



# Smithsonian

National Museum of African American History and Culture

## Norma Merrick Sklarek Archival Collection

Ja-Zette Marshburn and Alana Donocoff

2021



National Museum of African American History and Culture  
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## Collection Overview

|                    |                                                         |
|--------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Repository:</b> | National Museum of African American History and Culture |
| <b>Title:</b>      | Norma Merrick Sklarek Archival Collection               |
| <b>Date:</b>       | 1944-2008                                               |
| <b>Identifier:</b> | NMAAHC.A2018.23                                         |
| <b>Creator:</b>    | Sklarek, Norma Merrick, 1926-2012                       |
| <b>Extent:</b>     | 4.8 Cubic feet                                          |
| <b>Language:</b>   | English .                                               |

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

Collection of the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture, Gift of David Merrick Fairweather and Yvonne Goff

### Processing Information

Collection processed, arranged, and described by Ja-Zette Marshburn and Alana Donocoff in 2020 and 2021.

### Preferred Citation

Norma Merrick Sklarek Archival Collection, 1944-2008. National Museum of African American History and Culture, Smithsonian Institution.

### Restrictions

Collection is open for research. Access to collection materials requires an appointment.

### Conditions Governing Use

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## Biographical / Historical

Norma Merrick Sklarek was a renowned architect and a woman of firsts who broke racial and gender barriers earning her place in the male-dominated world of architecture. She was the first Black woman member and esteemed fellow of the highly respected architectural professional organization, American Institute of Architects (AIA). Norma was distinguished in her career for leading challenging assignments and managing large, complex construction projects.

Norma Merrick was born April 15, 1926 to Dr. Walter Ernest Merrick, and Amelia (Amy) Willoughby in Harlem, New York City, New York. Her parents had emigrated from Trinidad, though her father was born in St. Vincent, West Indies. Norma's parents were a part of the first significant Caribbean immigration waves to the United States in the early 20th century. Arriving just a year before her birth, her parents saw possibility and education

there. Her father, Walter attended Howard University and eventually became a physician. While her mother, Amy worked as a seamstress in a factory to make ends meet as Walter "wasn't much of a businessman" as described by Norma in an oral history interview. He practiced medicine in Harlem, New York. Norma stated that her father often served as a physician to African American celebrities such as Hazel Scott, Ethel Waters and Art Tatum. Walter was also a talented musician and carpenter that supported his daughter's love of art and math and encouraged her to pursue a career in architecture.

Around 1940, Norma was enrolled at the prestigious Hunter College High School for the intellectually gifted and "Ivy League-bound" young women. Excelling academically, Norma attended Barnard University, the prestigious women's college formerly administered by Columbia University. She attended Barnard initially in order to gain a year of a liberal arts education so that she could be accepted into then-known Columbia University School of Architecture. In 1947, she met and married, Dumas Flagg Ransom, law student at nearby Wagner University. She subsequently gave birth to her first son, Gregory Merrick Ransom shortly thereafter. She graduated from Columbia in 1950 with a Bachelor of Architecture (B.Arch.) degree. She was one of only two women and the only African American in her graduating class.

Despite her Columbia University pedigree, her race and gender made it predictably difficult to obtain employment. Norma easily recalls in an oral history interview later in life that she was turned down by nineteen prospective employers. It was on the twentieth interview with the Department of Public Works (DPW) that she was hired as a junior draftsman for New York City. She passed her architecture licensing examination in 1954 becoming the first Black woman believed to be licensed to practice architecture in New York. Despite a poor recommendation from her DPW supervisor, she worked briefly at Katz, Waisman, Blumenkranz, Stein and Weber as a junior associate. She felt stifled and unchallenged and left that firm to do some rendering coloring work with notable New York architect, Bob Schwartz. In 1955, she started working at notable architectural firm, Skidmore, Owings, and Merrill (SOM) in New York City where she was given larger-scale projects. At the same time, she taught architecture courses at New York City Community College (presently called the New York City College of Technology) located in Brooklyn, NY. She was the school's first woman faculty member. It was also during her tenure at SOM that Norma joined AIA and inadvertently became the organization's first African American woman member. She was a member of the Council for the Advancement of the Negro in Architecture, a New York-based group. During all this groundbreaking work, Norma was a twice-divorced mother of two sons with the birth of her second son, David Merrick Fairweather from her union with Benjamin Fairweather. Norma depended on the assistance of her family in raising her sons while she worked and advanced her career.

