



Guide to the Horace Trumbauer Architectural Drawings Collection, 1924-1958

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The conservation of the 'Proposed Design for Duke University [by Horace Trumbauer, 1924] was funded by Mrs. Georgeanne C. Corey in memory of George Corey (T'69) through the Duke University Libraries Adopt-a-Book Program.

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Summary

Collection Title:

Horace Trumbauer Architectural Drawings collection, 1924-1958

Creator:

Trumbauer, Horace, 1869-1938

Abstract:

From 1924 through 1958 the architectural firm of Horace Trumbauer of Philadelphia, Pa. was hired to design much of Duke University's East and West campuses. Horace Trumbauer, William O. Frank, and Julian Abele were the firm's main designers. Frank Clyde Brown, S.W. Myatt and A.C. Lee were administrators of construction at Duke University during this time. Some of the buildings designed by the firm are the Duke University Chapel, the Allen Administration Building, Cameron Indoor Stadium, Baldwin Auditorium, the East Campus Union Building, the East Campus Central Heating Plant Complex, the Carr Building (formerly known as the Class Room Building), the Medical School and Hospital, the Nurses' Home, the Law School, the School of Religion, the Chemistry Building, and the Botany and Biology Building. The firm also designed the Giles, Alspaugh, Pegram, Bassett, and Brown residence halls (formerly known as Dormitories 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5, respectively). Included in the collection are blueprints and printed material relating to the planning and construction of buildings at Duke University from 1924 to 1958.

Extent:

9 Linear Feet
11.3 Gigabytes

Language:

English.

Collection ID:

UA.01.15.0013

Permalink:

<https://idn.duke.edu/ark:/87924/m1p12k>

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], Horace Trumbauer Architectural Drawings Collection, Duke University Archives, David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library, Duke University.

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Background

Scope and Content

This collection is comprised of architectural drawings and reproduced architectural drawings of buildings on the Duke University campus and nearby. The dates of this collection range from 1924 to 1952, with the bulk of material from 1926-1938.

A number of Related Collections also contain building specifications, daily work logs, financial ledgers, contracts, and general correspondence for most buildings. Correspondence (often including specifications) exchanged primarily between Horace Trumbauer, William O. Frank, Julian Abele, and Frank Clyde Brown (Duke University Comptroller), S.W. Myatt (Assistant to the President) and A.C. Lee (Chief Engineer for Duke University Building) about general construction at Duke University. Additionally, published building specifications can be found in the library catalog. Other blueprints, sketches, and drawings are folded and interfiled among established collections and within the Operations and Maintenance Department Records. General building specifications, plans for proposed buildings, daily work logs, financial ledgers, contracts, and general correspondence are located in the Operations and Maintenance Department Records, as well as the Frank C. Brown Papers. Bound volumes of published building specifications are stored in the University Archives book collection. Photographs of buildings and architectural sketches and drawings are located in the Photograph Collection. Biographical information about Horace Trumbauer and Julian Abele can be found in the Biographical Reference Collection. The Building Reference Collection contains related information about campus buildings.

Biographical/Historical

From 1924 through 1958 the architectural firm of Horace Trumbauer of Philadelphia, Pa. was hired to design much of Duke University's East and West campuses. Horace Trumbauer, William O. Frank, and Julian Abele were the firm's main designers. Frank Clyde Brown, S.W. Myatt and A.C. Lee were administrators of construction at Duke University during this time. Some of the buildings designed by the firm are the Duke University Chapel, the Allen Administration Building, Cameron Indoor Stadium, Baldwin Auditorium, the East Campus Union Building, the East Campus Central Heating Plant Complex, the Carr Building (formerly known as the Class Room Building), the Medical School and Hospital, the Nurses' Home, the Law School, the School of Religion, the Chemistry Building, and the Botany and Biology Building. The firm also

designed the Giles, Alspaugh, Pegram, Bassett, and Brown residence halls (formerly known as Dormitories 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5, respectively).

Horace Trumbauer

Born in the Frankford section of Philadelphia in 1868, Horace Trumbauer left school at the age of fourteen and entered the architectural firm of G. W. and W. D. Hewitt as an "errand boy". He was soon promoted to draftsman. Trumbauer's advancement and acquisition of knowledge enabled him to eventually open his own office in 1890.

Trumbauer's first major commission was a mansion in Glenside, Pennsylvania, for sugar baron William Welsh Harrison. When Harrison's mansion burned to the ground in 1893, he commissioned Trumbauer to rebuild it. This second home, called Grey Towers (now part of Arcadia University), marked Trumbauer's rise to prominence in the profession. Its castle-like design instilled the estate with a distinct architectural style that was unique to Trumbauer's work.

