

Researching San Francisco Bay Area Architecture

Try this reference book first—it gives basic information on a wide variety of Bay Area buildings. (The new edition includes two on the SJSU campus.)

Woodbridge, Sally B., John M. Woodbridge & Chuck Byrne. *San Francisco Architecture: an Illustrated Guide to the Outstanding Buildings, Public Artworks, and Parks in the Bay Area of California.* Berkeley, CA: Ten Speed Press, ©2005.

- King California Room 5th Floor REF CAL 720.9794 Woodbrid
- King Reference 2nd Floor NA735.S35 W64 2005
- King Special Collections San Jose 5th Floor NA735.S35 W64

Local Newspapers

Unless you live in New York or Chicago, most of the architecture in your area may not be of national significance. Not only are people less likely to write about it in books, but there may not be articles published in national magazines either. Most indexes, like *Art Index Retrospective*, *Art Full Text*, and *Bibliography of the History of Art*, cover few if any local periodicals—only national ones.

Local newspapers are often good sources of information. Most libraries in large metropolitan areas have the local newspaper (usually on microfilm) going back many years—but how do you know which issues to look in? For the last twenty years or so, you can find full-text articles from many local newspapers in a database like *Lexis/Nexis* or *America's Newspapers: California*. Some newspapers have published indexes, but few go very far back.

To find out what articles have been published in Bay Area newspapers in the earlier part of the 20th century, try the following:

San Francisco Newspapers Index: 1904-1959

King Reference Index 2nd Floor AI 21 .S25 S24x Microfiche

King California Room 5th Floor REF CAL MICRO 071.9461 San Fran

Three interfiled indexes covering the *San Francisco Call*, January 1, 1904-August 31, 1913; *San Francisco Examiner*, September 1, 1913-September 23, 1928; *San Francisco Chronicle*, September 1, 1913-December 31, 1949

San Francisco Chronicle Index, 1950-1980

King Reference Index 2nd Floor AI 21 .S25 S26 Microfiche

King California Room 5th Floor REF CAL MICRO 071.9461 San Fran

Bell & Howell Newspaper Index to the San Francisco Chronicle

King Reference Index 2nd Floor AI 21 .S25 S26

San José Mercury News Clippings File: 1920-1985

King Microfiche Lower Level F869.S394 S355x

King Microform Reference Lower Level F869.S394 S355x

The clippings—or stories—from *the San José Mercury News* appear in full on the microfiche, which is filed alphabetically. For a complete alphabetical list of subject headings see

San José Mercury News Clippings File Subject Index

<http://sjlibrary.org/research/databases/sjmn/>

We have the following newspaper issues on microfilm:

- *San Francisco Chronicle* 1869 – present
- *San José Mercury News* 1861 - present

Other Resources

Bay Area in General

San Francisco Bay Area Architects & Architecture: Resources

<http://www.lib.berkeley.edu/ENVI/sfindex.html>

The Environmental Design Library at UC Berkeley is one of the best resources for information on local architecture. This guide tells about all sorts of books and online resources on the topic. Some of these may only be available at UCB or online to UCB students, but you should check our catalog and Link+ (or try interlibrary loan). You can also use Berkeley's Environmental Design Library—see the following description.

UC Berkeley Environmental Design Library

<http://www.lib.berkeley.edu/ENVI/>

A branch of the UC Berkeley Library system, the Environmental Design Library is an open-stack library, and users are welcome to browse in the stacks. Anyone may use the Library; however, only users with valid UC Berkeley student, faculty or staff photo ID cards or current library cards issued by the Library Privileges Desk in the Main (Doe) Library may borrow library materials. Service priority is given to UC students, faculty and staff. You may be asked to show UC campus identification.

Currently enrolled California State University or community college students who need the UC Berkeley collections for research may purchase a six-month Library borrowing privileges card by presenting a current student registration card showing an expiration date or a copy of their current class schedule. The fee is \$25.

See <http://www.lib.berkeley.edu/AboutLibrary/nonucbor.html> for details.