In an effort to advance her career, Norma moved to Los Angeles, California to work with architectural firm, Gruen Associates in 1960. A requisite for an architect in California, Norma became the first Black woman to be a licensed architect in the state. Gruen Associates, founded by visionary Austrian architect Victor Gruen, was notable for their pioneering work with shopping malls and multi-use buildings. At Gruen, in 1965 she earned the director of architecture position where she was responsible for hiring and overseeing multiple staff members as well as serving as project manager on several high-profile projects for the firm.

Her projects included the high-rise multi-use building California Mart (1963), now known as California Market Center; skyscraper Fox Plaza (1966) in San Francisco and some of Norma's most notable work for Gruen, The Pacific Design Center (1975), a multi-use facility utilized by the California's bustling apparel and fashion industry. Norma's contributory design is affectionately known by California's locals as the "Blue Whale." Norma worked on the latter project with Gruen's lead architect at the time, Cesar Pelli, known for some of the world's tallest buildings, most notably World Finance Center (Brookfield Place) in New York City. Pelli also shared his credit with Norma for her exemplary contribution to the renovation and redesign of the San Bernardino City Hall (1972) in California as well as their work on the U.S. Embassy (1976) in Tokyo, Japan. While at Gruen, Norma married Rolf Sklarek, a fellow architect at the firm. She also taught architecture courses at the University of California Los Angeles (UCLA) and the University of Southern California (USC). At UCLA, she was the first African American member of the faculty.

In 1980, she was finally recognized for all of her trailblazing and innovative work, when she became the first African American woman elected to the AIA College of Fellows. The highest honor within the architecture profession. This prestigious award gave her assurance that she could take her career to another level. She departed Gruen for Welton Becket & Associates, a prominent California firm renowned for iconic music and

cultural centers, including the iconic Capitol Records building in Los Angeles. Norma was appointed as the vice president of the firm and lead project manager on one of her most notable works, Terminal One at the Los Angeles International Airport. She was recognized for the timely completion of the project as preparation for the influx of travelers to Los Angeles for the 1984 Olympic Games. Norma also suffered the loss of her husband, Rolf Sklarek, the same year.

It was her work from the Los Angeles Airport project that empowered Norma to break yet another barrier. 1985 proved to be significant year as she became first African American woman to found and co-own a woman-owned architectural firm. Norma collaborated with fellow veteran architects Margot Siegal and Katherine Diamond to create Siegel-Sklarek-Diamond (SSD). SSD was one of the largest woman-owned architecture firms at the time. Their largest project was the Tarzana Promenade, a 90,000 sq. ft. medical and retail center, and the remodel and renovation of the Lawndale Civic Center; both located in California. Norma also designed work for the proposed Marva Collins Preparatory School in Compton, CA. The school was named after seminal educator, Marva Collins that had revolutionized education for low-income students in a crime-ridden area in Chicago, Ill. The hope was to replicate Collins' important work for children in Compton.

Being a new firm amidst the prevalence of racism and sexism within the profession left SSD at a disadvantage. Their projects were mainly residential and smaller commercial projects that didn't bring the income and accompanying challenges like larger scaled projects. Sklarek left SSD in 1989 for Jerde Partnership, an established innovator in the design and construction of shopping malls around the world. Norma was hired as the principal on the project management for the design and construction of the Mall of America. Located in Bloomington, Minnesota, it is considered to be the largest shopping mall in United States.

In 1992, Norma retired from the profession but did not resign herself to stop working. Norma became an active advocate in broadening the profession to include more women and people of color. She focused her work on teaching, lecturing, and mentoring. Over the years, she served as faculty and lecturer at several universities including UCLA, USC, University of Iowa, Kansas State University, California Polytechnic as well as her alma mater Columbia University. In an effort to inspire Black architects, Norma regularly lectured at HBCUs including Howard University, Hampton University, Tuskegee University, and Southern University.

Sklarek's work was recorded and recognized by the black press and publishers, such as her being included in Ebony magazine as early as 1958, in their article on "Successful Young Architects." In 2008, the AIA awarded her with the Whitney M. Young, Jr. Award that recognizes architects who represented the profession's responsibility to address social issues. She also served on multiple professional boards and committees, such as the California Architects Board, Professional Qualifications Committee, California State Board of Architectural Examiners, the AIA National Ethics Council and many more.

On February 6, 2012, Sklarek died in the Pacific Palisades, California at the age of 85. She was survived by her husband Cornelius Welch, whom she married in 1985; her son, David Merrick Fairweather, stepdaughter Susan Welch as well as three grandchildren. She was predeceased by her son Gregory Merrick Ransom in 2006.

