

# College of Architecture Departmental Records -- R. Buckminster Fuller 1932-1967

## Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Special Collections, Clemson University Libraries, Clemson, SC 29634-3001
<b>Series #:</b>	96
<b>Abstract:</b>	These records were collected by the College of Architecture and concern the work of R. Buckminster Fuller.
<b>Dates:</b>	1932-1967 [inclusive]; 1958 [bulk year]
<b>Quantity:</b>	1.55 cu. ft.

## Description

These records contain a composite of materials housed for a time within the College of Architecture and concern the work of R. Buckminster Fuller. A small portion of this collection is ephemeral in nature. Among these materials are memoranda from the Fuller Research Foundation, a lecture transcript published in vol. II of the 1967 edition of the *Journal of Environmental Design*, two news clippings [1956 and 1964] from local print media, two copies of original poems [one containing hand-written annotations by Fuller], as well as publications, promotional bulletins, and pamphlets that emphasize his many innovations. The bulk of this collection is a recorded lecture series [20 reel to reel tapes converted to cassette] that Fuller presented to the School of Architecture second year seminar students in February 1958.

## Additional Collection Information

*Nine Chains to the Moon*: Fuller, R. Buckminster; CB151 .F8

*Education Automation: freeing the scholar to return to his studies; a discourse before the Southern Illinois University, Edwardsville Campus Planning Committee, April 22, 1961*: Fuller, R. Buckminster; LB885 .F96

*The Dymaxion World of Buckminster Fuller*: Marks, Robert W.; TA140.F9 M3 1960

Series 83 College of Architecture -- Office of the Dean Records, 1940-1988

**Preferred citation**

Cite as: Description and date of item, College of Architecture Departmental Records -- R. Buckminster Fuller, 1932-1967, Series 96, Special Collections, Clemson University Libraries, Clemson, SC.

**Administrative History****Clemson Architectural Foundation**

1956 Formation of Clemson Architectural Foundation

**Department Heads/Deans**

1933 – 1948 Rudolph E. Lee, Head  
1948 – 1954 John Hobart Gates, Head  
1955 – 1958 Harlan E. McClure, Head  
1958 – 1984 Harlan E. McClure, Dean  
1984 Lamar H. Brown – acting Dean  
1984 – 1986 Paul David Pearson, Dean  
1986 – 1999 James F. Barker, Dean  
2000 – Janice Schach

**Departments**

1912 Department of Engineering offers degree program in architectural engineering  
1933 Department of Architecture  
1958 School of Architecture established July 1  
1971 College of Architecture created

**Centers**

1973 Charles E. Daniel Center for Building Research and Urban Studies [Genoa, Italy]  
1988 Clemson University College of Architecture Center at the College of Charleston [Charleston, SC]

**Biographical Note**

R. Buckminster Fuller was born on July 12, 1895 in Milton, Massachusetts, the son of Richard B. and Caroline Wolcott (Andrews) Fuller. He attended Harvard, but was expelled on two separate occasions. Afterwards, for a time, he was employed with both a textile mill and a meat packing plant.

He married in 1917, enlisting for service with the U.S. Navy later that same year during World War I. After the end of the war, Fuller once again was employed with the meat packing industry for a short time before establishing the Stockade Building System Company in 1922, which offered light-weight, weatherproof housing. The business was ultimately unsuccessful.

After a period of near bankruptcy, he accepted a position at Black Mountain College located in North Carolina in 1948. While there he began work on a project that would

revolutionize the field of engineering, the geodesic dome. In effect, he had designed one of the first structures that could sustain its own weight with no practical limitations. The U.S. government quickly recognized that the system could be applied to their military field operations and employed Fuller in the mass production of the domes.

He gained international recognition during the 1950s through the success of his domes, and began teaching at Southern Illinois University Carbondale in 1959. Fuller went on to contribute a wide range of ideas, designs, and inventions, particularly in the areas of practical, inexpensive shelter and transportation while working as a designer, scientist, developer, and writer. He was ultimately awarded with twenty-five U.S. patents and received numerous honorary doctorates. Fuller died in 1983, aged 88.

## Detailed Description

Box	Folder	Title
1	1	Fuller Research Foundation Mission Statement [?], 1950-1951
	2	“The Mobile Shelf Plus a Rotating Reserve on Home Shelves of R. Buckminster Fuller”, May 1955
	3	Exhibit I (Airocean World Plan), Exhibit II (Master Curve of Man’s Cumulative Resource Augmentation), Exhibit III (Synergy), Exhibit IV (Energy), Exhibit V (Experimental)—June, 1955
	4	Lecture <i>Journal of Environmental Design</i> , vol. II, 1967
	5	Miscellaneous Promotional Bulletins, Pamphlets—1952-1955
	6	News-clippings 1956-1964
	7	Poems “A Comprehensive Anticipatory Science of Design,” 1956
	8	Hand-Written Annotations by Fuller on Copy of “No More Second-Hand God,” 1963
	9	Publications <i>Fortune Magazine</i> , 1932; <i>Time</i> (cover only), 1964; <i>Saturday Review</i> , 1967

