
Our goal is to sift through 767 boxes of archival material related to Eero Saarinen’s architectural practice. In reading office memos, letters, newspaper clippings, and all of the other ephemera that he and his publicist wife, Aline B. Saarinen, created, worked with, and were subjects of, we hope to produce a narrative of mid-twentieth-century architectural publicity and a deeper understanding of architecture.

Eva Hagberg Fisher is a Ph.D. candidate in an interdisciplinary program — of her own design — called Visual and Narrative Culture. An architecture critic and journalist as well as a scholar, she has published widely on contemporary architecture. Since first being given the opportunity to teach at UC Berkeley as a first-year architectural history Master’s student, she has found teaching and mentoring to be the single most rewarding element of her scholarly career.

The SMART mentorship program offers her the chance to work one-on-one in a deeply rigorous and consistent way and seems tailor-made to her interests.

Athena Scott is a rising senior at UC Berkeley, studying architectural history through an individual major in the College of Environmental Design. Her studies include courses in architecture, art history, and geography, allowing for an exploration of interdisciplinary perspectives on the built environment. She is particularly interested in the different methods of representing space, including architectural technical drawings, the written word, and cartography, looking at how each mode reveals a different facet of the story of how we have constructed and experienced our world.

Athena was a student presenter in architecture at the 2015 Berkeley Circus. In addition to her studies, she participates in food justice efforts through her work with the Berkeley Student Food Collective, a non-profit cooperative grocery store.

UC Berkeley’s Student Mentoring And Research Team (SMART) is a paid professional development program that engages doctoral students in creating mentored research opportunities conducted with selected undergraduate student mentees during a ten-week period over the summer. Both participants receive compensation and training throughout their participation. SMART broadens the professional development of doctoral students and fosters research skills and paths to advanced studies for undergraduates.

Expenses associated with each team total $10,000 000 ($5K graduate stipend/ $3.5K undergrad stipend/$1.5K research and conference costs). As a donor-supported program of the Graduate Division, the majority of teams are underwritten through a combination of donor funds paired with matching support courtesy of the Graduate Division.

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