#### **Historical Timeline**

|           |                                                                                                      |
|-----------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1926      | Norma Merrick was born to Amy Willoughby and Walter Merrick in Harlem, New York.                     |
| 1944      | Graduated from Hunter College High School, New York, NY                                              |
| 1944-1945 | Attended Barnard College, New York, NY                                                               |
| 1945-1950 | Attended Columbia University in New York City earning a bachelor's degree in architecture (B.Arch.). |
| 1947      | Married Dumas Flagg Ransom and had son, Gregory Merrick Ransom. They later divorced.                 |
| 1950      | Married Elwyn (Benjamin) Fairweather and had son, David Merrick Fairweather. They later divorced.    |

|           |                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|-----------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1950-1955 | Worked at the Department of Public Works, New York, NY                                                                                                                                                 |
| 1954      | Licensed in the state of New York; believed to be the first black woman architect licensed in New York                                                                                                 |
| 1959      | First African American woman member of the American Institute of Architects (AIA).                                                                                                                     |
| 1955-1960 | Worked at Skidmore, Owings, and Merrill in New York, NY                                                                                                                                                |
| 1957-1960 | Architecture faculty member at New York City Community College, Brooklyn, NY                                                                                                                           |
| 1960      | Married Francis "Harry" Pena in New York, NY.<br><br>Moved to California and began working at Gruen Associates and served as the Director of Architecture until 1980.                                  |
| 1962      | First African American woman architect licensed in California                                                                                                                                          |
| 1963      | Sklarek coordinated the design and construction of the California Mart, Los Angeles, CA.                                                                                                               |
| 1966      | Sklarek coordinated the design and construction Fox Plaza in San Francisco, CA.                                                                                                                        |
| 1967      | Sklarek divorced Pena and married Rolf Sklarek, a fellow architect at Gruen Associates.                                                                                                                |
| 1970      | Sklarek coordinated the design and construction of the Park Center Commercial Complex in San Jose, CA .                                                                                                |
| 1972-1973 | Sklarek coordinated the design and construction of the San Bernardino, City Hall in San Bernardino, CA.                                                                                                |
| 1973      | Sklarek coordinated the design and construction of Commons-Courthouse Center in Columbus, IN.                                                                                                          |
| 1973-1978 | Served as faculty member in the UCLA School of Architecture and Urban Planning                                                                                                                         |
| 1976      | Sklarek coordinated the design and construction of the U. S. Embassy in Tokyo, Japan.                                                                                                                  |
| 1978      | Sklarek coordinated the design and construction of Pacific Design Center in Los Angeles, CA.                                                                                                           |
| 1980      | First African American woman fellow of the AIA                                                                                                                                                         |
| 1980-1985 | Worked as VP and project manager at Welton Becket & Associates in Santa Monica, CA                                                                                                                     |
| 1984      | Sklarek working with Welton Becket Associates coordinated the design and construction of Terminal One at the Los Angeles International Airport, Los Angeles, CA.<br><br>Rolf Sklarek died in February. |
| 1985      | Sklarek along with Margot Siegal and Katherine Diamond formed their own firm, Siegel- Sklarek-Diamond.<br><br>Sklarek married Dr. Cornelius Welch.                                                     |
| 1989      | Left the Siegel-Sklarek-Diamond and joined The Jerde Partnership, in Venice, CA, as the principal project manager.                                                                                     |

|           |                                                                                            |
|-----------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1989-1992 | Sklarek coordinated the design and construction of the Mall of America in Minneapolis, MN. |
| 1992      | Retired from The Jerde Partnership                                                         |
| 2003-2007 | Served as commissioner on the California State Board of Architectural Examiners            |
| 2008      | Awarded American Institute of Architects' Whitney M. Young Jr. Award                       |
| 2012      | Norma Merrick Sklarek died in the Pacific Palisades, California at the age of 85.          |

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## Scope and Contents

The Norma Merrick Sklarek Archival Collection documents the prestigious and groundbreaking career of one of the early women architects who also broke ground for African American architects as well. The collection highlights Sklarek's journey and accomplishments as she paved the way for future women architects and architects of color. The collection is comprised of family records, resumes, business ephemera, photographs, correspondence, publications, clippings, architectural drawings, as well as her many awards and accolades.

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## Arrangement

The materials in this collection have been separated into eight series. The materials have been ordered and organized based on the content and chronology. Within each series and subseries, the folders are organized as close to the collection's original order as when it was acquired.

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## Bibliography

"A Tribute to Norma Merrick Sklarek, FAIA." *Pylon*. March/April 2020. (accessed June 2021). <https://aiabrooklyn.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/AIA-Pylon-2020MarApr.pdf>.

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Lanker, Brian. (1989). *I Dream a World: Portraits of Black Women Who Changed America*. New York: Stewart, Tabori & Chang.

