

# Finding aid for the Haralamb H. Georgescu papers, 1907-1992 2008.M.35

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## Special Collections

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## Summary Information

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- Repository:** Special Collections
- Creator:** Georgescu, Haralamb H.
- Title:** Haralamb H. Georgescu papers
- ID:** 2008.M.35
- Dates:** 1907-1992, bulk 1931-1977
- Extent:** 7.8 Linear Feet (6 boxes, 2 flatfile folders)
- Request Materials:** Request access to the physical materials described in this inventory through the [catalog record](#) for this collection. Click here for the [access policy](#).
- Language:** Collection material is in English with some Romanian.
- Abstract:** The collection documents the professional career of Romanian-born architect Haralamb H. Georgescu. While incomplete, these papers shed light on the prevalence of modernism and its European sources while further broadening the understanding of twentieth-century California modernism.

### Preferred Citation

Haralamb H. Georgescu papers, 1907-1992, The Getty Research Institute, Los Angeles, Accession no. 2008.M.35

<http://hdl.handle.net/10020/cifa2008m35>

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## Biographical/Historical Note

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Born in Pitești, Romania in 1908, Haralamb H. Georgescu became a well-known modernist architect in his native country. He graduated from the Polytechnic Institute of the University of Bucharest in 1933 and returned as professor from 1940 until his immigration to America in 1947. His work, especially the buildings designed with Horia Creangă, is cited in the standard works on twentieth-century architecture in Romania. Among his best known projects are the ARO Motion Picture Theater (Bucharest, 1934), the

ARO Palace Hotel (Braşov, 1938), and the Pescaru Restaurant (Bucharest, 1939). Georgescu also built several projects for King Michael of Romania, including his residence in Eforie Nord.

In September of 1947, Georgescu fled to the United States, due to conflicts with Romania's Communist regime. After a short stay in New York, he was hired in 1948 by the School of Architecture of the University of Nebraska, Lincoln to teach drawing and urban planning. Wanting to return to architectural practice, Georgescu (who Americanized his name to Harlan Georgesco) moved to Los Angeles in 1951, where he worked for a series of architects and designers including, Paul László, McAllister and Wagner, and Kenneth Lind. In 1957, Georgescu was able to start a firm in partnership with James Larson, and then in 1959 began working with Howard Lapham on projects in Palm Springs. Georgescu received his California architect license in 1964 and established his own practice in Century City, which he continued until his premature death in 1977.

Georgescu's best-known work in the United States is the house he designed in Beverly Hills for UCLA professor Pier Maria Pasinetti (1958). In addition to the Pasinetti House, he built many houses in Palm Springs, and designed several convalescent hospitals in the Los Angeles area. He also developed a visionary plan for 640 feet high towers consisting of vertical streets and suspended houselots termed Skylots (1965) - an integrated, sustaining environment intended to solve the congestion problem in Los Angeles. Though never realized, and it remains ahead of its time in terms of ecological and environmental concerns.

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## Scope and Content of Collection

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The Haralamb H. Georgescu papers document the career of this architect who had prominent careers in both Romania and the United States. Trained in Bucharest, Georgescu contributed substantially to Romanian modernism before immigrating to America, where he began a new career and continued to expand his Modernist vocabulary, particularly in the Los Angeles area. Most of the papers relate to Georgescu's American projects, but there are also photographic prints and negatives, in addition to some drawings and publications that show the highly modernist work he did in Romania in collaboration with Horia Creangă prior to his immigration to America.

Series I contains materials relating to Georgescu's architectural projects, in both Romania and America, consisting primarily of photographic prints and negatives while also including some original drawings and reproductions, documentation, articles, and microfilm. Also included are photographic prints of projects executed by Horia Creangă prior to, or without, the collaborative relationship with Georgescu.

Series II includes other materials relating to Georgescu's professional career, in addition to personal materials. Included are immigration files consisting of correspondence and original Romanian documentation, correspondence relating to Georgescu's teaching career, personal histories, publicity including both Romanian and American articles, and some personal photographs.

Bulk dates represent the majority of the materials in the collection, with inclusive dates representing early family photographs and later extant publications referencing Georgescu's work.

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## Arrangement

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Arranged in two series: Series I. Project records, 1934-1977 Series II. Other professional and personal papers, 1907-1992.

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## Administrative Information

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### Access

Open for use by qualified researchers, with the exception of un-reformatted microfilm.

### Publication Rights

Contact [Library Reproductions and Permissions](#).

### Acquisition Information

Gift of Christopher Georgesco. Acquired in 2008.

### Processing History

Initial processing conducted by Vladimira Stefura in 2008. In 2012 Mitchell Erzinger conducted final processing, arrangement, and description of the collection. Descriptive notes were derived from curatorial sources.

