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LAWRENCE K. CONE (1888-1984)

PAPERS, 1913-1983
2.25 linear feet,
1,136 architectural drawings and 7 artifacts

ACQUISITION: The papers were donated by Zuvart Cone in 1985.

ACCESS: The papers are open for research.

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PHOTOGRAPHS: In boxes 2 and 3.

ARTIFACTS: In box 4

PROCESSED BY: Paul Taylor, Hülya Reshad, Kathleen Mosher and Jean Coffey, 1997, 1999-2000.

Biography

Lawrence Karekin Condrajian was an Armenian immigrant to the United States. The first Armenian architect in Fresno, California, Condrajian built one of the city's prominent landmarks, the Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Church, in 1913. Throughout his career, Condrajian designed residences, apartments, commercial buildings and churches in nine states. While Condrajian's name is not widely known, his architectural workmanship reflects the changing trends in twentieth-century building styles, not only on a regional but on a national scale.

The son of a minister, Lawrence Condrajian was born in Istanbul, Turkey, on July 20, 1888. He studied architecture at the local branch of L'École des Beaux Arts and graduated in 1909. With strong encouragement from his father, he emigrated to the United States in 1911, eventually settling in California. Condrajian moved to the city of Fresno in 1911 after answering an advertisement placed by architect Henry F. Starbuck.

Condrajian found much work in Fresno, building houses and store buildings for local residents and merchants, most of whom were Armenian immigrants. In 1916 he moved to Chicago to be close to his childhood sweetheart, Zuvart Gaulian; they married the following year. Condrajian and his family returned to Fresno in 1918 where he worked for the next six years primarily designing homes in the popular Craftsman style of the day. Upon relocating to Los Angeles, Condrajian spent the next two years designing bungalows. It was during this time that Condrajian formally anglicized his last name to "Cone."

In 1927 Lawrence Cone received a two-year contract to help design and construct Pearl Harbor. Upon the completion of that project, Cone moved to Washington, D.C. to work for the Federal Architect's Office. For the next decade and a half, Cone designed public buildings in several states while continuing to design homes for people in the immediate area.

At the outbreak of World War II, Cone and his family returned to California, settling in Oakland. Over the next three decades Cone designed primarily residences, as well as churches in the Bay Area and in Southern California. Cone worked into his eighties, retiring in the 1970s. Lawrence Cone died on January 23, 1984, in Oakland, California.

Scope and Content Note

The Lawrence K. Cone papers measure 2.25 linear feet and date from 1913 to 1983. They also include 1,136 of Cone's architectural drawings. The papers are arranged in three series: Professional, Personal, and Doris Cone drawings. The papers document one man's architectural work throughout the twentieth century and reflect the changes in popular trends and building styles. Although Cone helped to design Pearl Harbor, the collection does not contain any Pearl Harbor materials.

Scope and Content Note (cont.)

The **Professional** series (1916-1979 and undated) contains architectural drawings which form the largest part of the collection. This subseries spans both Cone's student and professional years. There are many drawings from the Fresno County area in the early 1920s, including drawings for prominent local clients such as the Chorbajian and Arakelian families. Cone's designs for several churches in California, including St. Peter's of Van Nuys, Holy Martyrs of Encino, and St. Vartan's Armenian Apostolic Church of Oakland, are notable. All of Cone's architectural drawings have been arranged alphabetically, first by state and then by city and client.

The architectural exemplars include many design patterns that appear to have influenced Cone in his early work. Also included are several pattern books, with floor plans, elevations, and renderings, which Cone kept and probably used in designing residences.

Cone recorded his architectural projects in his diaries which date from 1916 to 1979. He was meticulous in discussing which clients he worked for, where he was working, and what he was designing. The diaries describe countless jobs and projects that Cone was involved in that are not included in the architectural drawings. Included in one folder is a collection of newspaper clippings from throughout Cone's career, which give an account of his architectural works. There are a number of specifications for Cone's buildings, most of which correlate to architectural drawings in the collection. The specifications are arranged alphabetically, first by state, and then by city and client. There are also photographs of some of the buildings Cone designed.

The **Personal information** series (1928-1983 and undated) contains many photographs and documents, including several of Cone's architect licenses. His personal belongings consist of a pamphlet from an Armenian fraternal group, an Armenian book of poems, and several drawings of Turkish Armenia, indicating Cone's ties to his homeland. Cone's most elaborate drawings date from his student years at L'École des Beaux Arts; they consist of many color renderings.