Lewis, Anna M. *Women of Steel and Stone: 22 Inspirational Architects, Engineers, and Landscape Designers*. Chicago: Chicago Review Press, 2014.

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Sellers, Libby. (2017). *Forbes*. Women Design. London: Francis Lincoln Limited Publishers.

Sklarek, Norma Merrick, Biographical Material; Ms88-049; Special Collections, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University.

Travis, Jack. (1991). *Forbes*. African American Architects in Current Practice. New York: Princeton Architectural Press.

Wilkinson, Michelle Joan. "Norma Merrick Sklarek: Redefining Public." Women in Design and Architecture at Princeton University School of Architecture, April 24, 2019, Princeton, New Jersey. <https://vimeo.com/332318281>.

Williams, Nancy Anita. "Howard Conference A Rallying for Black Female Architects." *Forbes*. The Washington Post. Dec. 15, 1983. (accessed November 2020). <https://www-proquest-com.smithsonian.idm.oclc.org/docview/147535498?accountid=46638>.

Woo, Elaine. "Pioneering African American Architect Was 85" (obituary) *Pioneering Woman of American Architecture*. Los Angeles Times. (accessed November 2020). <http://articles.latimes.com/2012/feb/10/local/la-me-norma-sklarek-20120210>.

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## Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

### Subjects:

- African diaspora
- Architecture
- Business
- Design
- Education
- Entrepreneurship
- Gender
- Identity
- Japan -- Tokyo
- Photographs
- Women

### Types of Materials:

- Correspondence

Names:

American Institute of Architects  
Covington, Garnett K.  
Davis, Carolyn Armenta, 1944-  
Diamond, Katherine  
Donaphin, Alexa Barnes  
Grant, Bradford C.  
Gruen Associates  
Gruen, Victor, 1903-1980  
Harney, Henrietta  
Hermanuz, Ghislaine  
Hinton-Lee, W. Chris  
Hutchinson, Louise Daniel  
LeGendre, Laurette  
Love-Stanley, Ivenue  
Mills, Marlene E.  
Moseley-Olaleye, Joyce  
Pelli, Cesar  
Schwartz, Robert (Robert E.)  
Siegel, Margot  
Sklarek, Rolf  
Sutton, Sharon E., 1941-  
Tyler, Kathryn B.  
Washington, Roberta  
Williams, Paul R., 1894-1980  
deJongh, Donna

Places:

Brooklyn (New York, N.Y.)  
Harlem (New York, N.Y.)  
Los Angeles (Calif.)

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## Container Listing

### Series 1: Family and Educational Records, c. 1944-1961; undated

Scope and Contents: Materials in this series include materials related to Sklarek's father, Walter Ernest Merrick, as well as materials related her education.

|                 |                                                                                                                                 |
|-----------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Box 1, Folder 1 | <a href="#">Letter to Dr. Walter Merrick from Averell Harriman Governor of New York, 1958</a>                                   |
| Box 1, Folder 1 | <a href="#">Eulogy to Walter Ernest Merrick a devoted member Of The Karma Club delivered by Jerry Adamson [Photocopy], 1961</a> |
| Box 2, Folder 1 | <a href="#">Proclamation from State of New York proclaiming April 20-26 as Caribbean-American Friendship week, 1958</a>         |
| Box 1, Folder 2 | <a href="#">Photograph of Norma Sklarek as a child in New York, undated</a>                                                     |
| Box 1, Folder 2 | <a href="#">Norma Merrick Fairweather on her graduation and future plans, 1950</a>                                              |
| Box 1, Folder 2 | <a href="#">The Christian Courier "Gold Medalist", undated</a>                                                                  |

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## Series 2: Resumes and Biographies, undated

**Scope and Contents:** Materials in this series include biographical information, resumes, and documentation of her many accomplishments, from professional practice to public service. This information in this series appears to have been useful for her many speaking engagements at universities and conferences around the country, as well as for her application for fellowship in the American Institute of Architects.

|                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|-----------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Box 1, Folder 3 | <a href="#">Buildings Sklarek was head architect, undated</a>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Box 1, Folder 3 | <a href="#">Norma Sklarek, FAIA Architect, undated</a>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Box 1, Folder 3 | <a href="#">"The Gift of Norma Sklarek" by Roland Wiley, AIA NOMA, undated</a>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Box 1, Folder 3 | <a href="#">Norma Sklarek Resume and References, undated</a>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Box 1, Folder 3 | <a href="#">Norma Merrick Sklarek biographical information, undated</a>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Box 1, Folder 3 | <a href="#">Resume for Norma Merrick Sklarek, Director of Architecture at Gruen Associates, undated</a>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Box 1, Folder 3 | <a href="#">Norma Merrick Sklarek, FAIA Pioneer in Architecture, undated</a>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Box 1, Folder 3 | <a href="#">List of Achievements of Norma Merrick Sklarek at Becket: Welton Becket Associates, undated</a><br>Notes: While Sklarek believed she was the first black woman to graduate from Columbia's architecture program when she made these notes, scholars have since identified Beverly Loraine Greene as preceding Sklarek in 1945. |

