

# Summer Conservation Internship at UVa Library

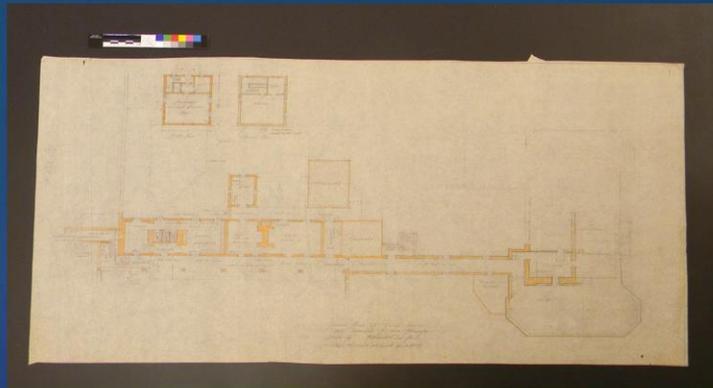
{ Barbie Dailey  
August 28, 2014





## Watercolors by Edmund Campbell

My focus during the internship was working on a collection of architectural drawings executed by Edmund Campbell who was a leading architect and dean of the Architecture School at UVa. Campbell Hall, which has housed the School of Architecture since 1970, was named in his honor. Edmund Campbell was also an accomplished watercolorist, and a number of his works hang in the Art Library.



Layout of Farmington, by Edmund S. Cambell

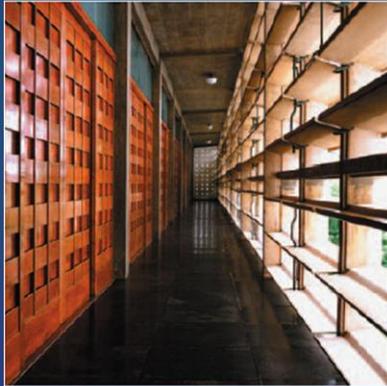
The collection I worked on contains blueprints and original tracings of the renovation to Farmington Country Club designed by Campbell. The Farmington estate was built prior to 1780. At the time of the American Revolution, the Commonwealth of Virginia confiscated the property from the owner because of his opposing political principles. He was able to regain the estate and then sold it to George Divers in 1785. Legend has it that Mr. Divers, who was in Philadelphia at the time of the sale, rode two horses to death in his dash south to claim the estate.

It was under Mr. Diver's ownership that in 1803, Thomas Jefferson drew plans for an octagonal addition to the house. The Farmington Country Club was designed around 1927; the drawings I worked on are dated between 1928-1930.



## Golconde: Pondicherry, India

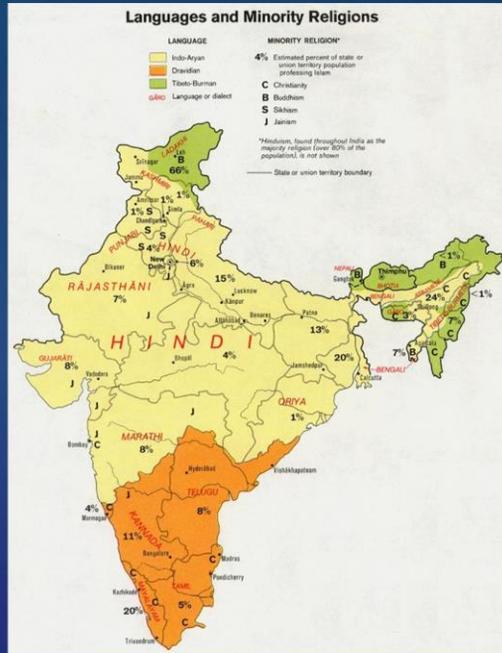
One of the reasons I applied for the internship is because the condition of this collection mirrors our own collection of architectural drawings of Golconde, also dating from the 1930's. Golconde was built as a residence for members of the Ashram. It was the first reinforced, cast-in-place concrete building in India; is also India's first climate-conscious, passive solar building, relying mainly on shading and natural ventilation. Its architects were Antonin Raymond, who worked with Frank Lloyd Wright on the Imperial Hotel in Tokyo, and Francois Sammer, who had worked with Le Corbusier in Moscow. Raymond referred to Golconde as being "the best architecture of my career". George Nakashima— known in the US as a woodworker, architect and furniture maker- designed the interior and the furniture.



## Golconde interior

The doors and furniture are all made from Burma teak; the floors of black Kadappa stone; the white walls are made from crushed seashells, lime, egg whites and curd-known as Chettinad plaster, which is highly reflective.

