

Seattle University Chapel of St. Ignatius Records, 1991-2004

Overview of the Collection

Creator	Seattle University. Chapel Planning Committee
Title	Seattle University Chapel of St. Ignatius Records
Dates	1991-2004 (inclusive) 1991 2004
Quantity	16.25 linear feet, (6 half boxes, 3 oversize boxes, unbound photographic portfolio, art book, posters)
Collection Number	RG 009.03 (collection)
Summary	The Chapel of St. Ignatius on the campus of Seattle University is an award winning architectural sacred space designed by world renowned architect Steven Holl. The materials in this collection document the history of the Chapel of St. Ignatius from the initial project proposal in 1991 through the design, construction and dedication in 1997. The collection includes architectural drawings, artifacts, committee minutes, graphic materials, moving images, award certificates and textual materials.
Repository	Seattle University, Lemieux Library and McGoldrick Learning Commons, Special Collections Special Collections Lemieux Library & McGoldrick Learning Commons Seattle University 901 12th Avenue Seattle, WA 98122-1090 Telephone: 206-296-6209 Fax: 206-296-6224 speccoll@seattleu.edu
Access Restrictions	The collection is open for research
Languages	English
Sponsor	Funding for preparing the finding aid was provided through a grant awarded by the National Historical Publications and Records Commission.

Historical Note

In 1991, Seattle University President William J. Sullivan, SJ, proposed building a chapel on the Seattle University campus that not only would meet the university's needs but would also be an architectural gift to the surrounding civic community. The Chapel Planning Committee, chaired by Gerald Cobb, SJ, selected architect Steven Holl as the principal designer and Olsen Sundberg Kundig Allen Architects as the local project team. Holl's vision of the chapel-to-be was guided by his visits to places significant in St. Ignatius's life, reading St. Ignatius's book on personal spiritual growth, the *Spiritual Exercises*, as well as by his consultations with the planning committee and the campus community as a whole.

Holl's design concept "a gathering of different lights" realized itself in the seven glass window portals through which light, entering the building at various times during the day, is diffracted into multiple hues. This multi-faceted display of light and darkness is intended to reflect human interior movements of consolation and desolation prayed through St. Ignatius's Examen in the *Spiritual Exercises*. The hand-carved Alaskan yellow cedar doors also contain seven glass lenses set into the doors at different angles to radiate light. The Blessed Sacrament Chapel, designed by Seattle artist Linda Beaumont, contains an onyx tabernacle, a 20 foot tall Madrona tree symbolizing the struggle of life, and walls coated with 600 pounds of beeswax and embedded with gold-leaf prayers. The *Gratia Plena*, a modernistic sculptural image symbolizing the grace of Mary, stands nearly eight feet tall and weighs 2,300 pounds. Created by Steven Heilmer, the sculpture was carved from a single piece of Carrara marble.

Content Description

The Chapel of St. Ignatius on the campus of Seattle University is an award winning architectural sacred space designed by world renowned architect Steven Holl. An award for Design Excellence was conferred by the New York Chapter of the American Institute of Architects (AIA). The collection includes architectural drawings, artifacts, committee minutes, graphic materials, moving images, award certificates and textual materials.

Use of the Collection

Preferred Citation

Seattle University Chapel of St. Ignatius Records, Special Collections, Lemieux Library and McGoldrick Learning Commons, Seattle University.

Administrative Information

Names and Subjects

Subject Terms :

Architecture--Washington (State)--Seattle
Chapels--Washington (State)--Seattle
Religious architecture--Washington (State)--Seattle

Personal Names :

Beaumont, Linda
Cobb, Gerald, SJ
Heilmer, Steven
Holl, Steven
Ignatius of Loyola, Saint, 1491-1556

Corporate Names :

American Institute of Architects. New York Chapter
Chapel of St. Ignatius (Seattle, Wash.)
Olson Sundberg Kundig Allen Architects
Seattle University. Chapel Planning Committee

Form or Genre Terms :

Architectural drawings

Artifacts

Awards

Certificates

Minutes

Moving images

Photographs

Other Creators :

Personal Names :

Cobb, Gerald, SJ

(contributor)

Jeff Winter and Mary Linden Sepulveda

2011