

Zimmerman House Collection
Finding Aid

The Currier Museum of Art
Manchester, New Hampshire

The Zimmerman House Collection

Dates

1912-2005, bulk 1949-1993

Extent

Approximately 45 linear feet, plus an architectural drawing storage cabinet.

Creators

Isadore J. Zimmerman; Lucille Zimmerman; Frank Lloyd Wright; John Geiger; Eugene Masselink; Michael Komanecky; Rosalie Reed; Michael Ingram; John Tilton; Kimon S. Zachos; Hetty Startup; and many others.

Administrative History

The collection is comprised of materials collected by the Zimmermans, which were accessioned by the Currier Museum of Art in 1988. Materials documenting the extensive restoration of the house by the Currier Museum of Art and the museum's subsequent opening of the house to the public have also been added to the collection.

Scope and Content Note

Isadore J. and Lucille Zimmerman commissioned Frank Lloyd Wright to build them a home in Manchester, New Hampshire in 1949. The house was completed in 1952 with the help of John Geiger, apprentice to Frank Lloyd Wright. Following the deaths of Isadore Zimmerman in 1984 and Lucille Zimmerman in 1988, the house was bequeathed to the Currier Museum of Art (at that time, the Currier Gallery of Art) and they restored the home. In 1990 the museum opened the house and ground to the public through guided tours.

The materials in the collection range from items accrued by the Zimmermans, including personal correspondence with Frank Lloyd Wright, household items and personal memorabilia, to records of the restoration process by the Currier Museum of Art. There is documentation of the Zimmermans' avid art collecting and love of music as well as administrative records of the house from both the Zimmermans and the Currier Museum of Art. The collection also includes templates for table linens by Frank Lloyd Wright and the architectural drawings for the house. Photographs, audiocassette and VHS tapes, and books by and about Frank Lloyd Wright complete the collection.

Box List

- Binder 1, labeled “Zimmerman House Through 1989,” containing articles and newsclippings about the Zimmerman House, 1956-1989 (bulk 1989).
- Binder 2, labeled “Zimmerman House 1990,” containing articles and newsclippings about the Zimmerman House, 1990.
- Binder 3, labeled “Zimmerman House 1991,” containing articles and newsclippings about the Zimmerman House, 1991-1992.
- Box 1, labeled “Zimmerman House Archive—Deaccession? Files,” containing materials relating to the sale of Isadore Zimmerman’s Gagliano violin and bow, 1989.
- Box 2, labeled “Zimmerman House Archive—Vintage Publications on the Zimmerman House,” containing the Historic Structure Report, articles, and exhibition information, 1989-1991 (bulk 1990).
- Box 3, labeled “Uncatalogued Materials,” containing photos, newsclippings, correspondence, memorabilia, and household books, 1943-1988 and undated.
- Box 4, labeled “Zimmerman House Archive—Uncatalogued Materials—Jewelry,” containing jewelry and personal effects of the Zimmermans, 1915-1965 and undated.
- Box 5, labeled “Zimmerman House Archive—Photographs,” containing photos, chronologies, and genealogies, 1971-1988 and undated.
- Box 6, labeled “Zimmerman House Archive—Zimmermans’ Household Files: Gas, Honeywell, Currier Gallery of Art—Related File,” containing correspondence, memos, budgets, minutes, household records and bills, programs from music and art events, and personal records, 1954-1988 (bulk 1970s) and undated.
- Box 7, labeled “Zimmerman House Archive—Uncatalogued Materials,” notes, newsclippings, articles, correspondence, personal records, photos, small blueprints, and household records and bills, 1932-1991 (bulk 1950-1989) and undated.
- Box 8, labeled “Zimmerman House Archive—Swanburg Photographs,” containing photos, pamphlets, correspondence, and the court transcript of *Swanburg Construction vs. Isadore J. Zimmerman and Lucille Zimmerman*, 1948-1992 and undated.
- Box 9, labeled “Zimmerman House Archive—Articles to be Photocopied,” containing Frank Lloyd Wright newsclippings, articles and memorabilia, 1940-1983 (bulk 1950s, 1970s-late 1980s) and undated.
- Box 10, labeled “Zimmerman House Archive: Zimmerman’s Household Files: Travel Related Files,” containing travel pamphlets, maps, photos, and travel memorabilia, 1960-1967 and undated.