Box

2 12 Cassettes

3 9 Cassettes

### **Lecture Series on Cassette**

21 cassettes in boxes 2 and 3

Cassette

#### **1A**

February 10, 1958

“Intuition, Self, World Perspective, Modern Life in 1958”

Side 1 -- 31:40

Side 2 -- 31:46

Cassette

#### **1B**

February 10, 1958

“America in the 1920s and the Positive Changes to Culture and Education”

Side 1 -- 10:15

Side 2 -- Blank

Cassette

#### **2**

February 10, 1958

“Individualism, Secondary Energy and Genius, Education and Experience”

Side 1 -- 1 hour, 3 minutes

Side 2 -- 8:44

Cassette

#### **3**

February 10, 1958

“Naval Academy Experience, Evolution of the Specialist as a Discipline”

Side 1 -- 1 hour, 3 minutes

Side 2 -- 10:29

Cassette

#### **4A**

February 11, 1958

“Organizing the Future, Thoughts on Civilization and its Future”

Side 1 -- 31:42

Side 2 -- Blank

Cassette

**4B**

February 11, 1958

“More Life Experience, Dealing with People, the Concept of Operational Procedure”

Side 1 -- 8:06

Side 2 -- Blank

Cassette

**5**

February 11, 1958

“Operational Procedure Evolves into Relativity, Synergetics, Epistemology”

Side 1 -- 51:22

Side 2 -- 27:46

Cassette

**6**

February 11-12, 1958

“Experiences, Thoughts, and Intellectual Ideas about Civilization and Life”

Side 1 -- 47:45

Side 2 -- 24:25

Cassette

**7**

February 12, 1958

“Answers to Questions Asked During Break Period”

Side 1 -- 47:45

Side 2 -- 22:20

Cassette

**8**

February 12, 1958

“Visual Demonstration of Geometric Structure using Cards to Build Models”

Side 1 -- 44:46

Side 2 -- 26:46

Cassette

**9**

February 13, 1958

“Force Vectors, Planes and Geometry of Spherical Structure, Evolution of Science”

Side 1 -- 47:47

Side 2 -- 27:12

Cassette

**10**

February 13-14, 1958

“Energetic and Synergetic Geometry, Perspective on Development in Mathematics”

Side 1 -- 47:43

Side 2 -- 22:50

Cassette

**11**

February 13, 1958

“Discussion of Geodesic Domes using Visual Aids to Instruct the Class”

Side 1 -- 47:45

Side 2 -- 24:14

**\*Note\***

Part 12 missing from original reel to reel tapes

Cassette

**13**

February 17, 1958

“Review of Film Strip, Synergetic Geometry, Perception”

Side 1 -- 47:45

Side 2 -- 26:10

Cassette

**14**

February 17, 1958

“Modern Science on Sociological Topics, Design to Improve Life, Educational T.V.”

Side 1 -- 47:55

Side 2 -- 23:48

Cassette

**15**

February 17, 1958

“Lecture during Slide Presentation, Discussion of Geometry and Mathematics”

Side 1 -- 47:45

Side 2 -- 26:07

Cassette

**16**

February 17, 1958

“Lecture during Film, More Projects and Descriptions, Problems Solving in Geodesics”

Side 1 -- 47:26

Side 2 -- 21:37

Cassette

**17**

February 18, 1958

“Geometry of Systems, Deformation of Systems, Symmetry and Asymmetry”

Side 1 -- 45:42

Side 2 -- 3:40

Cassette

**18**

February 18, 1958

“Space Fillers, the Sides vs. the Points of Geodesic Structures, Patterns”

Side 1 -- 45:14

Side 2 -- 24:00

Cassette

**19**

February 18, 1958

“Geodesic Structure, Systems, Design, Math determines Structure, Ying/Yang Theory”

Side 1 -- 45:36

Side 2 -- 24:52

Cassette

**20**

February 18, 1958

“Lecture during Slide Presentation, Geodesic Structure Lecture Summary”

Side 1 -- 45:20

Side 2 -- 29:07

## **Separation List**

20 original reel to reel tapes -- located in vault

\*Note\* reel to reel part 12 -- missing prior to acquisition

Box 1           reel to reel (1-10)

Box 2           reel to reel (11-20)

## **Index Terms**

### **Subjects:**

Clemson University. College of Architecture  
Clemson University. Department of Architecture  
Clemson University. College of Architecture, Arts & Humanities  
Architecture, Modern—United States  
Geodesics (Mathematics)  
Oral history.

### **Author Added Entries:**

Fuller, R. Buckminster (Richard Buckminster), 1895 – 1983

## **Administrative Information**

### **Provenance**

This series contains the following accessions: 85-31, 85-73, 87-66, and 05-73. The accessions were received from the Emery A. Gunnin Architecture Library.

### **Processing**

This collection was processed by Carl Redd, Project Archivist in February 2006 as part of a re-grant project from the South Carolina State Historical Records Advisory Board funded by the National Historical Publications and Records Commission.