

# Guide to the Serge Chermayeff Papers

MS 1240



compiled by John Espy

May 1981

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## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Manuscripts and Archives  
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**CALL NUMBER:** MS 1240

**CREATOR:** Chermayeff, Serge, 1900-1996

**TITLE:** Serge Chermayeff papers

**DATES:** 1957-1968

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 1.25 linear feet

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** Chiefly printed copies of Serge Chermayeff's writings and research files on architecture. About half the papers consist of teaching materials from master class seminars in architecture conducted by Chermayeff at Yale University in 1966-1967.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.1240>

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## Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Manuscripts and Archives reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.1240>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please go to [http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/ifr\\_copy\\_order.html](http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/ifr_copy_order.html). The information you will need to submit an order includes: the collection call number, collection title, series or accession number, box number, and folder number or name.

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b. box  
f. folder

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## Administrative Information

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### Immediate Source of Acquisition

Transferred from the Yale University Art and Architecture Library, 1980.

## Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

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## Conditions Governing Use

Copyright status for collection materials is unknown. Transmission or reproduction of materials protected by U.S. Copyright Law (Title 17, U.S.C.) beyond that allowed by fair use requires the written permission of the copyright owners. Works not in the public domain cannot be commercially exploited without permission of the copyright owners. Responsibility for any use rests exclusively with the user.

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## Preferred Citation

Serge Chermayeff Papers. Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

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## Biographical / Historical

Sergei Ivanovitch Issakovitch was born on October 8, 1900, in Grozny, then in Caucasia. He was educated in England, where he took the name of Serge Chermayeff at the suggestion of his guardian. By age thirty, Chermayeff had already become an established designer with his own architectural firm. He came to the United States in 1940, accepting a teaching position at Brooklyn College two years later. He stayed at Brooklyn College as professor and chairman of the department of design until 1946, when he moved to the Institute of Design in Chicago, where he was president for four years. In 1953, he became professor of architecture at Harvard University. He concluded his career as a professor at Yale University, where he taught between 1962 and 1969, at which time he became professor emeritus. He died on May 8, 1996.

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## Scope and Contents

The Serge Chermayeff Papers consist largely of printed materials concerning his professional interests. In particular, there are copies of Chermayeff's writings, together with the research materials for one book, and teaching materials, especially records of master's class seminars at Yale in 1966-1967. Some of the printed material is annotated, but there are only a few original manuscripts or typescripts and little correspondence in the papers.

The papers were transferred from the Art and Architecture Library in October, 1980.

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## Collection Contents

b. 1, f. 1	Correspondence	1968, n.y., undated
b. 1, f. 2	Edward Frank letter enclosing his paper, "On Research and Development and the Construction Industry"	1967, 1968
Writings		
b. 1, f. 3	<i>The Urban Family House: A Design Project (with Christopher Alexander): annotated</i> A copy of this material is available in digital form from Manuscripts and Archives. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at <a href="mailto:beinecke.library@yale.edu">beinecke.library@yale.edu</a> to request access to the digital copy.	[ca. 1959]
b. 1, f. 4	"The New Nomads" English	1960
b. 1, f. 5 - 6	<i>Search for a New Urbanity: A Study by the Master's Class, Department of Architecture, Yale University (with Peter Leal Floyd): mock-up for printing with some Ms pages</i> A copy of this material is available in digital form from Manuscripts and Archives. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at <a href="mailto:beinecke.library@yale.edu">beinecke.library@yale.edu</a> to request access to the digital copy.	1962
<i>Shape of Community: Realization of Human Potential (with Alexander Tzonis)</i>		
b. 1, f. 7	Preface-chapter VI	1968
b. 2, f. 8	Chapter VII-appendices	1968
Teaching materials		
Master's class, Department of Architecture, Yale University		
b. 2, f. 9	Seminars: excerpts	1965
b. 2, f. 10	General information, schedules	1966-1967
Seminars: edited transcripts, hand-outs, reports		
b. 2, f. 11	Seminar 1	1966 October 3
b. 2, f. 12	Seminar 2	1966 October 17
b. 2, f. 13	Seminar 3	1966 October 31
b. 2, f. 14	Seminar 4	1966 November 14
b. 2, f. 15	Seminar 5	1966 November 28
b. 2, f. 16	Seminar 6	1966 December 12
b. 3, f. 17	Seminar 7	1967 January 9

Master's class, Department of Architecture, Yale University (continued)

b. 3, f. 18	Final review, student comments	1967 February 10
b. 3, f. 19	Conferences, etc., in which Chermayeff participated: printed announcements	1963, 1968
Research materials		
b. 3, f. 20 - 23	<i>Shape of Community</i>	1960-1968, undated
b. 3, f. 24	<i>Education for Urban Design: mimeographed conference proceedings, annotated</i> English A copy of this material is available in digital form from Manuscripts and Archives. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at <a href="mailto:beinecke.library@yale.edu">beinecke.library@yale.edu</a> to request access to the digital copy.	1962
b. 3, f. 25	Miscellaneous	1965, 1966, undated
b. 3, f. 26	Writings about Serge Chermayeff	1957, 1968

## **Selected Search Terms**

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

### **Subjects**

Architects  
Architecture -- Study and teaching  
Educators

### **Names**

Chermayeff, Serge, 1900-1996

### **Corporate Bodies**

Yale University. School of Fine Arts  
Yale University -- Faculty