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## Controlled Access Headings

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### Contributor(s)

- Creang#, Horia, 1892-1943

### Subjects - People

- Creang#, Horia, 1892-1943
- Georgescu, Haralamb H.

### Subjects - Topics

- Architects -- California -- Los Angeles -- 20th century
- Architects -- Romania -- 20th century
- Architecture -- California -- Los Angeles -- 20th century
- Architecture -- Romania
- Architecture, Modern -- 20th century -- California, Southern
- Architecture, Modern -- 20th century -- Romania
- Modern movement (Architecture) -- California
- Modern movement (Architecture) -- Romania

### Subjects - Places

- Bucharest (Romania) -- Buildings, structures, etc. -- 20th century
- Los Angeles (Calif.) -- Buildings, structures, etc. -- 20th century

### Genres and Forms of Materials

- Architectural drawings (visual works)
- Black-and-white prints (photographs)
- Microfilm
- Negatives
- Photographic prints -- 20th century

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## Collection Inventory

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### **Series I. Project records, 1931-1975, undated    7.4 Linear Feet (5 boxes, 2 flatfile folders)**

#### *Scope and Contents:*

Black-and-white photographic prints documenting Georgescu's projects comprise the bulk of Series I. Also included are original drawings and reproductions, microfilm, and documentation such as correspondence and specifications. Drawing reproductions include photostats, photocopies, prints and line negatives of plans and renderings.

For each project, location and date are provided, when known. The dates listed are project dates derived from various sources, including catalogues, publications and Georgescu's personal histories, and represent a combination of initial planning and completion dates. For American projects, locations are in California unless otherwise noted.

*Arrangement note:*

This series is separated into Romanian and American projects, and then arranged in chronological order by project date. Undated and unidentified projects appear at the end of both respective sections. Romanian projects headed by Horia Creang# are placed after the primary Georgescu projects.

Title/Description	Containers	
Projects in Romania, 1931-1939, undated		
Apartment building, 16-18 Dr. Lister Street (Bucharest, 1933)	Box 1	Folder 2B
ARO motion picture theater (Bucharest, 1934) <i>Scope and Contents:</i> Addition to ARO building (1931); collaboration with Horia Creang#, original architect.	Box 1	Folder 2
Pipe factory, Malaxa Industries (Bucharest, 1935) <i>Scope and Contents:</i> Collaboration with Horia Creang#.		
Photographic prints	Box 1	Folder 1
Negatives	Box 3	Folder 6
Apartment building, 19 Rome Street (Bucharest, 1935)	Box 1	Folder 2A
ARO apartment building, 91-93 Calea Victoriei (Bucharest, 1936)		
Photographic prints	Box 1	Folder 3
Negatives	Box 3	Folder 6
Concordia engine factory (Ploie#ti, 1936)		
Photographic prints	Box 1	Folder 9
Negatives	Box 3	Folder 6
Obor food market (Bucharest, 1937)		
Photographic prints	Box 1	Folder 4
Negatives	Box 3	Folder 6
Villa of the Great Voivode Mihai (Eforie Nord, 1937) <i>Scope and Contents:</i> Horia Creang# original architect.		
Photographic prints	Box 1	Folder 5
Negatives	Box 3	Folder 6

**ARO hotel** (Braşov, 1938)*Scope and Contents:*

Collaboration with Horia Creangă.

Photographic prints

Box 1

Folder 6

Negatives

Box 3

Folder 6

**Pescăruș restaurant** (Herăstrău Lake, Bucharest, 1939)*Scope and Contents:*

Collaboration with Horia Creangă.

Photographic prints

Box 1

Folder 7

Negatives

Box 3

Folder 6

**Exhibition buildings** (Herăstrău Park, Bucharest, 1939)*Scope and Contents:*

Collaboration with Horia Creangă.

Photographic prints

Box 1

Folder 8

Negatives

Box 3

Folder 6

**Horia Creangă projects, 1931-1937***Scope and Contents:*

Projects executed prior to, or without, collaborative relationship with Haralamb H. Georgescu.

