

Michelle Millar Fisher (nee Jubin) - Travel Report, Summer 2013

The Knickerbocker Archival Grant enabled me to make a much-awaited research trip to the Environmental Design Archives at the University of California, Berkeley. My application fell under category "B" – "Level II students whose research agenda could be substantially improved by access to archival materials prior to the submission of their dissertation prospectus." I am extremely grateful for the opportunity this research grant afforded me.

I visited the Environmental Design Archives in the latter half of August 2013. There, I was able to ascertain the availability of materials related to the Telesis group and the architect Vernon DeMars (outlined in my application rationale), and to record and copy primary materials that have helped me build my dissertation proposal (soon to be submitted), especially the content of my second chapter which is focused on Corbusian-inflected housing development on the west coast of America in the 1930s and 40s. Direct access to exhibition records for Telesis, and oral history transcripts with its members was particularly useful. The visit also helped me consolidate relationships with the two EDA archivists I will be working with during the early stages of my dissertation.

I was also able to visit the archives at Berkeley's Bancroft Library, and at the former Redevelopment Agency of San Francisco. At the Bancroft I was able to consult materials related to the realization of the interwar Telesis exhibition, consideration of which will form part of my second dissertation chapter and which I hope to turn into a conference paper this academic year. Finally, I was able to walk areas of the Western Addition redevelopment and see in-person the urban renewal case studies built by developed Joseph Eichler in the 1960s that I had researched the previous fall in Gwendolyn Wright's "History of the American City" class at Columbia. Eichler is tangential to my dissertation research but, again, I hope to

work on the seminar paper I wrote on his projects in order to take it to conference or publication. As I was so close, I visited Los Angeles very briefly to see the important A. Quincy Jones architectural history exhibition at the Hammer Museum. Dealing with similar mid-century experimental modern housing solutions to Vernon DeMars and Telesis, the exhibition was an important model to see as I eventually wish to realize my dissertation research in this form.