Trumbauer's firm expanded its scope, designing not only mansions in Philadelphia, New York City, and Newport, Rhode Island, but also apartment houses and other large structures. By 1904, when the prominent *Architectural Record* published a lengthy account of Trumbauer's works, he had become one of the country's most distinguished architects. Over the next decades, Trumbauer and his staff received more than 1,000 commissions, including the Philadelphia Museum of Art, and many offices, schools, hotels, and medical buildings. Among Trumbauer's most important commissions of this period was the Gothic revival Duke University campus in Durham, North Carolina.

Because of his talent and aloofness, Trumbauer gained accolades in New York City before he did in his hometown. His colleagues in Philadelphia did not elect him to membership in their chapter of the American Institute of Architects (AIA) until 1931, an affront that reportedly greatly disturbed him. Added to this mix was the fact that he employed, advanced and befriended one of the very few African American architects in the country. Trumbauer and Abele each faced discrimination and because of that Trumbauer empathized with the racial discrimination confronting Abele. Consequently they forged a close relationship based on respect for talent and friendship, but each also trapped the other in a peculiar set of circumstances. Trumbauer excelled as the front man dealing with major clients but he avoided publicity and public appearances. Abele was the African American chief designer essential to the internal operation of the firm, a position too confining for his deserved reputation. Abele, himself, was not elected to membership in the Philadelphia AIA until 1941.

Trumbauer worked exclusively in period styles, reviving the architecture of distant times and places. Due to architectural trends and the Great Depression, Trumbauer's practice dwindled in the 1930s. His staff fell from a high of thirty

members down to his longtime associates Julian Abele and William O. Frank, and a few others. He died on September 18, 1938.

Julian Abele

Born in Philadelphia in 1881, Julian Abele was the youngest of eight children. He attended Brown Preparatory School, the Institute for Colored Youth in Philadelphia, Pa., and the University of Pennsylvania. Trumbauer recognized the talent of Julian Abele when he observed some of Abele's student award winning drawings. Upon Abele's graduation in 1902 as the first African-American student in architecture at the University of Pennsylvania, Trumbauer financed further study for him at the Ecole Des Beaux Arts in Paris. Abele joined Trumbauer's firm in 1906, advancing to chief designer in 1909. Abele designed the Fifth Avenue Residence of James B. Duke in New York, and Duke soon hired Abele to design the medieval-style Gothic buildings of East and West campuses of Duke University. Abele designed over 600 buildings including the Free Library of Philadelphia. Trumbauer died in 1938; Abele and business partner William O. Frank continued to run the firm until Abele's death in 1950.

After the death of Horace Trumbauer in 1938, the firm continued for another twenty years under his name. With commissions more difficult to come by during the Great Depression and World War II, it was not a propitious time to change the name of the firm. However, Abele's name began appearing on the architectural drawings in an obvious change of policy. In 1940 when decisions were being made concerning burial in the Duke University chapel crypt, A. S. Brower, then assistant to the Comptroller, advised that Abele be consulted because he "prepared the plans and knows the details of the building better than anyone else."

[Source: Free Library of Pennsylvania]

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Access Restrictions

Access restricted. Some materials in this collection are fragile and may require extra assistance from staff. Due to light sensitivity, 'Proposed design of Duke University: Original' is closed unless approved by the University Archivist. A facsimile is available for use. Contact Research Services for access.

Access note. Some materials in this collection are electronic records that require special equipment. Contact Research Services with questions.

Acquisition Information

The majority of the Horace Trumbauer Architectural Drawings were received by the University Archives as a transfer, date unknown.

The Chapel, undated, a lithographic print of an illustration, was received as a gift from the estate of Joel Martin in 2017.

Sketch of Plot Plan Trinity College Durham, N. C. for Mr. J. B. Duke, 1924, watercolor/sepia rendering, was received as a gift from Kristen Costa, Newport Restoration Foundation, by the University Archives in 2024.

Processing Information

Processed by Emily Glenn, completed November 2002

Encoded by Jill Katte, June 2004

Updated by Jill Katte, November 2004

Updated by Kimberly Sims, February 2013

Updated by Tracy M. Jackson, April 2015, to remove listed items belonging to separate collections

UA2017-0016 added by Tracy M. Jackson, April 2017.

UA2024-0057 added by April Blevins, October 2025.

Use Restrictions

Copyright for Official University records is held by Duke University; all other copyright is retained by the authors of items in these papers, or their descendants, as stipulated by United States copyright law.

