

MELNIKER ARCHITECTURAL COLLECTION

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THE STATEN ISLAND MUSEUM

75 Stuyvesant Place, Staten Island, New York 10301

Arranged and described by

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PROVENANCE:

These materials were given to the Institute by Albert Melniker, AIA, in 1979.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE:

Albert Melniker is Staten Island's most prolific architect. "Building planning & construction has fascinated me for many years," he writes. "I look back over the changes that the history of these times have brought us & the society it has created. The period from the end of WWII to today is one of radical change in this country in planning, building, society, economy, and its psychology of democracy" writes Melniker. Reflecting on his career he states: "I look back at the period since 1943 when I served in the Army Engineers and the experiences dealing with large projects and heavy equipment. It has given me a background to understand the complexities of various types of planning and construction problems." Melniker, who entered the service as a private, finished his stint as company commander of a unit of aviation engineers and was discharged a first lieutenant.

For the past 59 years, Albert Melniker's clients have been Fortune 500 companies, city agencies, religious facilities, financial institutions, medical buildings & shopping centers. His ongoing goal is to work with the business and professional community and to use his professional skills in solving the problems of his clients.

Mr. Melniker believes that architects should be involved in their communities. "Aside from planning, the architect should be deeply interested in all aspects of community life and development," he says. Mr. Melniker has served as president of the S.I. Chamber of Commerce and its Community Development Committee; a member of the advisory boards for S.I. Technical High School & the College of S.I. (Engineering division); a member of the Board of Directors for Habitat for Humanity; has lectured at Wagner College & the College of S.I. board of Realtors and at many seminars related to education.

Melniker was born on February 22, 1910 and died on January 8, 2002.

Vince Sweeney
Curator of History

SCOPE & CONTENT:

This small group of architectural drawings and division and development maps ranges in date between 1921 and 1963 and occupies one drawer in a map case (approximately 2 cubic feet).

Some of the designs were by Albert Melniker. One design is by the Bergen Brothers, architects.

All of the designs were created for properties on Staten Island and the development maps also relate to Staten Island only.