North Hall and Library Architecture collection, 2008-16

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Descriptive Summary

Title: North Hall and Library Collection. 2008-16
Collection ID: LD6501.B758 N67
Creator: Bronx Community College
Extent: 5 linear feet
Repository: Archives and Special Collections. Bronx Community College

Abstract

The North Hall and Library Architecture Collection consists of five linear feet of photographs and architectural plans describing the planning and construction of the North Hall and Library building on the campus of Bronx Community College.

Administrative Information

Access
Collection is open to the public. Library policy on photocopying will apply. Advance notice may be required.

Publication Rights
For permission to publish, contact the Archivist.

Preferred Citation
Identification of item, date (if known); The North Hall and Library Collection, LD6501.B758 N67, box number; Archives and Special Collections, Bronx Community College.

Custodial History
The North Hall and Library Architecture Collection was donated to Archives and Special Collections in 2016 by David Koenigstein.

Processing Information
The collection was processed and cataloged in 2017.

Historical Note
Spearheaded by Dr. Carolyn G. Williams, Bronx Community College sixth President, the North Hall and Library at Bronx Community College (BCC) of The City University of New York, was the first planned construction for a new academic building since BCC moved to the University Heights campus in 1973. The groundbreaking occurred on October 21, 2008 and the building was completed and unveiled September 21, 2012.

Robert A.M. Stern Architects-led by Robert A.M. Stern, architect, teacher, writer and Dean of the Yale School of Architecture-was the architect for the new academic building, which will include new classrooms and a vaulted double-height library. His firm has designed buildings on college and university campuses across the country, and is adept at introducing new buildings to historic campuses that derive distinctive character from the strong visions of accomplished architects, from Thomas Jefferson at the University of Virginia, to Frank Lloyd Wright at Florida Southern College. The firm had built successfully on other McKim, Mead & White campuses, including at the Harvard Business School in Boston. The North Hall and Library was Stern’s first commission for a community college. The associate architect for the building was Ismael Leyva Architects of New York.

Rising on the north side of the College’s main quadrangle, the 98,000-square-foot North Hall and Library building construction cost an estimated $102 million. It advances the original concept of the University Heights campus, drawn up by the legendary architect Stanford White at the turn of the last century. The brick and stone façade extends the visual themes of the campus’s earliest creations, including the Hall of Fame for Great Americans and Gould Memorial Library, now the next-door neighbors of the building. It houses 15 large classrooms and a small café on the first floor; a vast, two-story information commons, along with 25 group-study rooms and lounge seating on the second floor; and on the third level, book stacks surrounding a balcony will overlook the reading room below.

Hanging from the third floor balcony are a series of 22 oil paintings depicting scenes of Bronx life created by Bronx artist Daniel Hauben. These paintings of Bronx life, called A Sense of Place, are permanently housed with the building and the subjects range from views of the Burnside Avenue station of the number-four train to classic images of the Hall of Fame of Great Americans and the dome of the Gould Memorial Library, both structures designed by Stanford White for what at the time was New York University’s University Heights campus.

Scope and Content

The North Hall and Library Collection consists of photographs, posters, and architectural plans collected by Professor David Koenigstein which document the construction of the North Hall and Library building on the campus of Bronx Community College from 2008 until its completion in 2012. The collection includes architectural plans submitted before construction began, photographs taken by Professor Koenigstein, and materials created for a historical exhibit on the subject.
Organizational Note

The collection is organized in chronological order.

Access Points

Document Type
Photographs.
Posters.
Architectural plans.

Subject Organizations
Bronx Community College

Subject Topics
Architecture.
Libraries.

Subject Places
Bronx (New York, N.Y.)

Container List

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<th>Title</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Contents</th>
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<td>2008</td>
<td>Oversized photograph of parking lot which formerly occupied the site of North Hall.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Library opening photo</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>Photo taken by David Koenigstein at opening of North Hall showing Carolyn Williams, Roscoe Brown, Carole M. Berotte Joseph, and Maria Keisz.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Opening invitation</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>Invitation to opening of North Hall and Library.</td>
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<td>Exhibit posters</td>
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<td>Posters for a exhibit on the construction of North Hall.</td>
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<td>Architectural</td>
<td>undated</td>
<td>Oversized photos on card of architectural models of North</td>
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<tr>
<td>photos</td>
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<tr>
<td>4 BCC campus illustrations</td>
<td>undated</td>
<td>Illustrations of BCC campus with North Hall and new landscaping mounted on card</td>
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