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Related Materials

Related Material

[Biographical Reference Collection](#) University Archives, Duke University.

[Frank C. Brown Papers, 1899-1943](#) University Archives, Duke University.

[William Preston Few Records and Papers, 1814-1971](#) University Archives, Duke University.

[Robert Lee Flowers Records, 1891-1968](#) University Archives, Duke University.

[Operations and Maintenance Dept. Records](#), University Archives, Duke University.

[University Archives Photograph Collection](#), Duke University Archives, David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library, Duke University.

Horace Trumbauer Drawings and Plans [Free Library of Philadelphia](#) Julian Abele Drawings of the Philadelphia Museum of Art [Philadelphia Museum of Art](#) Trumbauer Collection [The Athenaeum of Philadelphia](#) Horace Trumbauer architectural drawings [Historical Society of Pennsylvania](#) Horace Trumbauer Collection [University of Pennsylvania Architectural Archives](#)

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Names and Subjects

- Architects -- Pennsylvania -- Philadelphia
- African American architects -- Pennsylvania -- Philadelphia
- Chapels -- Designs and plans
- Dormitories -- Designs and plans
- Architecture -- Designs and plans -- Working drawings
- Campus planning -- North Carolina -- Durham
- Durham (N.C.) -- Buildings, structures, etc.
- Gothic revival (Architecture) -- North Carolina -- Durham
- College buildings -- Designs and plans
- Architectural drawings

- Bluelines (proofs)
- Photographs
- Sketches
- Duke Hospital -- Design and construction -- Planning
- Duke University -- Pictorial works
- Duke University -- Buildings -- History
- Duke University. Hospital -- Buildings -- Specifications
- Trumbauer, Horace, 1869-1938
- Abele, Julian, 1881-1950
- Duke University. Chapel
- Brown, Frank Clyde, 1870-1943

Collection Inventory

Architectural Drawings, circa 1924-1954

Scope and Contents note

Contains oversized originals, reproductions, blueprints, drawings, and sketches. Organized by building name.

Art Museum [proposed]

Ackland Art Museum, Front Elevation	Oversize-folder 13
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Physical Description: Black/white Reproduction 13" x 24"

Ackland Art Museum, Front Elevation	Oversize-folder 13
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Physical Description: Reproduction Black/white 13" x 24" (darker reproduction of above)

Ackland Art Museum, First floor plan, undated	Oversize-folder 13
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Physical Description: Original Black/white 21.5" x 28"

Auditorium

Auditorium, East Elevation and Front Elevation, undated	Oversize-folder 7
---	-------------------

Physical Description: Blueprint 18" x 24"

Auditorium, First floor plan, undated	Oversize-folder 7
---------------------------------------	-------------------

Physical Description: Blueprint 18" x 24"

Auditorium, Basement plan, undated	Oversize-folder 7
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Physical Description: Blueprint 18" x 24"

Campus

Access Restrictions:

Access restricted. Some materials are fragile and may require extra assistance from staff. Due to light sensitivity, 'Proposed design of Duke University: Original' is closed unless approved by the University Archivist. A facsimile is available for use. Contact Research Services for access.

Access note. Some materials are electronic records that require special equipment. Contact Research Services with questions.

Proposed design of Duke University: Original,
1924

Oversize-folder 16

Access Restrictions:

Access restricted. Fragile materials. Due to light sensitivity, original drawing is closed unless approved by the University Archivist. A high quality facsimile in oversize folder 17 is available for use. Contact Research Services for access.

Scope and Contents

Drawn by the Horace Trumbauer firm for James B. Duke, 1924. This large (approximately 6-by-4 feet) drawing was made for James B. Duke as he considered making a major gift to Trinity College in 1924. It envisions a university on the present day East Campus, with the Chapel in the location of today's Baldwin Auditorium.

Scope and Contents

The conservation of the 'Proposed Design for Duke University [by Horace Trumbauer, 1924] was funded by Mrs. Georgeanne C. Corey in memory of George Corey (T'69) through the Duke University Libraries Adopt-a-Book Program.

Proposed design of Duke University: Facsimile,
1924

Oversize-folder 17

Sketch of Plot Plan Trinity College Durham, N.
C. for Mr. J. B. Duke, 1924

Oversize-folder 19

Physical Description: 39" x 32 1/4" sepia/watercolor

Scope and Contents

Contains a rendering of Duke University had it been expanded on East Campus only.