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## Series 3: Architectural Records, 1987; undated

Scope and Contents: Materials in this series include architectural drawings and furniture designs.

|                 |                                                                                                                      |
|-----------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Box 1, Folder 4 | <a href="#">Drawing, Marva Collins Preparatory School, Compton, CA, 1987</a>                                         |
| Box 1, Folder 4 | <a href="#">Drawing, Multipurpose Building Commonwealth Avenue Elementary School Siegel Sklarek Diamond, undated</a> |
| Box 1, Folder 4 | <a href="#">Design drawing for computer table, undated</a>                                                           |
| Box 6           | <a href="#">Drawing, Canopy to Student Union Building at California State University, Los Angeles, undated</a>       |
| Box 6           | <a href="#">Drawing, Student Union Building at California State University, Los Angeles, undated</a>                 |

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## Series 4: Professional Ephemera and Business Records, 1969-2002; undated

Scope and Contents: Materials in this series include business publications, newspaper articles and professional ephemera from industry events and conferences.

|                 |                                                                                                                                                      |
|-----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Box 4, Folder 1 | Victor Gruen Associates Architecture, c. 1960-1980                                                                                                   |
| Box 1, Folder 5 | Becket Reporter Welton Becket Associates Architects and Engineers, 1975                                                                              |
| Box 1, Folder 5 | Business card for architect Norma Merrick Sklarek, F.A.I.A., undated                                                                                 |
| Box 1, Folder 5 | CCAIA - California Council, the American Institute of Architects - Movers & Shapers CCAIA'S 34th Annual Convention, 1979                             |
| Box 1, Folder 5 | AIA Convention News Cincinnati, Ohio with article on Sklarek 'First Black Woman Fellow' [photocopy], 1980                                            |
| Box 1, Folder 5 | Advertisement for "Second Annual Exploring Future Careers For Black Women" featuring Norma Sklarek, 1982                                             |
| Box 1, Folder 5 | The California Executive "Designing Women Seigel, Sklarek and Diamond are bridging the architectural gender gap" by Samuel Greengard, 1987           |
| Box 4, Folder 2 | Badge "Vision Pacific for Norma Sklarek, FAIA Jerde Inc" with ribbon "Speaker", 1989                                                                 |
| Box 1, Folder 6 | The African American Architect Initiative by Harry G. Robinson III, FAIA Howard University, 1990                                                     |
| Box 1, Folder 6 | Talking points, "Gender, Space and Architecture women's contributions to the built environment" at the Huntington Library, undated                   |
| Box 1, Folder 6 | Talking points, "Gender, Space and Architecture women's contributions to the built environment" at the Cincinnati YWCA, undated                      |
| Box 1, Folder 6 | Directory of African American Architects...by the College of Design, Architecture, Art and Planning University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, Ohio, 1991 |
| Box 1, Folder 6 | University of Southern California School of Architecture Presents Norma Sklarek, FAIA And Why Not - Career of a Black Woman Architect, 2002          |
| Box 1, Folder 6 | Business card for Meg Roozen at LBD Lynne Deane Barbara and Associates, undated                                                                      |
| Box 1, Folder 6 | Business card for Lynne Deane Barbara at LBD Lynne Deane Barbara and Associates, undated                                                             |

Box 2, Folder 2

[License to Practice Architecture in the State of New York for Norma Merrick Sklarek to replace license issued 1954, 1969](#)

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## Series 5: Professional Photographic Materials, 1979-c.1989; undated

Scope and Contents: Materials in this series include photographs of Sklarek, her building projects, her induction as a fellow in the American Institute of Architects as well as her work with the firm, Siegel-Sklarek-Diamond at the Terminal One, Los Angeles Airport work site.