- Box 11, labeled “Zimmerman House Archive: Publications: Taliesin and Others,” containing publications about Frank Lloyd Wright designs, and publications by Frank Lloyd Wright and the Frank Lloyd Wright School of Architecture at Taliesin or Taliesin West, 1951-1987 and undated. Note: January 1951 issue of *Architectural Forum* has a handwritten note from Frank Lloyd Wright to the Zimmermans.
- Box 12, labeled “Correspondence and Newsclippings,” containing correspondence, newsclippings about friends and artists, articles, newsclippings about Frank Lloyd Wright, magazines, photos, and newsclippings about musicians and concerts, 1949-1988 and undated.
- Box 13, labeled “Zimmerman House Archive: Catalogue of Files of Drawings,” containing drawings and small blueprints of the Zimmerman House with Currier Museum of Art paperwork, and photos of plans, undated.
- Box 14, labeled “Zimmerman House Archive—Uncatalogued Materials,” containing correspondence, medical journals and articles, newsclippings, correspondence and materials relating to the Currier’s management of the Zimmerman House, 1969-1990 (bulk 1970s-late 1980s) and undated.
- Box 15, labeled “Zimmerman House Archive—Financial, Legal, Miscellaneous,” containing the Zimmermans’ personal records, deed for the Zimmerman House, wills, receipts and invoices, photos, correspondence, handwritten history of the Zimmerman House, and research papers about the Zimmerman House, 1950-1985 (bulk early 1950s and 1980s) and undated.
- Box 16, labeled “Zimmerman House Archive—Currier Publications on the Zimmerman House,” containing Zimmerman House pamphlets and publications from the Currier, and other publications by the Currier, 1989-1997 and undated.
- Box 17, labeled “Zimmerman House Archive—Zimmerman’s Household Files: News Clippings, Pope-Leighey House book, Vintage Rolls of Wax Paper (3),” containing newsclippings, memorabilia, household books, correspondence, articles, and photos, 1912-1989 (bulk 1970s and 1980s) and undated. Note: the publication *The Japanese Print: An Interpretation* is signed by Frank Lloyd Wright to Mr. and Mrs. Sherman Booth.
- Box 18, labeled “Zimmerman House Archive—Incoming Correspondence: 1949-1988, Paras—Miscellaneous,” containing correspondence with friends, artists, academics, and several people associated with Frank Lloyd Wright, including his wife, Oligivanna Lloyd Wright, 1944-1988 and undated.
- Box 19, labeled “Zimmerman House Archive—Incoming Correspondence, 1949-1988, Affleck—Museums,” containing correspondence with friends, artists, academics, Frank Lloyd Wright, and several people associated with Frank Lloyd Wright, including his secretary, Eugene Masselink, 1949-1987 and undated.

