- United States
- Industrial designers -- United States

Container Listing

Series 1: Biographical Materials and Project Files, 1934-1989

Box 1, Folder 1	Alfons Bach [oral history], undated 1 Cassette tape
Box 1, Folder 2	Bach Alfons, 1939-1989
Box 1, Folder 3	Living Room Designs, 1944
Box 1, Folder 4	Notes for Speeches, undated
Box 1, Folder 5	Contemporary American Industrial Art, Metropolitan Museum, New York, 1934
Box 1, Folder 6	May Stern and Company, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, 1936
Box 1, Folder 7	New England Art Exhibition, Silvermine Guild, 1937
Box 1, Folder 8	Certificated, Memberships, Awards, 1938-1989
Box 1, Folder 9	Heywood-Wakefield Furniture Company, Catalogs of Bach Furniture, 1939
Box 1, Folder 10	Art Auction for Aid to Greece, 1940
Box 1, Folder 11	Contemporary American Industrial Art, Metropolitan Museum, New York, 1940
Box 1, Folder 12	Silvermine Guild of Arts, 1941
Box 1, Folder 13	Bach Residence, Stamford, Connecticut, 1943
Box 1, Folder 14	"Controlled Traffic in a Modern Linens and Domestic Department, interview, 1945
Box 1, Folder 15	Jesse French and Sons Piano Store, 1945-1947
Box 1, Folder 16	"Bright Future If- The Manufacturer Will Heed the Demand to Offer Good Design at Medium Price," Furniture World, 1947
Box 1, Folder 17	"Design Coordination for Consumers a Challenge", 1947
Box 1, Folder 18	Babcock Galleries, New York City, 1948
Box 1, Folder 19	Sachs Quality Remodeling, New York, 1949

Box 1, Folder 20	"Lighting a Shopping Center: Ridgeway Center," Lighting and Lamps, 1950
Box 1, Folder 21	"Talk by Alfons Bach on S.G.G.A", 1951
Box 1, Folder 22	Ridgeway Center, Stamford, Connecticut, 1946-1957
Box 1, Folder 23	Exhibit at Courtland Gallery. Stamford, Connecticut, 1953
Box 1, Folder 24	Notes for Talk at Bridgeport University, 1956
Box 1, Folder 25	Ridgeway Center, Stamford, Connecticut, Advertising Brochures, Postcards, 1947-1956
Box 1, Folder 26	Stonebridge Country Club, Florida, undated
Box 1, Folder 27	Palm Trail Plaza, Del Ray Beach, Florida, 1957-1961
Box 1, Folder 28	Incoming Correspondence, 1955-1984
Box 1, Folder 29	Watercolor Exhibit, Palm Beach, Florida, 1984
Box 1, Folder 30	Galerie du Calvaire, Gruyeres, France, 1985
Box 1, Folder 31	Members' Show, Pensacola Museum, Pensacola, Florida, 1992
Box 1, Folder 32	Bach Residence, New York City, 1948
Box 1, Folder 33	Bach, Anita Stewart, undated
Box 1, Folder 34	Bach, Alfons, undated
Box 1, Folder 35	Location Unknown, Interior, 1937
Box 1, Folder 36	May Stern and Company, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, 1939
Box 1, Folder 37	Location Unknown, Store, 1940
Box 1, Folder 38	Furniture Designs, 1934-1937
Box 1, Folder 39	Bach Residence, Stamford, Connecticut, 1938
Box 4, Folder 1	Certificate of Membership, Industrial Design Institute, undated
Box 4, Folder 2	Articles and certificates, 1956-1965
Box 4, Folder 3	Design and research, airplane seating presentation for Heywood-Wakefield, 1944

Box 4, Folder 4	Design and research, airplane seating presentation for Heywood-Wakefield, pastels, 1944
Box 4, Folder 5	Boardman Shopping Center, Youngtown, Ohio, 1947
Box 4, Folder 6	Ridgeway Center, Stamford, Connecticut, 1947
Box 4, Folder 7	Furniture, Heywood-Wakefield bentfield Furniture Catalog, undated
Box 4, Folder 8	Callaway Mills, Miami, Florida Showroom, 1942, undated
Box 4, Folder 9	Ridgeway Center, Stamford, Connecticut, 1947
Box 4, Folder 10	Ridgeway Center, Stamford, Connecticut, advertising newsprint, 1949-1956
Box 4, Folder 11	Prints of Alfons Bach's watercolors, undated
Box 4, Folder 12	Ridgeway Center, Stamford, Connecticut, site layouts, 1954

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Series 2: Photographs, 1942-1961

Box 2, Folder 1	Callaway Mills, Miami, Florida, Showrooms, 1942
Box 2, Folder 2	Callaway Mills, Miami, Florida, Display Windows, 1942
Box 2, Folder 3	Callaway Mills, New York Office, 295, 5th Avenue, undated
Box 2, Folder 4	Callaway Mills, undated
Box 2, Folder 5	Liebman's Store, New Jersey, undated
Box 2, Folder 6	Store Number 9, Parkchester, Bronx, New York, 1942
Box 2, Folder 7	Ridgeway Center, Stamford, Connecticut, undated
Box 2, Folder 8	Ridgeway Center, Stamford, Connecticut, undated
Box 2, Folder 9	Ridgeway Shopping Center, Stamford, Connecticut, 1947-1957
Box 2, Folder 10	Ridgeway Center, Stamford, Connecticut, Ridgeway Theater, undated
Box 2, Folder 11	Sachs Remodeling, Hoover Building, New York, 1948-1949
Box 2, Folder 12	Piano Designed for Jesse Finch and Sons, 1946
Box 2, Folder 13	Design for Beach Cottages, 1952
Box 2, Folder 14	Seneca Textile Building, New York City, 1952
Box 2, Folder 15	Palm Trail Plaza, Del Ray Beach, Florida, 1961
Box 2, Folder 16	Cohn, Hall, Marx Company, New York, undated
Box 2, Folder 17	Furniture Designs, undated
Box 2, Folder 18	Furniture Store Interiors, undated
Box 2, Folder 19	Locations Unknown, Interiors, undated
Box 2, Folder 20	Mademoiselle Offices, undated
Box 2, Folder 21	Hecht Brothers Department Store, Baltimore, Maryland, undated
Box 2, Folder 22	"Private Interiors," Album, undated

Box 2, Folder 23 Shopping Mall Design, undated

Box 2, Folder 24 Storkline Furniture Company, New York, undated

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Series 3: Lantern slides (glass), undated

Box 4, Folder 1

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