The **Doris Cone drawings** (undated) are the architectural endeavors of Cone's daughter with sketches of a furniture store and office, mountain cabin, restaurant, summer pavilion, theater stage, television production set, weekend retreat, as well as various interior designs.

Box. Description

Box 1

Professional

Architectural drawings, [in map case A, drawers 16-23]*
Artifacts [in box 4]
Commercial drawings, undated
Diaries
 1916, 1918-1920, 1922-1923
 1926, 1929-1931
 1944-1951
 1952-1953, 1955-1956
 1956-1957
 1958-1960
 1961-1967
 1968-1979
 Various years (building notes), 2 vols.

Box 2

Exemplars

 Pattern books, 1913, 1915, 1920, 1924, 1934, 1938-1940 [2 folders and
 one oversize book in map case A, drawer 24]
 Printed drawings and photographs (public buildings), undated [in map
case
 A, drawer 24]
Newspaper clippings, 1915, 1922, 1935, 1947, 1953 and undated
Specifications*
 Bakersfield, CA, 1914
 Compton, CA, 1929
 Fresno, CA, 1913-1922
 Los Angeles, CA, 1926-1930
 Los Banos, CA, 1916 and undated
 Malaga, CA, 1922
 Oakland, CA, 1946-1955
 Reedley, CA, 1916

Box 3

 San Francisco, CA, 1950
 South Pasadena, CA, 1926
 Turlock, CA, 1916
 Honolulu, HI, 1928

Box. Description

Box 3 (cont.)

Professional (cont.)

Specifications* (cont.)

Montgomery County, MD, undated

Alexandria, VA, undated

Washington, DC, 1933

Unidentified locations, undated

Photographs (building projects), undated

Personal

The Armenian General Benevolent Union membership book, 1945

Armenian book of poems, 1911

Drawings

Christmas card design, undated

Oversize, undated [in map case A, drawer 23]

Letters, 1983 and undated

Official documents and awards, 1924, 1928, 1929, 1942, 1945, 1953, 1971, 1973
and undated [oversize in map case A, drawer 23]

Student work

Turkey

Ecole projects (29 sheets), 1908-1909 [27 sheets in map case A
drawer 16; 1 on top of map cases A & B: 1 framed, against
north wall]

Master's project (Hôtel de Ville, 25" x 60", 1 sheet), 1909 [framed,
against north wall]

Photographs, undated

Doris Cone drawings , undated [in map case A, drawer 23]

Box 4

Professional

Artifacts

Drafting tools in case

Ink well with scroll pen

Scroll pens (4)

T-square [in map case A, drawer 24]

*filed geographically by client (see list of architectural drawings, p.6-15, and itemized list on which the sheets are identified by their dominant architectural element)

Map Case Drawer Description

A		Professional
	16	Architectural drawings
		California
		Alameda
		Woodward residence [Hailey, Walnut Creek, CA] (8 sheets), undated
		Alameda County
		Andrada residence (2 sheets), 1947
		Thompson trailer camp plan (2 sheets), 1946
		Ashland
		Boyette & Frank auto sales building (4 sheets), 1955
		East Bay Rambler garage addition (3 sheets), 1961
		Bakersfield
		Petrini store building (12 sheets), 1914*
		Belvedere Gardens
		Kaprieloff residence (2 sheets), 1926
		Berkeley
		Brosnan residence (5 sheets), 1954-1955
		Model Airplane Motor Factory (4 sheets), undated
		Salo residence (2 sheets), 1947
		Clovis
		Clovis Public Library (proposed) (1 sheet), undated
		Compton
		Poinsettia Land Co. store building (2 sheets), 1929*
		Culver City
		American Legion Post No. 46 (1 sheet), undated
		Dibble
		12-room duplex (3 sheets), 1929
		Bungalow court (4 sheets), 1930
		Encino
		Holy Martyrs Armenian Apostolic Church (35 sheets), 1961-1962
	17	Fresno
		Churches
		Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Church (5 sheets), [1913-1915]*
		St. Paul's Armenian Church (6 sheets), undated

*filed geographically by client (see list of architectural drawings, p.6-15, and itemized list on which the sheets are identified by their dominant architectural element)