- Box 20, labeled “Zimmerman House Archive—Photographs and Printed Material,” containing photos of the Zimmermans and friends, certificates and diplomas, research notes, and medical journals and articles, 1916-1988 (bulk 1950s-late 1980s) and undated.
- Box 21, labeled “Zimmerman House Archive—Uncatalogued Materials,” containing programs, correspondence, personal calendars, instruction manuals for household equipment, memorabilia, and personal effects, 1981-1988 and undated.
- Box 22, labeled “Zimmerman House Archive—Zimmerman’s Household Files,” containing travel pamphlets, music and art event programs, and memorabilia, 1973-1977 and undated.
- Box 23, labeled “Z,” containing a photograph album, magazines, books, and memos, 1901, 1908, 1926, 1950-1951, 1970 and undated.
- Box 24, labeled “Z,” containing a piece of wood, and framed photos of the Zimmermans, undated.
- Box 25, labeled “Z,” containing a framed photo, framed certificate and framed drawing, undated.
- Box 26, labeled “Zimmerman Family and Friends, Some Showing House—Photographs,” containing photos of the Zimmermans, photos of friends, photos of the Zimmerman House, 1961 and undated.
- Box 27, no label, containing the “Wright Spirit Award,” given to the Currier Museum of Art by the Frank Lloyd Wright Building Conservancy, 2001.
- Box 28, labeled “Z Tufts M.D. diploma,” containing Isadore Zimmerman’s unframed diploma from Tufts Medical School, 1929.
- Box 29, two trays of slides labeled “11: Chartres and Versailles” and “12: Chartres,” containing slides of Chartres and Versailles, undated.
- Box 30, two trays of slides labeled “Amsterdam” and “London,” containing slides of Amsterdam, Rotterdam, and London, undated.
- Box 31, two trays of slides labeled “3: Toledo” and “4: Segovia,” containing slides of Toledo and Segovia, undated.
- Box 32, labeled “Zimmerman slides,” containing slides of the construction of the Zimmerman House and the completed house; also slides from Taliesin West, 1944-1952, 1988.
- Box 33, labeled “Slides: Zimmerman House and Miscellaneous,” containing several small boxes of slides of the Zimmermans and the house, friends, Currier

docent training materials, and Currier public relations events, 1954-1963, 1994 and undated.

- Box 34, labeled “Paris 1” and Paris 2,” containing two trays of slides, undated.
- Box 35, labeled “Brussels, Ghent” and “Bruges, Düsseldorf,” containing two trays of slides, undated.
- Box 36, labeled “Versailles” and “London,” containing two trays of slides, undated.
- Box 37, labeled “Cement and Paint Samples,” containing a large piece of cement and a few smaller pieces of cement, and a small can of paint from Davis Colors, undated.
- Box 38, labeled “Z House—Press Releases, Other Lit.,” containing Zimmerman House guide schedules, newsclippings, brochures, the Zimmerman House Historic Structure Report, grant applications and documentation, books featuring the Zimmerman House, press releases, event information, and several issues of *The Zimmerman House Guide Newsletter*, 1977, 1989-1998 and undated.
- Box 39, labeled “Zimmerman House Restoration Files, 1990,” containing correspondence about the restoration, memos, handwritten notes, contracts, budgets, building permits, work proposals, architectural plans, information about conservators, advertisements, articles, invoices, inventories and appraisals, and information about various parts of the Zimmerman House, 1976-1994 and undated.
- Box 40, labeled “Zimmerman House Restoration Files, 1990,” containing correspondence about the restoration, memos, handwritten notes, contracts, budgets, building permits, work proposals, architectural plans, information about conservators, advertisements, articles, invoices, inventories and appraisals, and information about various parts of the Zimmerman House, 1976-1994 and undated.
- Box 41, labeled “Zimmerman House Restoration Files, 1990,” containing grant documentation, employee information, memos, newsclippings, correspondence, visitor statistics, docent information, meeting agendas, job descriptions, tour schedules, event information, and articles, 1952, 1991-1994 and undated.
- Box 42, labeled “Zimmerman House Restoration Files, 1990,” containing grant documentation, employee information, memos, newsclippings, correspondence, visitor statistics, docent information, meeting agendas, job descriptions, tour schedules, event information, and articles, 1952, 1991-1994 and undated.
- Box 43, labeled “F11: ‘In the Spirit of Frank Lloyd Wright’ Glass Bowl” (glass bowl awarded to the Currier Museum of Art), 1999.