# Pondicherry

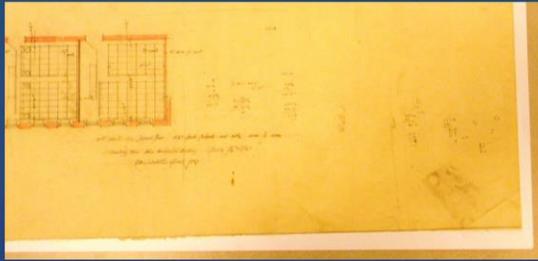


The most challenging aspect of preserving collections in India is the climate. Pondicherry is a coastal town on the Bay of Bengal; it is hot and humid. Salt air, pests, mold and dust contribute to the degradation of items.



## Golconde drawings

Unskilled labor is an additional problem as it results in the mishandling of collections. The ubiquitous use of cellulose and tape and DDT in collections is prevalent as well.



Farmington drawings, note the  
footprints & nicotine stain!

Both the Farmington collection and the Golconde drawings are similar in that they are predominantly working drawings, exhibiting vivid traces of work on-site: they have a multitude of folds, creases, stains, discoloration and tears that reflect much use.



## The Jefferson Room at Farmington

Whereas Farmington, an estate of nearly a thousand acres, is a striking example of colonial architecture, Golconde consciously veered away from the typical Anglo-French colonial style so prevalent in Pondicherry and sought a “triumphant Modernism”, the residence integrates beauty and harmony within a sustainable ecologically-conscious environment.

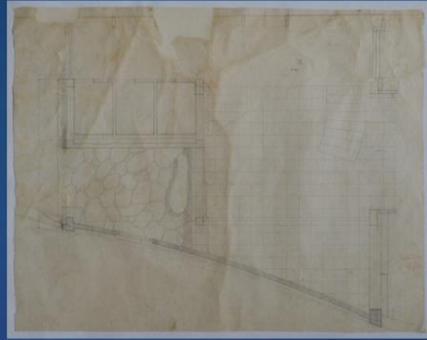


## Golconde: Dry cleaning & eraser crumbs

Nearly half of the internship at UVa was reserved for mechanical cleaning. In India, when we dry clean a document we use finely grated Staedtler erasers; during the internship, I learned a different method. Each drawing was surface cleaned on both sides with a small cosmetic sponge.

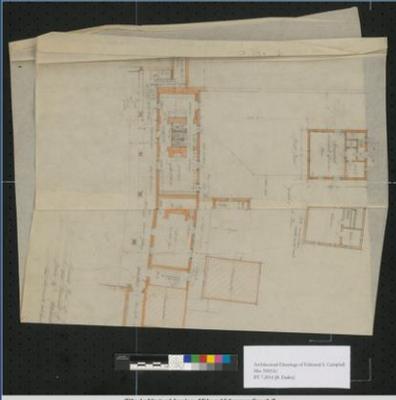


The drawings were humidified in trays and flattened overnight under large felts,



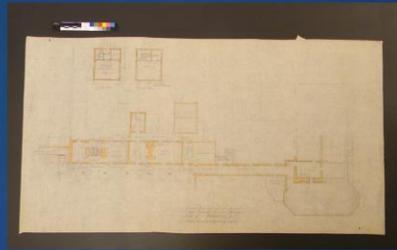
## Golconde: before & after mending

before being mended with strips of Japanese tissue and wheat starch paste, the traditional method of repair.

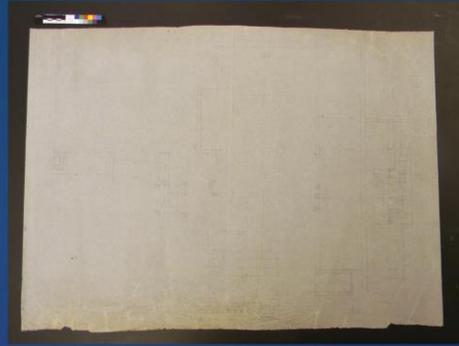
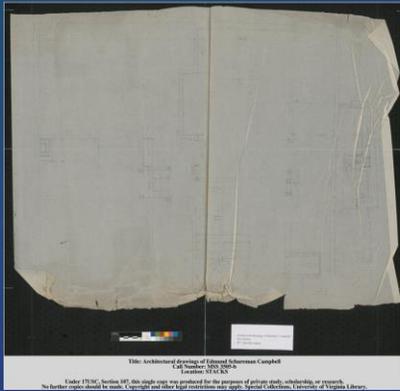


Architectural Drawing of Edward S. Campbell  
The House  
1911-1912

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## Campbell: before & after treatment



Campbell: before & after treatment



Barbie hard at work



So many tears to mend!

⌘ Thank you to Brad & Margery Lee for funding this six week internship!

⌘ Thank you to all the library staff who worked with me: Digital Services, the LEO van, Anne "shotgun" Causey, Edward Gaynor and especially Eliza Gilligan

What have I gained during the internship here at UVa: Freedom- the freedom to explore new techniques in collaboration with a professional colleague; respect- learning to listen and be heard; insight- a new way to look at things. I end this internship the way I began, with deep gratitude for the privilege to work among you and to share this knowledge with my colleagues when I return to India. Thank You!