|                 |                                                                                                                                 |
|-----------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Box 2, Folder 3 | Bank of California, San Jose, CA designed by Norma Sklarek, DAIA Director of Architecture Gruen Associates, 1973                |
| Box 2, Folder 4 | The Pacific Design Center designed by Norma Sklarek, DAIA Director of Architecture Gruen Associates, 1976                       |
| Box 2, Folder 5 | Rainbow Center, Niagara Falls, NY designed by Norma Sklarek, DAIA Director of Architecture Gruen Associates, 1977               |
| Box 1, Folder 7 | Portrait of Sklarek from Jasmine Photo, undated                                                                                 |
| Box 1, Folder 9 | Sklarek seated at a drawing table, (bulk c. 1979-1989)                                                                          |
| Box 1, Folder 7 | Sklarek, Mayor Tom Bradley, and an unidentified man, undated                                                                    |
| Box 1, Folder 7 | Letter to Sklarek with header "Photo Jasmine" from Jasmine Lindsey, undated                                                     |
| Box 1, Folder 7 | Advertisement for Jasmine Photo, 1979                                                                                           |
| Box 1, Folder 7 | Contact sheet of photographs of Norma Sklarek from Jasmin Photo, undated                                                        |
| Box 1, Folder 8 | Contact sheets of African American architects from the American Institute of Architect Fellows, 1980                            |
| Box 1, Folder 8 | Sklarek awarded the College of Fellows membership by AIA president Charles E. Schwing, 1980                                     |
| Box 1, Folder 8 | Portrait " Norma Sklarek, FAIA", undated                                                                                        |
| Box 1, Folder 9 | Sklarek at LAX worksite with Margot Siegel and unknown man, c.1985-1989                                                         |
| Box 1, Folder 9 | Sklarek, Siegel, and Diamond at worksite holding architecture designs at LAX building site, c.1985-1989                         |
| Box 1, Folder 9 | Sklarek and Siegal at LAX worksite with unidentified women holding architecture designs, c.1985-1989                            |
| Box 1, Folder 9 | Sklarek, Siegel, and Diamond at worksite with unidentified women holding architecture designs at LAX building site, c.1985-1989 |
| Box 1, Folder 9 | Sklarek, Siegel, and Diamond at worksite with unidentified woman holding architecture designs at LAX building site, c.1985-1989 |

|                 |                                                                                                                                                 |
|-----------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Box 1, Folder 9 | <a href="#">Sklarek, Seigel, and Diamond at worksite with unidentified women holding architecture designs at LAX building site, c.1985-1989</a> |
| Box 1, Folder 9 | <a href="#">Sklarek, Seigel, and Diamond at worksite with unidentified woman holding architecture designs at LAX building site, c.1985-1989</a> |
| Box 1, Folder 9 | <a href="#">Sklarek, Seigel, and Diamond at worksite holding architecture designs at LAX building site, (bulk c.1985-1989)</a>                  |
| Box 1, Folder 9 | <a href="#">11 Terminal One, LAX, undated</a>                                                                                                   |

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## Series 6: Professional Correspondence, 1964-1993; undated

Scope and Contents: This series includes correspondence relating to Sklarek's work, speaking engagements as well as discussions about her inclusion in a museum exhibition.

|                  |                                                                                                                                                                      |
|------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Box 1, Folder 10 | Telegram to Sklarek from Herman Guttman partner at James Lim Chairman of the Associates, 1964                                                                        |
| Box 1, Folder 10 | Letter to Sklarek from William J. Mitchel, Head, Architecture/Urban Design Program University of California, Los Angeles, 1973                                       |
| Box 1, Folder 10 | Letter to Vice Chancellor Charles Z. Wilson of Los Angeles School of Architecture and Urban Planning from Sklarek, 1975                                              |
| Box 1, Folder 10 | Letter to Sklarek from DL Chandler, Massachusetts Institute of Technology School of Architecture and Planning Department of Architecture, 1976                       |
| Box 1, Folder 10 | Letter to 1980 Fellow of The American Institute of Architects from Syed S. Ali, 1980                                                                                 |
| Box 1, Folder 10 | Letter to Sklarek from Brad, 1980                                                                                                                                    |
| Box 1, Folder 10 | Letter to Sklarek from Louise D. Hutchinson, Director of Research Exhibits Design at The Anacostia Neighborhood Museum- Smithsonian Institution, 1982                |
| Box 1, Folder 10 | Letter to Sklarek and transcript of interview from Janice Fillip Editor of Architecture California, 1984                                                             |
| Box 1, Folder 10 | Letter to Sklarek from Rehema Gray, Graduate School of Architecture and Urban Planning Black Student Committee University of California, Los Angeles, 1986           |
| Box 1, Folder 10 | Letter to Sklarek from Shirley M. Redmond, acting president of Black Women in Sisterhood for Action, Metropolitan Washington Area, Inc., 1987                        |
| Box 1, Folder 10 | Letter to Sklarek from Sheryl Tircuit and Clyde Wood, Black Students Committee Graduate School of Architecture and Urban Planning, Los Angeles California from, 1988 |
| Box 1, Folder 10 | Letter from Jozelle Smith, Mayor of Culver City with newspaper clipping, "Culver City won't save hall by Rick Criment", 1989                                         |
| Box 1, Folder 10 | Transcript of Lori Rohen, Teacher & Students at the Meadow Brook School In answer to the questions posed by her class., 1993                                         |
| Box 1, Folder 11 | Letter to "Donor" from Marva N. Collins of West Side Preparatory School, 1992                                                                                        |