- Box 44, labeled “Z House—Harvey Constr. Invoices 1989-1990,” containing a large number of invoices from Harvey Construction for work performed on the Zimmerman House, 1989-1990.
- Box 45, labeled “FLW & Z House,” containing record albums of Frank Lloyd Wright lectures, mock-ups of Zimmerman House stationary for the Currier Museum of Art, floor plans, book of photos of the Zimmerman House, 1951-1952, 1992, and undated.
- Box 46, labeled “Audiocassette Tapes: Docent Training and Interviews,” containing audiocassette tapes of docent training and interviews, including Frank Lloyd Wright’s apprentice John Geiger, 1988-1993.
- Box 47, labeled “Audiocassette Tapes: Docent Training and Interviews,” containing audiocassette tapes of docent training and interviews, 1989-1993.
- Box 48, labeled “Audiocassette Tapes: Docent Training, Interviews and Lectures,” containing audiocassette tapes of docent training, interviews and lectures, 1988-1993 and undated.
- Box 49, labeled “VHS Tapes,” containing VHS tapes of interviews, lectures, documenting the restoration process, and training, 1987-1993 and undated.
- Box 50, labeled “VHS Tapes,” containing VHS tapes of interviews, lectures, documenting the restoration process, and training, 1987-1993 and undated.
- Box 51, labeled “VHS Tapes,” containing VHS tapes of interviews, lectures, documenting the restoration process, and training, 1987-1993 and undated.
- Box 52, labeled “Photographs—Novices Collect, Z House Tour, Cassette Tapes; LP Recordings,” containing a notebook with Zimmerman House history information, photos, slides, film reel, and Laserdiscs, 1994, 1999, 2001 and undated.
- Binder 4, labeled “Reference: Zimmerman House,” containing information about the history of the Zimmerman House, details of the construction and garden design, information about the Zimmermans and Frank Lloyd Wright, and information about the exhibition “A Classic Usonian! Frank Lloyd Wright’s 1950 House for Isadore J. and Lucille Zimmerman” at the Currier Museum of Art, 1990 and undated.
- Binder 5, labeled “Reference: Zimmerman House,” containing a list of readings for Zimmerman House guides, a copy of *The Historic Structure Report for the Isadore J. and Lucille Zimmerman House*, photocopies of articles by and about Frank Lloyd Wright, photocopies of correspondence between Frank Lloyd Wright and the Zimmermans, photocopies of other correspondence related to the Zimmerman House (including design changes suggested by John Geiger and

approved by Frank Lloyd Wright and his secretary, Eugene Masselink), 1948-1952, 1989-1990 and undated.

- Binder 6, labeled “Reference: Zimmerman House,” containing the transcript from an interview with the Zimmermans in their house by Amy Eshoo, 1977.
- Boxes 53, labeled “Zimmerman House Files: Appliances to Conservation,” containing floor and landscape plans, invoices, correspondence, budgets, memos, meeting notes, articles, advertisements, receipts, work proposals, contracts, proposed schedules, pamphlets, handwritten notes, conservator information, work reports, and articles, 1977, 1986, 1988-1990 and undated.
- Boxes 54, labeled “Zimmerman House Files: Appliances to Conservation,” containing floor and landscape plans, invoices, correspondence, budgets, memos, meeting notes, articles, advertisements, receipts, work proposals, contracts, proposed schedules, pamphlets, handwritten notes, conservator information, work reports, and articles, 1977, 1986, 1988-1990 and undated.
- Boxes 55, labeled “Zimmerman House Files: Appliances to Conservation,” containing floor and landscape plans, invoices, correspondence, budgets, memos, meeting notes, articles, advertisements, receipts, work proposals, contracts, proposed schedules, pamphlets, handwritten notes, conservator information, work reports, and articles, 1977, 1986, 1988-1990 and undated.
- Transcripts of the court proceedings of Swanburg vs. Zimmermans (“Swanburg Construction Corporation vs. Lucille Zimmerman, R.N., Isadore Zimmerman, M.D.”), 1952-1956 (12 volumes, 2 copies of each volume; includes the deposition of John W. Geiger and the testimony of the Zimmermans; also includes a letter from a lawyer to the Zimmermans’ lawyer Kimon Zachos, 1992; on shelves in archives).
- Framed photo and certificate (The Manchester Historic Preservation Award, given to the Currier Museum of Art in 1993; on shelves in archives).
- Two pieces of gray cardboard with a book in between labeled “Dr. Toufic H. Kalil House, Frank Lloyd Wright, Photographs by Gerda Peterich, 1955” (a bound album of photos of the Kalil house in Manchester, New Hampshire; on shelves in archives)
- Two pieces of gray cardboard with a book in between labeled “Monona Basin Project, The Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation, 1967” (bound book with proposal for a civic building in Madison, Wisconsin; on shelves in archives)
- Photocopies of plans for the Zimmerman House, including interior furniture arrangement and landscape and garden plans, 1951, 1999, undated (on shelves in archives).

