



Guide to the Donna Silva Lighting Design Plans

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Summary Information

Repository:	University of Nevada, Las Vegas. University Libraries. Special Collections and Archives.
Creator:	Silva, Donna, 1946-
Title:	Donna Silva Lighting Design Plans
ID:	MS-01151
Date [inclusive]:	1986 to 1996
Physical Description:	5.67 Cubic Feet (15 rolls, 1 box, 2 flat files)
Physical Description:	7.89 Linear Feet
Language of the Material:	English
Abstract:	The Donna Silva Lighting Design Plans (1986-1996) contain blueprints and schedule binders for a number of projects Silva worked on in Las Vegas, Nevada including the New York-New York Hotel & Casino, The Orleans Hotel & Casino, Golden Nugget, and the MGM Grand Hotel. Also included are lighting plans for the Foxwoods Resort Casino (operated by the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation) in Connecticut, Caesars Atlantic City, and Players Island (now CasaBlanca Resort) in Mesquite, Nevada.

Preferred Citation

Donna Silva Lighting Design Plans, 1985-1996. MS-01151. Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada. <http://n2t.net/ark:/62930/f1fv2h>

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Biographical Note

Born in Las Vegas, Nevada, Donna Silva has worked in Las Vegas, New York, and elsewhere as a stagehand/lighting technician since the 1970s. In 1977, Silva became the first recognized female union member of IATSE (International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees) Local 720. Silva's long career includes work with Siegfried and Roy's production show, lighting the MGM Grand Hotel and Casino and their Emerald City display, and working with Summer Stock Theatre and similar groups over the years. Silva was instrumental in working with famed theatrical lighting

designer David Hersey on the Mirage Volcano, as well as with other Wynn Properties marquee products.

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Scope and Contents Note

The Donna Silva Lighting Design Plans (1986-1996) contain blueprints and schedule binders for a number of projects Silva worked on in Las Vegas, Nevada including the New York-New York Hotel & Casino, The Orleans Hotel & Casino, Golden Nugget, and the MGM Grand Hotel. Also included are lighting plans for the Foxwoods Resort Casino (operated by the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation) in Connecticut, Caesars Atlantic City, and Players Island (now CasaBlanca Resort) in Mesquite, Nevada.

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Arrangement

Materials are arranged by project.

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Administrative Information

Access Note

Collection is open for research.

Publication Rights

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Acquisition Note

Materials were donated in 2023 and 2024 by Donna Silva; accession numbers 2023-036 and 2024-016.

Appraisal

Acquired by Visual Materials Curator, Aaron Mayes, as part of UNLV Special Collections and Archives holdings in architecture and design. All material that formed the original gift has been retained.

Processing Note

In 2023, Sarah Jones arranged and described the collection, entered the data into ArchivesSpace, and wrote the front matter description. In 2024, Sarah Jones added materials from the 2024 accession and updated the finding aid.

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Related Materials

Related Collections

The following resource may provide additional information related to the materials in this collection:

Donna Silva oral history interview, 2023 February 06. OH-03891. [Cite format consulted: Audio recording or Transcript.] Oral History Research Center, Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

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Names and Subjects

- Architectural lighting
- Women labor union members
- Architects -- Nevada -- Las Vegas -- Design and construction
- Casino interiors
- International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees and Moving Picture Machine Operators of the United States and Canada
- MGM Grand Las Vegas
- New York-New York Hotel and Casino
- The Orleans Hotel & Casino

Collection Inventory

Title/Description	Containers
The Orleans Hotel and Casino: exterior elevations, 1995 February 27 Physical Description: 3 Sheets	roll 02
<i>The Orleans: Exterior Lighting Fixture Specifications Manual</i> created by John Renton Young Lighting & Sign, 1996 February 12	box 01
<i>New York, New York Lighting Fixture Schedule</i> for John Renton Young Lighting & Sign, 1995 September 06	box 01
<i>New York, New York Lighting Fixture Schedule supplement</i> for John Renton Young Lighting & Sign, 1995 September 06	box 01
New York-New York Hotel & Casino: casino elevations, progress prints, 1995 May Physical Description: 13 Sheets	roll 12
New York-New York Hotel & Casino: casino elevations, 1995 February Physical Description: 21 Sheets	roll 11
New York-New York Hotel & Casino: first floor interior load requirements, 1995 July Physical Description: 1 Sheets	roll 13
New York-New York Hotel & Casino: first floor key plan with hand colorings, 1995 May Physical Description: 2 Sheets	roll 13
New York-New York Hotel & Casino "Times Square Building": elevations and floor plan, 1995 April Physical Description: 6 Sheets	roll 03
New York-New York Hotel & Casino: sections, plants, and elevations, 1995 June Physical Description: 44 Sheets	roll 07
MGM Grand Hotel: "Movieworld Inc." exterior finishes, 1992 Physical Description: 19 Sheets	roll 04
MGM Grand Hotel: "Emerald City" lighting layout, spire layout, parapet elevations, 1992 September Physical Description: 3 Sheets	flat file 15
MGM Grand Hotel: "Emerald City" show lighting and power plan, 1993 April Physical Description: 1 Sheets	flat file 15
Players Island (CasaBlanca Resort): lighting plans, 1994 January 08	roll 08

Physical Description: 10 Sheets	
Caesars Atlantic City: light plot, ground plan, and seating plan, 1986 November 10	roll 09
Physical Description: 4 Sheets	
Foxwoods Resort Hotel: entry portal ornamentals and interior elevations, 1993 March	roll 06
Physical Description: 2 Sheets	
Foxwoods Resort Hotel: "Cinetropolis" concourse level lighting plans, 1993 September	roll 14
Physical Description: 13 Sheets	
Foxwoods Resort Hotel: "Cinetropolis" interior renderings, 1993 September	roll 10
Physical Description: 8 Sheets	
Foxwoods Resort Hotel: "Cinetropolis" original show lighting plans and copies, 1992	roll 05
Physical Description: 20 Sheets	
Foxwoods Resort Hotel: "Cinetropolis" lighting plans, 1993	roll 17
Physical Description: 4 Sheets	
Mirage Theater: "Siegfried and Roy" permanent hanging plot design by Andrew Bridge, 1989	roll 18
Physical Description: 2 Sheets	
Golden Nugget Hotel & Casino: floor plans and elevations, 1989 January	flat file
Physical Description: 9 Sheets	
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