UC Berkeley Environmental Design Archives

<http://www.ced.berkeley.edu/cedarchives/>

The work of most of the San Francisco Bay Region's historically significant architects and landscape architects are represented in the collections of nearly 100 architects and firms. These collections contain drawings, plans, specifications, photographs, audio-tapes, personal papers, business records, furniture, art, and artifacts. The Environmental Design Archives provides primary source material for scholarly research, teaching support, preservation, and public service, and actively encourages and promotes the use of its collections.

Santa Clara Valley

Look in the library catalog under subject headings such as

- San Jose Calif Buildings Structures Etc
- San Jose Calif Buildings Structures Etc Conservation And Restoration

First, try these special research collections on the 5th Floor of King Library:

San José State University Library—Special Collections

http://www.sjlibrary.org/research/special/special_coll/

The John C. Gordon Collection of Photography has a number of photos showing buildings in San Jose and South Bay communities. Some of the building photos include interior shots, such as the Montgomery Hotel and some of the old local theaters. Most photos are from the 1920s and 1930s. They also have some local historical buildings information and historical preservation material. The University Archives has a number of photos of campus buildings from various eras.

The following books in Special Collections may be of interest:

Butler, Phyllis Filiberti. *Old Santa Clara Valley: A Guide to Historic Buildings from Palo Alto to Gilroy*. San Carlos, CA: Wide World Pub./Tetra, 1991.

King California Room 5th Floor REF CAL 979.473 Butler *or*
King Special Collections 5th Floor F 868 .S25 B76 1991

Historic American Buildings Survey. [Santa Clara County, California]: Photographs, Historical and Descriptive Date. Washington, D.C.: National Park Service, Dept. of the Interior, 1936-1980.

King Special Collections folio 5th Floor NA 730 .C2 H544x 1980 CA114-2068 *and*
King Special Collections folio 5th Floor NA 730 .C2 H544x 1980 CA2069-2113

Shea, Richard M., Jr. *The Historic Preservation of the James Lick Mill*. SJSU Urban & Regional Planning Dept., 1979.

King Special Collections San Jose Thesis 5th Floor
King California Room 5th Floor REF CAL 979.473

Two Hundred Years of Santa Clara Valley Architecture: A Stylistic Survey: August 22-September 30, 1976, Triton Museum of Art [Santa Clara, Calif.]: Triton Museum of Art, 1976.

King Special Collections 5th Floor NA 735 .S428x T86 1976
King California Room 5th Floor REF CAL 720..9794

We also have *The Craftsman* (King Special Collections Periodicals 5th Floor N 1 .87) from 1901-1916. If you're interested in the architecture of the Arts & Crafts Movement, this is one of the most important sources. I don't know offhand if there are any examples of Bay Area homes and architecture featured, but it might be worth a look.

San José Public Library—California Room

<http://www.sjlibrary.org/research/special/ca/index.htm>

The California Room is a collection of materials on California history with an emphasis on the history of San José and Santa Clara County. The collection also includes historical materials on the cities and counties of the San Francisco Bay Area, Central and Northern California. This page might be of special interest:

Your Old House Resources

http://www.sjlibrary.org/research/special/ca/house_index.htm

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History San José Research Center

<http://historysanjose.org/research/library/>

Historic Buildings and Site Resources at the History San José Research Center

http://historysanjose.org/research/local_history_resources/historic_bldg_site_resources.html

Before visiting, consult

http://historysanjose.org/research/conducting/research_library_guide.html

A book in their collection that may be useful is April Halberstadt's *The Willow Glen Neighborhood, Then and Now*. They also have one book on California Bungalows that has a few examples from San Jose. They also have a number of reports done over the years for the San Jose Historic Landmarks Commission and others that talk somewhat about architecture as well as the history of various buildings.

Other items of potential interest include

- a large quantity of blueprints from local architects Wycoff and Wuss
- a photocopy of a Book of Designs from local architects Wolfe & McKenzie from 1907
- blueprints in small quantities from Binder & Curtis
- one set of Julia Morgan blueprints for the old San Jose YWCA (since demolished)
- prints from the Hayes Mansion out on Monterey Road.

The History San José Research Library is open by appointment only. To schedule an appointment please email research@historysanjose.org or call (408) 918-1054.

The Research Library is located on the second floor of the Pacific Hotel building at [History Park in Kelley Park](#)

http://historysanjose.org/visiting_hsj/history_park/history_park.html

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