- Original plans from Tilton + Lewis from the restoration work, 1989-1991 (on shelves in archives).
- Box 56 (Princeton file) labeled “Other Frank Lloyd Wright Buildings” and “Frank Lloyd Wright Exhibitions,” containing various periodicals and pamphlets discussing the work of Frank Lloyd Wright, 1954-2005, and undated, and booklets and pamphlets from various exhibitions of Frank Lloyd Wright’s work, 1978-1998.
- Box 57 (Princeton file) labeled “Zimmerman House Featured or Mentioned in Various Publications,” containing various periodicals which feature or mention the Zimmerman House, including *House and Home* and *House Beautiful*, 1955-1956, 1959.
- Box 58 (cardboard Princeton file) labeled “Zimmerman House Featured or Mentioned in Various Publications,” containing various periodicals and pamphlets that mention or feature the Zimmerman House.
- Box 59 (cardboard Princeton file) labeled “Frank Lloyd Wright Quarterly, Home and Studio Newsletters, Wright Angles” containing issues of *Frank Lloyd Wright Quarterly* (1990-2006), *The Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation Annual Reports* (1996, 1997, 1999), *The Frank Lloyd Wright School of Architecture: An Overview* (1990-1991), *Wright Angles: Newsletter of the Frank Lloyd Wright Home and Studio Foundation* (1991-1992, 1994-2004).
- *Frank Lloyd Wright Quarterly* box file, containing several issues of *Frank Lloyd Wright Quarterly*, 1990-2005.
- Box 60 (Princeton file) labeled “Frank Lloyd Wright Building Conservancy Bulletins,” containing several issues of *Bulletin: The Quarterly Newsletter of the Frank Lloyd Wright Building Conservancy*, 1991-1992, 1998-2004.
- Box 61 (brown Princeton file) labeled “Taliesin Fellowship Journal,” containing several issues of *Journal of the Taliesin Fellows*, 1990, 1992, 1994-2000; *The Legacy of Frank Lloyd Wright* (booklet published by Chrysler-Plymouth and the Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation); booklet from the exhibition *A Classic Usonian! Frank Lloyd Wright’s 1950 House for Isadore J. and Lucille Zimmerman*, 1990.
- Binder 7 labeled “Frank Lloyd Wright Building Conservancy Quarterly Newsletter,” containing several issues of *Bulletin: The Quarterly Newsletter of the Frank Lloyd Wright Building Conservancy*, 1990-1998.
- Architectural Drawing Storage Cabinet, Drawer 1 (top drawer), containing a bound booklet of various photocopied items relating to the Zimmerman House; copies of the original drawings and blueprints of the Zimmerman House; photocopy of a topographic map of the plot for the Zimmerman House; the

