Greetings from the Architecture Library! It has been an eventful fall semester, featuring the “Thesis Research in a Nutshell—CAP Edition” workshop, two more events in our Materials Talks at Lunch series, numerous class visits to discuss research, and culminating in the Architecture Library and the Drawings + Documents Archive being named the 2012 Walter S. Blackburn award winners. As the semester draws to a close, we’ve begun planning for next semester, so look for more to come in spring 2013!

Library & Archive Win Blackburn Award

The Ball State University Libraries’ Drawings + Documents Archive and Architecture Library received the 2012 Walter S. Blackburn Award from the American Institute of Architects (AIA) at its Kentucky/Indiana Annual Convention, November 2, 2012. The award is given annually to a person or organization that has contributed time and service in support of the architectural profession.

Carol Street, Archivist for Architectural Records, and Amy Trendler, Architecture Librarian, accepted the award on behalf of the archive and library. Their work to support student education in the College of Architecture and Planning through classroom instruction, research support, public exhibitions, and access to original architectural drawings was recognized as being instrumental in furthering the architectural profession in the state.

The Archives has been a particularly busy place this semester thanks to architects’ visits, film crews, visiting scholars, exhibits, digitizing collections, and new discoveries from processing collections. As busy as we are, there’s always room for your research and class assignments using the archives. Just let me know how I can help you and your students access the archives’ incredible—and now award winning!—collection.

Monthly Themes Spotlight Topics
By Amy Trendler, Architecture Librarian

Each month in the Architecture Library we feature a different theme in an effort to spotlight the variety of different subjects that are supported by the books, DVDs, and journals in the library’s collection. This year we began “September is for Research!” and partnered with the Visual Resources Collection and the Drawings + Documents Archive to highlight research resources. In October, the library’s monthly theme was “Drawing” and items on display included drawings handbooks, exhibition catalogs of designers’ drawings, and examples of published sketchbooks. November found “Transportation” books and DVDs on display that covered everything from mass transit to pedestrians. In December we’ll focus on “Reflections,” from tranquil or reflective spaces to designers’ written musings.

Next semester’s calendar of topics is in the works. Suggestions are welcome! Contact Amy Trendler, Architecture Librarian, at AETrendler@bsu.edu or 765-285-5858 with ideas.

Editor’s Picks from the Building Material Samples Collection
By Amy Trendler, Architecture Librarian

The Building Material Samples Collection in the Visual Resources Collection (AB 117) is adding new samples to the collection all the time. This year we are excited to have a sample of Litracon’s translucent concrete, which you may have seen in our window in the first floor hallway, where it is backlit by a battery-operated light. Another recent arrival is MOSStile, real moss for vertical gardens and other applications that is maintenance free according to manufacturer Benetti Stone.

If there’s something you would like to see in the collection, contact Cindy Turner, Visual Resources Curator, at 01LKTurner@bsu.edu or 765-285-5865.

Johnson & Miller Collection
By Carol Street, Archivist for Architectural Records

The Johnson & Miller Architectural Records collection is the latest collection to be digitized and made available to students and faculty online in the University Libraries’ Digital Media Repository. This online collection contains 123 projects spanning the long history of the architectural firm and its subsequent firms from the 1910s to the 1980s. Over the years, Johnson & Miller and its successor firms were responsible for designing numerous schools, university buildings, government offices, religious buildings, recreation facilities, hospitals, and businesses in Terre Haute, Indianapolis, and surrounding areas. Ewing Miller II, the last architect in a family with a long history of architecture in Indiana, just turned 89 and recently visited the college to see his family’s collection. That’s him in the picture, above. You can now see the collection for yourself online or in person at the Drawings + Documents Archive.

By Carol Street, Archivist for Architectural Records

Ewing Miller II. Photo by Donna Miller.

By Amy Trendler, Architecture Librarian

Litracon’s translucent concrete sample. It may not look like much now, but wait until you see it backlit!

MOSStile sample. Real, spongy moss!

Johnson & Miller, Architects, advertisement, 1920s. Johnson & Miller Architectural Records, Drawings + Documents Archive, Ball State University.