University of Miami Cuban Heritage Collection

Finding Aid - Nicolás Quintana Papers (CHC5314)

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Nicolás Quintana Papers

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Summary information

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Repository:	University of Miami Cuban Heritage Collection
Title:	Nicolás Quintana Papers
ID:	CHC5314
Date:	circa 1950s-2012 (date of creation)
Physical description:	Boxes
Language:	Spanish
Language:	English
Dates of creation, revision and deletion:	

Administrative history / Biographical sketch

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Note

Nicolás Quintana was born in 1925 in Havana, Cuba, son of prominent architect Nicolás Quintana, who was the head of the firm of Moenck & Quintana in Havana. The younger Quintana followed in his father's footsteps and enrolled in the School of Architecture at the University of Havana in 1944, where he was greatly influenced by modernist architects such as Walter Gropius and José Luis Sert.

By 1950, Quintana was the head of his father's architectural firm and began to participate in the Junta Nacional de Planificación (Board for National Planning), where he was involved with an urban planning initiative created by architect Nicolás Arroyo. One of his final projects while in Cuba was in 1958, planning for the new construction of the Banco Nacional de Cuba, but the project went unfinished due to the heating tensions during the Cuban Revolution. Following public disagreement with Cuban Revolutionary leaders, Quintana left Cuba with his family in 1960.

In exile, Quintana first lived moved to Venezuela and then to Puerto Rico, where he continued working as an architect. In 1986 he moved permanently to Miami, Florida where he was a professor in the School of Architecture at Florida International University (FIU) until his retirement in 2010. During his time at FIU, Quintana led the "Habana y sus paisajes" (Havana and its landscapes) project as an initiative to develop plans for saving the architectural heritage of Havana and suggesting steps towards developing urban and rural areas during future reconstruction in Cuba. Quintana died in Miami in 2011.

Custodial history

Additional 4 boxes of materials and oversize plan of Vedado donated April, 2014 by Isabel Quintana.

Scope and content

The Nicolás Quintana papers document the professional activities of Cuban-born architect Nicolás Quintana (1925-2011) in Cuba and while he lived in exile in Miami, Florida. The collection includes correspondence, photographs, architectural drawings, syllabi and other materials from classes taught by Quintana in Puerto Rico, promotional materials from Quintana's exhibits in Miami, materials from architectural conferences in which Quintana participated, and clippings and articles related to Quintana and his work. The collection encompasses the beginning of Quintana's professional career in Cuba as well as his extensive architectural and teaching work in exile, especially in Puerto Rico and Miami.

Notes

Title notes

Immediate source of acquisition

Gift of Isabel Quintana, April 2013 and April 2014.

Restrictions on access

This collection is open for research.

Conditions governing use

Requests to publish or display materials from this collection require written permission from the rights owner. Please contact chc@miami.edu for more information.

Related material

CHC5212 Luis J. Botifoll Oral History Project interview with Nicolas Quintana.
Information about related materials is available at http://merrick.library.miami.edu/cdm/ref/collection/chc5212/id/775

Other notes
- **Publication status**: Published
- **Description identifier**: ArchonInternalCollectionID:1374

Access points

- Architects (subject)

- Architecture -- Cuba (subject)