Digital surrogates, 1924

Digital-materials
UA01150013-SET-0001

Physical Description: 11.3 Gigabytes
6 files

Scope and Contents

Digital surrogates for both the Plot Plan for Trinity College and the General Plan blueprint. Each surrogate has three instances: a Photoshop Document file, a TIFF file, and a JPEG file. Materials were digitized in 2016.

Chapel

Duke Memorial Chapel, [Interior], undated
(online item available)

Oversize-folder 10

Physical Description: Reproduction Black/white with some color. 36" x 24"

Digital Object: [Duke Memorial Chapel, \[Interior\], undated](#)

Duke Memorial Chapel, [Exterior], undated

Oversize-folder 10

Physical Description: Reproduction Black/white with some color. 36" x 24"

Detail for Carved Frieze in Vestry, Amer. Oak
For Duke Memoril (sic) Chapel, Durham,
[N.C.], undated

Oversize-folder 11

Physical Description: Original Black/white Pencil on paper 42" x 17"

Study of Memorial Chapel Duke University,
Durham, N.C., undated

Framed-item 1

Physical Description: Original Framed, hanging 24" x 32"

View of Chapel from Campus

Oversize-folder 11

Physical Description: Original framed, 44" x 29 1/4"

Location note: Location: Art storage

Chapel Tower and Administration Building

Framed-item 2

Physical Description: Original framed, 44" x 29 1/4"

The Chapel, undated

Oversize-folder 18

Scope and Contents

Lithographic print of illustration. View of Chapel from northwest.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of the estate of Joel Martin, UA2017-0016.

Chapel, Bragtown

Duke Chapel, M.E. Church, South Interior
[View of pews] Bragtown, North Carolina Oversize-folder 15

Physical Description: Reproduction Black/white 11" x 13.5"

Duke Chapel M.E. Church, South Exterior
Bragtown, North Carolina Oversize-folder 15

Physical Description: Reproduction Black/white 11" x 13.5"

Courtyard

Study of the Main Courtyard, undated Oversize-folder 8

Physical Description: Reproduction Black/white Mounted 14" x 20"

Dormitories

Dormitory Group [view of clock tower] Duke
University Oversize-folder 8

Physical Description: Original Framed, hanging 20" x 36"

Location note: Location: Art storage

Suggestion of Treatment for Dormitories,
undated Oversize-folder 8

Physical Description: Original Framed, hanging 25" x 13"

Location note: Location: Art storage

Sketch of the Treatment of Campus between
Aycock and Jarvis Halls, undated Oversize-folder 14

Physical Description: Original Pencil on paper Mounted 20" x 8"

Suggested Treatment for dormitories of Trinity
College, undated Oversize-folder 8

Physical Description: Black/white Reproduction 10" x 21"

Proposed Dormitory for Engineer Students,
Coordinate College for Women, Front
Elevation, Second Floor Plan, undated Oversize-folder 13

Physical Description: Black/white Reproduction 16.5" x 12.5"

Dormitory Group, undated Oversize-folder 3

Engineering, College of

Proposed Shops for the College of Engineering, Front Elevation, undated	Oversize-folder 13
Physical Description: Original Color Pastel on paper 13" x 24"	
Proposed Aeronautics and Shop Building, Ground Floor Plan, undated	Oversize-folder 13
Physical Description: Black/white Reproduction 26" x 13"	
College of Engineering, Proposed Shops, Side elevation, undated	Oversize-folder 13
Physical Description: Color Original 19" x 17"	
College of Engineering Blueprints, May 1946	Oversize-folder 12
Physical Description: Blueprint 16.5" x 8"	
Foundation plan	Oversize-folder 12
Footing, column, and beam schedule	Oversize-folder 12
First floor framing plan	Oversize-folder 12
Second floor framing plan	Oversize-folder 12
First floor plan	Oversize-folder 12

Faculty Club

Proposed Duke University Faculty Club, First and Second Floor Plan, February 28, 1947	Oversize-folder 13
Physical Description: Original Color 14" x 20"	
Proposed Duke University Faculty Club, [Front View], February 28, 1947	Oversize-folder 13
Physical Description: Original Color Pencil and watercolor on paper 14" x 20"	
Proposed Duke University Faculty Club, Basement Floor Plan, February 28, 1947	Oversize-folder 13
Physical Description: Original Color Pencil on paper Original 14" x 20"	
Proposed Duke University Faculty Club, View from entrance drive, February 28, 1947	Oversize-folder 13
Physical Description: Original Color Pastel on paper 9" x 15"	

Proposed Duke University Faculty Club, View
from Myrtle Drive, February 28, 1947 Oversize-folder 13

Physical Description: Original Color Pastel on paper 8" x 16.5"