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|------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Box 1, Folder 11 | <a href="#">Letter to African American Fellows of AIA from Harry G. Robinson III, FAIA Dean of Howard University School of Architecture and Planning, 1992</a>                                               |
| Box 1, Folder 11 | <a href="#">Letter to William Stanley AIA NOMA president on Congress of African American Architects from Harry G. Robinson III, FAIA Dean of Howard University School of Architecture and Planning, 1992</a> |
| Box 1, Folder 11 | <a href="#">The Congress of African American Architects Paradigms for a Different Future by Dean Harry G. Robinson III, FAIA AICP Dean Howard University School of Architecture, 1992</a>                    |
| Box 1, Folder 12 | <a href="#">Chicago '93 An International Assembly on Planning and Design, 1992</a>                                                                                                                           |
| Box 1, Folder 12 | <a href="#">Letter to Sklarek from Carolyn Armenta Davis Exhibit Curator/ Project Director at The Chicago Athenaeum, Museum of Architecture and Design, 1993</a>                                             |
| Box 1, Folder 12 | <a href="#">Letter to Carolyn Armenta Davis, Exhibit Curator/Project Director The Chicago Athenaeum Museum of Architecture and Design from Sklarek [partial letter], 1993</a>                                |
| Box 1, Folder 12 | <a href="#">Exhibition brochure for Black Architects International Architecture Design Diaspora - An Exhibition of Built Projects Designed Between 1970-1990, 1993</a>                                       |
| Box 1, Folder 12 | <a href="#">Design Diaspora: Black Architects &amp; International Architecture, 1993</a>                                                                                                                     |
| Box 1, Folder 13 | <a href="#">Letter to Sklarek from Caroline Meier, 1993</a>                                                                                                                                                  |
| Box 1, Folder 13 | <a href="#">Fax to Caroline Meier, Re: Ms. Norma Sklarek from Dean Radcliffe-Lynes from Gene Davis Group, Inc., 1993</a>                                                                                     |
| Box 1, Folder 13 | <a href="#">Letter to Carol J. Henderson at Yale Journal of Architecture and Feminism from Sklarek, 1993</a>                                                                                                 |
| Box 1, Folder 13 | <a href="#">Letter to Sklarek from Carol J. Henderson, Yale Journal of Architecture and Feminism, 1993</a>                                                                                                   |
| Box 1, Folder 13 | <a href="#">Letter to Sklarek from Crystal McKenzie, President Crystal McKenzie, Inc., undated</a>                                                                                                           |

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## Series 7: Published Materials, 1965-2004 (Bulk: 1980-1993)

**Scope and Contents:** This series is separated into two subseries. The first subseries entitled Books and Periodicals includes publications related to Sklarek and her work. The second subseries entitled Clippings includes newspaper and magazine clippings about Sklarek, her work and accomplishments.

### 7.1: Books and Periodicals, 1965, 1983-1984

|       |                                                                                                                                               |
|-------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Box 5 | <a href="#">The New Architecture and The Bauhaus by Walter Gropius, 1965</a>                                                                  |
| Box 5 | <a href="#">"Ebony Jr! Designing Ideas! Let's Build" with article on Sklarek "Two Terrific Builders", 1983</a>                                |
| Box 5 | <a href="#">"Ebony Jr! Designing Ideas! Let's Build" with article on Sklarek and Paul Williams, 1983</a>                                      |
| Box 5 | <a href="#">"Savvy A Special Report The Savvy 60 The Top U.S. Businesses Run by Women" with an article on Sklarek "Designing Women", 1984</a> |
| Box 5 | <a href="#">Ebony - What is Black Beauty article on Sklarek "Black Women Architects: A Blueprint for Success", 1984</a>                       |