- original presentation drawings of the Zimmerman House; and revised original plans for the Zimmerman House; 1949, 1951, 1968 and undated.
- Architectural Drawing Storage Cabinet, Drawer 2 (second from top), containing copies of the original drawings and blueprints of the Zimmerman House, some with handwritten notes; drawings from Lyons Iron Work for roof beams and specifications, 1951; Japanese paper samples; copies of detailed drawings of specific areas of the Zimmerman House, including furniture arrangement; copies of original drawings of the furniture for the Zimmerman House (designed by Frank Lloyd Wright); copies of original drawings of the garden and landscaping plan for the Zimmerman House; 1949, 1951, 1954 and undated.
 - Architectural Drawing Storage Cabinet, Drawer 3 (third from top), containing copies of original drawings and blueprints of the Zimmerman House; a photograph of architectural plans for the “House for Mr. and Mrs. Charles Dabney, Near Chicago,” by Frank Lloyd Wright; 1951, 1976 and undated.
 - Architectural Drawing Storage Cabinet, Drawer 4 (fourth from top), containing a donated “as-is” landscape plan (to show existing plantings) from landscape architect Richard Sheridan, 1999; copy of blueprint for the grave marker for the Zimmermans; copies of plans (original and restoration) of the heating and cooling systems in the Zimmerman House; drawings of the Zimmerman House by George Mathew Stefan; copies of blueprints for the storage house built during the restoration; copies of drawings and blueprints (original and restoration) of the Zimmerman House; templates for table linen patterns for the Zimmerman House, designed by Frank Lloyd Wright; copies of plans of the drainage system for the Zimmerman House, from the restoration; 1976, 1982, 1986, 1988-1990, 1998-1999 and undated.
 - Architectural Drawing Storage Cabinet, Drawer 5 (bottom drawer), containing color and black and white photographs of the Zimmerman House (exterior and interior shots, artwork, and interior and exterior construction work, the Zimmermans, their friends, one photo of Frank Lloyd Wright; some are mounted on cardboard or are in cardboard frames); undated.
 - Boxes 62, labeled “Various Artists: Newsclippings and Memorabilia,” containing folders for various artists containing newsclippings, postcards, pamphlets and booklets from exhibitions of their work in various galleries and museums around the world, some correspondence with artists and gallery owners is included, bulk 1960s and 1970s.
 - Box 63, labeled “Various Artists: Newsclippings and Memorabilia,” containing folders for various artists containing newsclippings, postcards, pamphlets and booklets from exhibitions of their work in various galleries and museums around the world, some correspondence with artists and gallery owners is included, bulk 1960s and 1970s.

- Box 64, labeled “Various Artists: Newsclippings and Memorabilia,” containing folders for various artists containing newsclippings, postcards, pamphlets and booklets from exhibitions of their work in various galleries and museums around the world, some correspondence with artists and gallery owners is included, bulk 1960s and 1970s.
- Box 65, labeled “Personal Memorabilia and Correspondence,” containing an envelope from Mr. and Mrs. Frank Lloyd Wright to Mr. and Mrs. Isadore Zimmerman, containing a copy of *Arizona Highways*, December 1958; a box containing a book embossed with “Cherished Memories,” with handwritten information about the life of Lucille Zimmerman, from her funeral ceremony; and a postcard from the Goodwin Funeral Home, Manchester, New Hampshire; a box containing a book embossed with “Cherished Memories,” with handwritten information about the life of Isadore J. Zimmerman, from his funeral ceremony.
- Box 66, labeled “Various Artists: Memorabilia,” containing bulletins and annual reports from various museums; pamphlets and booklets from various exhibitions; 1958-1981.
- Box 67, labeled “Various Artists: Memorabilia,” containing bulletins and annual reports from various museums; pamphlets and booklets from various exhibitions; 1958-1981.
- Box 68, labeled “Various Artists: Memorabilia,” containing bulletins and annual reports from various museums; pamphlets and booklets from various exhibitions; 1958-1981.