Faculty Houses

Faculty Houses, Loft Floor Plan and Roof,
Basement Floor Plan, August 19, 1930, revised
January 8, 1931 Oversize-folder 14

Physical Description: Reproduction Black/white 34" x 18"

Faculty Houses, First Floor Plan, Second Floor
Plan, August 19, 1930, revised January 8,
1931, revised February 9, 1931 Oversize-folder 14

Physical Description: Reproduction Black/white 34" x 18"

Faculty Houses, Front Elevation, Kitchen
and Elevation/ Living Room Elevation, Rear
Elevation, August 19, 1930, revised October
30, 1930 Oversize-folder 14

Physical Description: Reproduction Black/white 34" x 18"

Faculty House #2 Elevation Oversize-folder 1

Faculty House #2 Ground Plan Oversize-folder 2

Forestry, School of

Proposed School of Forestry, Exterior view Oversize-folder 13, 14

Physical Description: Original Pencil on paper 17" x 8.6"

Proposed School of Forestry Oversize-folder 13, 14

Physical Description: Original Pencil on paper Mounted on cardboard 17" x
8.6"

Proposed School of Forestry, Front Elevation,
undated Oversize-folder 13, 14

Physical Description: Color Original Mounted 8 1/2" x 15 "

Proposed School of Forestry, Front Elevation,
undated Oversize-folder 13, 14

Physical Description: Original Pencil on paper Mounted 8.5" x 17.5"

Garden

Proposed Entrance to Iris Garden [Features
plant details, seats, memorial tablets], undated Oversize-folder 14

Physical Description: Reproduction Black/white 20.5" x 18"

Indoor Stadium

Historical note

These drawings depict the building now known as Cameron Indoor Stadium.

Balcony floor plan, April 1939 Oversize-folder 5

Scope and Contents

This is a photocopy of the original drawing, made at an unknown date.

East and west elevations, April 1939 Oversize-folder 5

Scope and Contents

This is a photocopy of the original drawing, made at an unknown date.

[Doors and windows], April 1939 Oversize-folder 5

Scope and Contents

This is a photocopy of the original drawing, made at an unknown date.

Roof plan, April 1939 Oversize-folder 5

Scope and Contents

This is a photocopy of the original drawing, made at an unknown date.

Library

Tower, Library Building [Light/chandelier],
undated Oversize-folder 6, 8

Physical Description: Pencil on paper/watercolor 16" x 25"

Medical School

Medical School, undated Oversize-folder 8

Physical Description: Original Pencil and pastel on paper 15" x 22"

Nurses' Home

Proposed Nurses Home, Duke University
Hospital and Medical School, February 22,
1950 Oversize-folder 6, 8, 14

Physical Description: Original Color Pencil and pastel on paper 13.5" x
22.5" (frame) 8" x 17" (image)

Proposed Nurses Home, Front Elevation,
September 2, 1948 Oversize-folder 6, 8, 14

Physical Description: Original Pastel and pencil on paper 35" x 12.5"

Proposed Nurses Home, Duke University
Hospital and Medical School, May 3, 1948 Oversize-folder 6, 8, 14

Physical Description: Original Color Pastel on paper Mounted on cardboard 15"
x 6"

Physics, School of

Proposed Building for School of Physics, Front
Elevation, April 16, 1947 Oversize-folder 6

Physical Description: Original Color Pastel/Pencil on paper 29" x 8.5"

Plaque

Duke University Plaque ["The aims of this
University"], undated Oversize-folder 14

Physical Description: Numbered "1". Original. Pencil and chalk on paper
Mounted on cardboard Light smudging on surface Scale: 1/2 full size 17.25" x
10.5"

Sciences Buildings

[Biological Sciences Building], undated Oversize-folder 8

Physical Description: Original Pencil on paper Mounted 11.75" x 26"

[Biological Sciences Building], undated Oversize-folder 8

Physical Description: Reproduction Black/white 11.5" x 22.5"

Union

Union Cloisters [External view], undated Oversize-folder 14

Physical Description: Original Pencil on paper 23" x 15"

West Campus

West Campus Plan, Duke University, Durham,
N.C., undated

Oversize-folder 14

Physical Description: Original Framed, hanging 52" x 28"

Location note: Location: Art storage

Woman's College

View of Campus Toward Auditorium. Women's
(sic) College, undated

Oversize-folder 4

Physical Description: Original Pencil on paper 36" x 24"

Bird's Eye View Coordinate School for Women

Oversize-folder 4

Physical Description: Original framed, 28" x 41"

Location note: Location: Art storage

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