<u>Map Case</u>	<u>Drawer</u>	<u>Description</u>
A	17	<p>Professional (cont.)</p> <p>Architectural drawings (cont.)</p> <p>California (cont.)</p> <p>Fresno (cont.)</p> <p>Commercial buildings</p> <p>California Home For the Aged, Inc. (37 sheets), 1949</p> <p>Jelladian store building (6 sheets), undated</p> <p>Keosheyian Hotel Vartan (13 sheets), undated</p> <p>Melikian store building (6 sheets), 1916*</p> <p>Poladian dry cleaning building (2 sheets), undated</p> <p>Potigian bakery (1 sheet), undated</p> <p>Shooshan garage and repair shop (2 sheets), undated</p> <p>Spiropulos store building (3 sheets), 1922*</p> <p>Residences</p> <p>Albarian (1 sheet), 1922</p> <p>Atamian (1 sheet), 1913-1914</p> <p>Chorbajian (6 sheets), 1916*</p> <p>Cone (7 sheets), 1922</p> <p>Fathy (18 sheets), 1922*</p> <p>Hagopian, A. (5 sheets), undated</p> <p>Hagopian, L. (8 sheets), 1920*</p> <p>Janian store & flat building (12 sheets), 1922</p> <p>Kalajian (3 sheets), 1922</p> <p>Kiremidjian store & flat building (3 sheets), undated*</p> <p>Lo Forti (5 sheets), 1922*</p> <p>Ohanian (4 sheets), 1946</p> <p>Sommers (6 sheets), 1922*</p> <p>Tateosian (9 sheets), undated (2 framed, against north wall)</p> <p>Unidentified clients (11 sheets), undated</p> <p>Unidentified client, apartment building (Elm St. & Highway 99) (3 sheets), undated</p> <p>Glendale</p> <p>Evans residence (3 sheets), 1930</p>
	18	<p>Inglewood</p> <p>Mendenhall residence (2 sheets), 1930</p> <p>Kensington</p> <p>Kensington Fire Station (1 sheet), undated</p>

*specifications available (in box 2)

<u>Map Case</u>	<u>Drawer</u>	<u>Description</u>
A	18	Professional (cont.) Architectural drawings (cont.) California (cont.) Los Angeles Churches B'nai Israel Congregation synagogue addition (1 sheet), 1926 Emmanuel Congregational Church (6 sheets), undated Commercial buildings Aizuss 2-store building (2 sheets), 1926 Alpert 16-unit apartment building (6 sheets), 1926-1927* Associate Architect Examination post office (6 sheets), 1930 Associated Loan Co. 22-unit apartment building (5 sheets), 1929* Boyadjian store building (2 sheets), 1930* Bush auto sales & service building (17 sheets), 1925 Ceriat 80-unit apartment building (6 sheets), 1930* Depper 8-family apartment building (4 sheets), 1930 Eisenberg 100-room apartment building (6 sheets), 1926-1927* [in map case C, drawer 1] Gilman 2-story workshop (2 sheets), 1930* Goldy 4-flat building remodeling (6 sheets), 1926* Kassabian store building (1 sheet), 1926* Kassabian Bros. 16-unit apartment building (10 sheets), 1929 Kerr repair shop (3 sheets), 1929 Roberto 16-unit apartment building (4 sheets), 1930* Saffe store & flat building (2 sheets), undated Sarkisian storeroom (1 sheet), 1929 Skolnik apartment building (6 sheets), 1926* Topalian store & flat building (2 sheets), 1930 Residences Abajian 2-family building (1 sheet), undated Davidian (5 sheets), undated

*specifications available (in box 2)

Map Case Drawer Description

A		Professional (cont.)
	18	Architectural drawings (cont.)
		California (cont.)
		Los Angeles (cont.)
		Residences (cont.)
		Eisenberg bungalow (3 sheets), 1926
		Epstein 4-family flat alteration (1 sheet), 1930
		Haiyrabedian bungalow (2 sheets), 1926
		Kassabian Bros. double bungalow (4 sheets), 1930*
		Kozinsky 4-family flat (9 sheets), 1926*
		Lank bungalow (4 sheets), 1926*
		Love double bungalow (3 sheets), 1926
		Mandel double bungalow (2 sheets), 1926
		Orduno (1 sheet), 1926
		Pyles 2-unit bungalow court (2 sheets), 1930
		Rosenfeld & Eisenberg double bungalow (3 sheets), 1926
		Roubian 6-unit bungalow court (3 sheets), 1930
		Schonfield 4-family-flat building (5 sheets), 1926
		Schonfield 2-flat building alteration (2 sheets), 1926
		Winograd double bungalow (2 sheets), undated
		Unidentified client, duplex (35th St. & St. Andrews Pl.) (2 sheets), 1929
		Unidentified client, apartment building (Las Palmas & Waring Ave.) (1 sheet), undated
		Los Banos
		Commercial buildings
		Cascia store building (8 sheets), undated*
		Iacopi store building (9 sheets), undated
		Mecchi saloon & restaurant (5 sheets), undated
		Padula auto dealership (3 sheets), [1916]*
		Madera
		Arakelian dining room & kitchen (7 sheets), 1961
	19	Malaga
		Nahigian residence (9 sheets), 1922*
		Oakland
		Churches
		Brooklyn Presbyterian Church alteration (3 sheets), 1962

