VAL J. POWELSON COLLECTION

Finding Aid



101 Museum Drive
Palm Springs, California 92263
760.322.4833

Prepared by Frank Lopez, June 2018. Updated October 2026.

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Title:
Val J. Powelson Collection

Date (inclusive):
Bulk 1956-1965

Creators:
Val J. Powelson

Extent:
.5 linear feet

Repository:
Palm Springs Art Museum, The Lorraine Boccardo Archive Study Center,
Palm Springs, California 92263

Conditions Governing Access/Restrictions:
The collection is open to qualified researchers by appointment only.

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Preferred Citation:
[Identification of Item], Val J. Powelson Collection, Palm Springs Art Museum, S2018.1.

Name of Cataloger/Date Completed:
Frank Lopez, June 2018. Updated October 2026.

Biographical Note:

Valentine 'Val' Joseph Powelson, Jr. or more commonly known as Val Powelson, was born in Los Angeles (1924) and died in Fort Lauderdale, (1997) at the age of 72. He maintained his practice in Los Angeles from the mid-1950s to the mid-1960s and became a member of the American Institute of Architects (AIA) in 1988. Powelson started his career as a licensed general building contractor, designer, and then became a licensed architect in California in 1986. He designed residential properties in the Los Angeles and Palm Springs areas. Powelson's projects listed on the Register of Historic Places in Rancho Mirage, California include the Da Vaal Estates (1960), Maranz Residence (1960), and Morris Residence aka Weisbard (1961). Another Rancho Mirage project is the Gummo Marx Residence (1957). He also designed the Indian Wells Country Club House (1959), which was photographed by

Julius Shulman. Powelson is noted as a contributor to the Palm Springs School of Architecture for his unique hyperbolic paraboloid rooflines, especially the Maranz Residence.

Scope and Content Note:

The collection of materials was donated by his wife, Aud Powelson in 2018 (S2018.1). The collection contains one series – Photographs of Architecture Projects. Some photographs were taken by Marvin Rand and Julius Shulman. The series contains photographs of projects and renderings as well as postcards and other images.

Series I: Photographs of Architecture Projects – (50 items, 1 box).

This collection has been digitized. 

ITEM	DESCRIPTION
1	Val Powelson Project List, 1959-1971, 3 pages
2	Photograph - Val Powelson portrait
3-5	Photographs (3) – Indian Wells Country Club House construction, b/w
6-12	Photographs (6) – Indian Wells Country Club House completed, Julius Shulman photographer, Job # 2817, b/w #3, 5, 8, 10, 12, 15, 17
13-15	Postcards (3) – Indian Wells Country Club House, color
16	Photograph – Rendering of Indian Wells Country Club House, color by Stan Repp
17-19	Drawings (3) – Indian Wells Country Club House, b/w
20-21	Photographs (2)– Oser Residence, Richard Fish photographer, b/w
22-28	Photographs (7) – Oser Residence, Marvin Rand photographer, Job # 2434 #unknown, 1, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11
29-31	Photographs (3) – Renderings of Quinn Martin residence, color
32-33	Photographs (2) – Renderings of Arctus Office Facility, color
34	Photograph – Rendering of Eastman Office - Warehouse, by Siegfried Knod, color
35-38	Photographs (4) – Renderings of La Costa Condominiums, color
39	Photograph – Rendering of Signal Hill City Hall addition by Siegfried Knod, color
40-41	Photographs (2) – Renderings of Signal Hill Library by Siegfried Knod, color; b/w drawing
42-47	Photographs (6)– Shingled houses in Berkeley (1974-1979) – b/w Henry Bowles, Jr. photographer job #252601-1; color snapshots

48-49	Photographs (2)– Unidentified b/w Marvin Rand photographer; Unidentified color
50	Photograph – Rendering unidentified residence by Stan Repp, color

Indexing – Names

Powelson, Val J. (1924-1997) - Archives

Indexing – Subjects

Architects – California – Los Angeles
Architects – California – Rancho Mirage
Architecture – California – Los Angeles
Architecture – California – Rancho Mirage
Los Angeles – Buildings, structures, etc.
Rancho Mirage – Buildings, structures, etc.

Indexing – Geographical

Los Angeles, California
Rancho Mirage, California