**ARO building** (Bucharest, 1931)

Box 1

Folder 10

**Anton Davidoglu apartment building, Dacia Boulevard** (Bucharest, 1932)

Box 1

Folder 11

**Bunescu villa, 12 Alexandru Alley** (Bucharest, 1932)

Box 1

Folder 12

**Dulflu villa, Băteilor Street** (Bucharest, 1933)

Box 1

Folder 13

**Elisabeta Cantacuzino villa, 15 Alexandru Alley** (Bucharest, 1934)

Box 1

Folder 14

**Burileanu Malaxa apartment building** (Bucharest, 1935)

Box 1

Folder 15

**Palatul Cultural** (Cernăuți, 1937)

Box 1

Folder 16

**Miscellaneous/unidentified Romanian projects**

Photographic prints

Box 1

Folder 17

Negatives

Box 3

Folder 6

Projects in the United States, 1956-1975, undated

**Chi Chi Starlite Room** (Palm Springs, 1956)

Box 1

Folder 18

**St. George Romanian Orthodox Cathedral** (Southfield, MI, 1957)

Box 1

Folder 19

**St. Mary's Romanian Orthodox Church** (Cleveland, OH, 1957)



Documentation	Box 1	Folder 21-23
Drawings	Flatfile 1**	
Photographs	Box 1	Folder 20
<b>Apartment building, Levering St.</b> (Westwood, 1958)	Box 1	Folder 24
<b>Pasinetti House</b> (Beverly Hills, 1958)		
Photographic prints	Box 2	Folder 1
Negatives	Box 3	Folder 6
<b>Crosby House</b> (Palm Springs, 1959) <i>Scope and Contents:</i> Design includes warehoused parts from Hearst Castle composed and altered to fit specifications for a room addition.	Flatfile 2**	
<b>Georgescu House</b> (Brentwood, 1963)		
Photographic prints	Box 2	Folder 2
Negatives	Box 3	Folder 6
<b>Pauker House</b> (Pacific Palisades, 1965)	Box 2	Folder 3
<b>Skylots</b> (Los Angeles, 1965)		
Drawings	Box 6*	Folder 1-2
Prints	Box 2	Folder 4
Line negatives	Box 3	Folder 1
<b>Grossman House</b> (Brentwood, 1968)	Box 2	Folder 13
<b>Lark-Arrow Apartments</b> (Los Angeles, 1968)	Box 2	Folder 5
<b>Mt. Olympus Competition</b> (Los Angeles, 1969)	Box 2	Folder 13A
<b>Lakeview Hospital</b> (Elsinore, 1970)		
Photographic prints of drawings	Box 2	Folder 6
Line negatives	Box 3	Folder 2
<b>Garden Crest Convalescent Hospital</b> (Los Angeles, 1971)	Box 2	Folder 7
<b>California Home for the Aged</b> (Reseda, 1973)		
Documentation	Box 2	Folder 8
Prints of drawings	Box 2	Folder 9
Line negatives	Box 3	Folder 3
Microfilm	Box 4	
<b>Bucuresti Restaurant</b> (Montrose, 1975) <i>Scope and Contents:</i>	Box 2	Folder 10

Original color tissue sketches

<b>Social Sciences and Law School, Washington University (St. Louis, MO)</b>		
Photographic prints of drawings	Box 2	Folder 11
Negatives	Box 3	Folder 4
<b>Youth House, College of Agriculture, University of Nebraska (Lincoln, NE)</b>		
Photographic prints of drawings	Box 2	Folder 12
Negatives	Box 3	Folder 6
<b>Miscellaneous/Unidentified American projects</b>		
Correspondence and documentation	Box 2	Folder 14
Prints	Box 2	Folder 15
Line negatives	Box 3	Folder 5
Microfilm	Box 4	

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## Series II. Other professional and personal papers, 1907-1992, undated 0.4 Linear Feet (1 box)

### *Scope and Contents:*

Materials relating to Georgescu's professional career and personal life comprise this small series. Included are architectural certificates and diplomas, immigration files consisting of correspondence and Romanian documents, personal histories, teaching files, Romanian and American publications, and personal photographs.

### *Arrangement note:*

This series is arranged alphabetically by subject, with miscellaneous materials included at the end of the series.

Title/Description	Containers	
Certificates and diplomas, 1933-1964		
Standard	Box 5	Folder 1
Oversize	Box 6*	Folder 5
Georgescu Office, Gateway West Building, Century City	Box 5	Folder 11
Exhibitions, 1971-1992	Box 5	Folder 2
General correspondence, 1947-1951	Box 5	Folder 3
<i>Scope and Contents:</i> Includes letter from Richard Neutra.		
Immigration files, 1943-1955, undated	Box 5	Folder 4
<i>Scope and Contents:</i>		

Includes original identification documents, transcripts, and correspondence.

Obituaries, 1979	Box 5	Folder 5
Personal histories, undated	Box 5	Folder 6
Photography, 1907-1949, undated		
Brasilia slides	Box 3	Folder 7
Other personal photographs	Box 5	Folder 12
Publicity, 1938-1992		
American publications,	Box 6*	Folder 3-4
Romanian publications, 1938-1943	Box 5	Folder 7
Teaching files, 1947-1951	Box 5	Folder 8
Miscellaneous personal material, 1947-1954, undated	Box 5	Folder 9-10

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