*specifications available (in box 2)

Map Case Drawer Description

A	Professional (cont.)
19	Architectural drawings (cont.)
	California (cont.)
	Oakland (cont.)
	Churches (cont.)
	First Congregational Church
	Addition (20 sheets), 1956-1957
	Alteration (8 sheets; 7 drawings & 1 spec), 1971
	Hillside Presbyterian Church (5 sheets), 1953
	St. Vartan's Armenian Apostolic Church (51 sheets), 1955-1956
	Commercial buildings
	Archibald shed (1 sheet), 1951
	Atkin Candy Co. store (1 sheet), 1947
	Banker 4-unit apartment building (3 sheets), 1947
	Beauchesne 5-unit apartment building (2 sheets), 1958
	Bispo store & 4-flat building (2 sheets), 1946
	City Engineer's Study 10-A map (1 sheet), undated
	Demoir store front (1 sheet), 1946
	Duzevich store building (2 sheets), 1948
	Hovagimian 4-unit apartment building (3 sheets), 1959
	Hutley commercial building (3 sheets), 1948
	Koojoolian auto repair building (3 sheets), 1957
	Simonds double garage & laundry (3 sheets), 1955
	Residences
	Amick (5 sheets), 1959
	Brosnan (3 sheets), 1959
	Cone
	Stone patio layout (1 sheet), 1947
	Boden Way 2-family residence (23 sheets), 1950, 1951, 1953*
	Ocean View Drive (10 sheets), 1955*
	6120 Hill Road (16 sheets), 1960, 1965-1966
	Cupps "Quonset 20" hut (2 sheets), 1946
	Finn (6 sheets), 1946*
	Hoden addition & alteration (1 sheet), 1947
	Johnson (4 sheets), 1947
	Kamian (1 sheet), undated
	Lindwall remodeling (2 sheets), 1946

*specifications available (in box 2)

Map Case Drawer Description

A	Professional (cont.)	
19	Architectural drawings (cont.)	
	California (cont.)	
	Oakland (cont.)	
	Residences (cont.)	
	Parsons addition (2 sheets), 1953	
	Radebaugh (4 sheets), 1947	
	Sidari (3 sheets), 1965	
	Tesio (1 sheet), undated	
	Parlier	
	Hagopian “workingmen” house (1 sheet), undated	
20	Pasadena	
	Barsumian store building (2 sheets), 1929	
	Piedmont	
	Frank residence (9 sheets), 1961-1962	
	Redwood City	
	Kellejian public garage addition (3 sheets), 1958	
	Reedley	
	Barsoum residence (12 sheets), undated	
	Gismegian residence (9 sheets), 1916*	
	Richmond	
	Carlos cocktail lounge & restaurant (5 sheets), 1962	
	Trowbridge residence (1 sheet), 1947	
	Riverside	
	Lerner residence (6 sheets), 1926	
	San Francisco	
	Churches	
	Calvary Armenian Congregational Church belfry tower (1 sheet), 1973	
	St. John Apostolic Church (1 sheet), undated	
	Commercial buildings	
	Giragosian dry house (1 sheet), undated	
	Halajian store remodeling (3 sheets), 1949	
	Hovagimian 2-family-unit building alteration (1 sheet), undated	
	Mardikian	
	Apartment addition (2 sheets), 1948	
	Apartment alteration (6 sheets), 1952	
	McLerie 6-unit apartment building (11 sheets), 1955-1956	

*specifications available (in box 2)

