



Smithsonian
Cooper-Hewitt, National Design Museum

Parish-Hadley Associates,
Inc. collection, [196-]-1994

2011

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Table of Contents

Collection Overview	1
Administrative Information	1
Biographical/Historical note.....	1
Arrangement note.....	2
Bibliography.....	2
Names and Subjects	2

Collection Overview

Repository:	Smithsonian Libraries
Title:	Parish-Hadley Associates, Inc. collection
Identifier:	SIL-CH.2000-3-1
Date:	[196-]-1994
Extent:	11 Boxes (13 albums)
Creator:	Parish, Henry, Mrs., II Parish-Hadley Associates Hadley, Albert
Language:	English
Summary:	The Parish-Hadley Collection documents the history of the New York City design firm from 1962-1994. Particular emphasis is on Sister Parish (Mrs. Henry Parish II) and Albert Hadley. Magazine clippings from various publications make up the majority of the collection as well as gossip column excerpts about Parish-Hadley or infamous clients. The slides date mostly from the 1980s-1990s and depict some but not all Parish-Hadley projects.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

All materials donated by Mr. Albert Hadley in 1999. Unprocessed.

Location of Other Archival Materials Note

Parish-Hadley Associates, Inc. papers; Also located at The John F. Kennedy Library of the National Archives and Records Administration. Boston, Mass.

Other Finding Aids

No finding aid available.

Restrictions

Unprocessed; access is limited; Permission of Library Director required; Policy.

Biographical Note

Dorothy "Sister" Parish born Dorothy May Kinnicutt in Morristown, New Jersey. Sister is a nickname given to her by her three brothers. She graduated from the Foxcroft School for Girls, an elite Virginia boarding school. She began her career in 1933. It was the year of the "Crash" and financial necessity prompted

her to set up shop, "Mrs. Henry Parish II Interiors", in Far Hills, New Jersey, where she began decorating houses for friends. She had no formal training but attributes her taste and instinct for quality to European travel, exposure to art, and, most of all to her upbringing. Alone, and then together with her partner, Albert Hadley, who joined the firm in 1962, she has decorated houses of every size and kind throughout the world. It is said that she represents the "undecorated" look; Vogue magazine calls her "the most famous of all living American women interior designers whose ideas have influenced life-styles all over America."

Sister Parish--grande dame of American decor--shaped the American domestic aesthetic of various Kennedys, Astors, Paleys, and Whitneys. Parish-Hadley was the upper-crust New York firm formed by Mrs. Parish and the Tennessee-born decorator Albert Hadley.

Mr. Hadley, a graduate of and former teacher at Parsons School of Design in both New York and Paris, established his own design firm before joining McMillen, Inc. He began his legendary association with Mrs. Henry Parish II in 1962, when they co-founded the distinguished design firm of Parish-Hadley Associates, which grew to encompass 25 associates and staff members.

Described by The New York Times as "the most illustrious American decorating team of the 20th century," Parish-Hadley's client register includes names of the Kennedys, Rockefellers, Astors, Gettys, Whitneys and Vanderbilts. Parish's cozy, yet dignified style, combined with Hadley's Modernism and attention to architectural space, has led to Parish-Hadley's constant surviving achievement.

The partnership lasted until the death of Sister Parish in 1994. After closing Parish-Hadley in late 1999, Hadley opened a new office and continues collaborating with clients toward his goal to "help them realize more than they thought possible within the framework of their own tastes." His impressive roster of distinguished clients includes former Vice President and Mrs. Albert Gore, Diane Sawyer and Mike Nichols, former Ambassador and Mrs. Henry Grunwald and Mrs. Vincent Astor.

Arrangement

Materials are arranged in 13 albums

Organized by album title. The albums contain magazine and newspaper clippings, sketches, templates, speeches, and press releases, project slides. Arranged alphabetically by client, or in lieu of a client name, by project name (There is some overlap in the albums and the album labels are not accurate).

Bibliography

Parish-Hadley : sixty years of American design / Sister Parish, Albert Hadley and Christopher Petkanas. Boston : Little Brown, c1995.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Interior decoration -- United States -- History -- 20th century -- Sources

Types of Materials:

Articles
Awards
Clippings
Designs
Drafts (documents)
Drawings
Press releases
Slides (photographs)
Speeches
Templates

Names:

Andrew, Duke of York, 1960-
Astor, Brooke
Astor, Vincent, 1891-1959
Baldwin, Billy
Bank of New York
Brown, Eleanor McMillen
Cameron, Libby
Chinsee, George.
Cooper-Hewitt Design Archive
Gracie Mansion (New York, N.Y.)
Hadley, Albert
Hager, Gary.
Kleinberg, David.
Kwiatkowski, Henryk
Lenox Hill Neighborhood Association
McMahon, David
McMillen Inc.
Mellon, Constance A.
Mellon, Paul, Mrs.
National Newark & Essex Bank (N.J.)
Northern Trust Bank
Onassis, Jacqueline Kennedy, 1929-1994
Paine Webber Inc.
Parish, Henry, Mrs., II
Parish-Hadley Associates
Parsons School of Design
Ritz-Carlton Hotels (Firm)
Rockefeller, Happy.
White House (Washington, D.C.)
Whitney, Betsey Cushing Roosevelt, 1908-
Williams, Bunny, 1944-
York, Sarah Mountbatten-Windsor, Duchess of, 1959-

Occupations:

Interior designers -- United States

Preferred Titles:

Architectural digest (Los Angeles, Calif : 1925)
House & garden
House beautiful

Interior design (New York, N.Y.)