### 7.2: Clippings, 1956-2004

|                  |                                                                                                                                 |
|------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Box 2, Folder 6  | <a href="#">Ebony "Successful Young Architects: 18 talented Negroes signal new day of opportunity in field", 1958</a>           |
| Box 2, Folder 6  | <a href="#">Westside Women "Norma Sklarek Architecture's her field" story by Janet Noonan Photos by Richard N. Levine, 1979</a> |
| Box 2, Folder 7  | <a href="#">California Business "Women in Business: threat of lawsuits can hinder architects, designer contends", 1972</a>      |
| Box 3, Folder 3  | <a href="#">Palisadian-Post "She's a jolly good fellow...her fellow architects all agree..." By Juliet O. Schoen, 1980</a>      |
| Box 1, Folder 14 | <a href="#">News Release from Welton Becket Associates Architects - McReynolds, Sklarek Elected AIA Fellows, 1980</a>           |
| Box 2, Folder 8  | <a href="#">The Washington Post "Howard Conference A Rallying for Black Female Architects", 1983</a>                            |
| Box 1, Folder 14 | <a href="#">Los Angeles County, CA Central News Wave "Local Architect Forms Partnership" by Cynthia E. Griffin, 1986</a>        |
| Box 2, Folder 7  | <a href="#">Los Angeles Herald Examiner "Firm run by women tries to make a dent in macho profession" By Leon Whiteson, 1986</a> |

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|------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Box 1, Folder 14 | <a href="#">Los Angeles Times "An Architect Who Has a Blueprint for Success" By Samuel Greengard, 1986</a>                                                                                                                          |
| Box 1, Folder 14 | <a href="#">Los Angeles Times "Women Architects Built Joint Career" By Nancy Rivera Brooks, 1986</a>                                                                                                                                |
| Box 1, Folder 14 | <a href="#">Black Enterprise "Careers: Blueprints for Success", 1991</a>                                                                                                                                                            |
| Box 2, Folder 7  | <a href="#">The New York Times "Renewed Hope for Black Architects" By Eve M. Kahn, 1992</a>                                                                                                                                         |
| Box 1, Folder 14 | <a href="#">State Press "Assistant professor to finally meet his mentor...Norma Merrick Sklarek to visit ASU campus" By Donna Hogan, 1993</a>                                                                                       |
| Box 3, Folder 4  | <a href="#">Palisadian-Post "An Architectural Pioneer" By Alyson Sena, 2004</a>                                                                                                                                                     |
| Box 1, Folder 14 | <a href="#">Palm Latitudes Close-Up on Sklarek By Ben Matlin, undated</a>                                                                                                                                                           |
| Box 1, Folder 15 | <a href="#">The Washington Afro-American "Black women in architecture... [photocopy], 1983</a>                                                                                                                                      |
| Box 2, Folder 8  | <a href="#">The Washington Post "Howard Conference A Rallying for Black Female Architects" By Nancy Anita Williams, 1983</a>                                                                                                        |
| Box 1, Folder 15 | <a href="#">The Washington Post "Howard Conference A Rallying for Black Female Architects" By Nancy Anita Williams [photocopy], 1983</a>                                                                                            |
| Box 1, Folder 15 | <a href="#">Chicago Dodge Construction News "National meeting of black women architects" [photocopy], 1983</a><br><a href="#">Image(s): Chicago Dodge Construction News "National meeting of black women architects [photocopy]</a> |
| Box 1, Folder 15 | <a href="#">Conversation: Norma Sklarek FAIA from Architecture California [photocopy], 1985</a>                                                                                                                                     |
| Box 1, Folder 15 | <a href="#">The Cincinnati Enquirer "School is lesson in dedication: Collins founders seek \$500,000 for building" by Adam Weintraub [photocopy], 1992</a>                                                                          |
| Box 1, Folder 15 | <a href="#">The Daily Oklahoman "Prometheus in Schools" [photocopy with post it on the back to Norma from Caroline], 1992</a>                                                                                                       |
| Box 1, Folder 15 | <a href="#">Advertisement for book, "Ordinary Children, Extraordinary Teachers" by Marva Collins [post it on the back to Norma from Caroline], 1992</a>                                                                             |
| Box 1, Folder 15 | <a href="#">African American Architects in Current Practice edited by Jack Travis, AIA, ASID, reviewed by Carolyn Armenta Davis [photocopy], 1992</a>                                                                               |

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## Series 8: Awards and Recognitions, 1980-2008 (Bulk 2007-2008)

|                 |                                                                                                                                                                             |
|-----------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Box 3, Folder 1 | <a href="#">The American Institute of Architects Certificate of Fellowship Norma Merrick Sklarek, 1980</a>                                                                  |
| Box 3, Folder 2 | <a href="#">The American Institute of Architects...Whitney M. Young Jr. Award for Norma Merrick Sklarek, FAIA, 2008</a>                                                     |
| Box 3           | <a href="#">California Senate Resolution Norma Merrick Sklarek... deep appreciation for her dedication and contributions to the people of the State of California, 2007</a> |
| Box 3           | <a href="#">The American Institute of Architects Los Angeles Chapter Presidential Honoree 2007 Lifetime Achievement Award Norma Sklarek, FAIA, 2007</a>                     |

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