Map Case Drawer Description

A	20	<p>Professional (cont.)</p> <p>Architectural drawings (cont.)</p> <p>California (cont.)</p> <p>San Francisco (cont.)</p> <p>Commercial buildings (cont.)</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">O'Neal duplex alteration (4 sheets), 1958</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Pon store alteration (8 sheets), 1948</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Yeramian 3-unit apartment building (4 sheets), 1953</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Unidentified client, apartment building (Powell St.) (3 sheets), undated</p> <p>Residences</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Conragan (4 sheets), 1959</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Mardikian 2-family (3 sheets), 1949</p> <p>San Leandro</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Archibald residence (3 sheets), 1947-1948</p> <p>San Marino</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Mails residence (3 sheets), 1929</p> <p>South Pasadena</p> <p>Nahigian</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Residence (2 sheets), 1926*</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Bathroom remodeling (1 sheet), 1930</p> <p>Turlock</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Toprahanian commercial building (8 sheets), 1916*</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Turlock Public Library (1 sheet), 1915</p> <p>Van Nuys</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">St. Peter Armenian Apostolic Church (25 sheets), 1961-1962</p> <p>Willows</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Stansbury 8-unit bungalow court (2 sheets), 1947</p>
21		<p>Yettem</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">St. Mary's Armenian Church (22 sheets), 1946</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Grammar School (14 sheets), 1922</p> <p>Unidentified locations</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">2-story residential building (1 sheet), undated</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Residence (6 sheets), undated</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Duplex (3 sheets), undated</p> <p>Florida</p> <p>St. Petersburg</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">United States Coast Guard Station (2 sheets), undated [in map case C, drawer 1]</p>

*specifications available (in box 3)

Map Case Drawer Description

A	Professional (cont.)
21	Architectural drawings (cont.)
	Hawaii
	Honolulu
	Associate & senior architect examination drawings
	State capitol (2 sheets), 1928
	Post office (2 sheets), 1928
	Bank (2 sheets), 1928
	Chinese Congregational Church (1 sheet), undated
	Ho residence (4 sheets), 1928*
	Loo residence (5 sheets), 1928
	Marquebielle
	Hotel (3 sheets), 1927
	Lodging house (3 sheets), 1927
	Residential building (2 sheets), 1927
	McGregor store building (1 sheet), 1927
	Ott residence (6 sheets), 1928
	Peters drink stand (1 sheet), undated
	Spitzer
	Residence addition (3 sheets), 1928
	Clothing store remodeling (16 sheets), 1927-1928
	Unidentified client, residence (1 sheet), 1929
	Illinois
	Chicago
	Gaulian rug cleaning plant (2 sheets), undated
	Maryland
	Montgomery County
	Balian residence (6 sheets), undated*
	Takoma Park
	Carnig residence (4 sheets), 1931
	Ohio
	Akron
	Akron Brewing Co. (2 sheets), 1917
	Pennsylvania
	Brownsville
	Brownsville Brewing Co. storage house (1 sheet), 1917

Map Case Drawer Description

A		Professional (cont.)
	21	Architectural drawings (cont.) Pennsylvania (cont.) Waynesboro Post office (1 sheet), 1932 Virginia Alexandria Poladian store & apartment building (21 sheets), undated* Washington, DC Allen apartment building addition (4 sheets), undated Berkowich commercial building (2 sheets), undated Cone residence alteration (3 sheets), undated Hearst Corporation hotel (7 sheets), 1930 Janikian residence (3 sheets), undated Khosrofian 4-story building remodeling (2 sheets), undated Loughran hotel remodeling (3 sheets), undated Manoukian residence addition (1 sheet), undated Medical Center building (proposed) (1 sheet), undated Rubin apartment building with store (3 sheets), 1933*
	22	Unidentified locations Wilson residential building (5 sheets), 1929 Handerson residence (1 sheet), undated Competition drawings “General Electric Home Electric Competition” (1 sheet), 1935 [in map case C, drawer 1] “General Motors Design Competition For Dealer Establishments, Program No. 1” (3 sheets), undated [in map case C, drawer 1] “Quarry Tile Competition for a Post Office Lobby Design,” (1 sheet), 1934 [in map case C, drawer 1] “A Design in Dearborn Brick” (1 sheet), 1920 Small house competitions (4 sheets), undated [in map case C, drawer 1]
	23	Unidentified drawings, undated Churches (2 sheets) Commercial buildings (7 sheets) Public buildings (5 sheets)

Map Case Drawer Description

A		Professional (cont.)
	23	Unidentified drawings, undated (cont.)
		Dwellings (9 sheets)
		Details (15 sheets)
		Preliminary drawings (44 sheets)
		Doris Cone drawings, undated
		Furniture store and private office (2 sheets)
		Interior drawings (7 sheets)
		Market and snack bar (4 sheets)
		Mountain cabin (3 sheets)
		Set design for TV production (2 sheets)
		Summer pavilion for residential property (2 sheets)
		Theater stage (4 sheets)
		Weekend retreat (3 sheets)