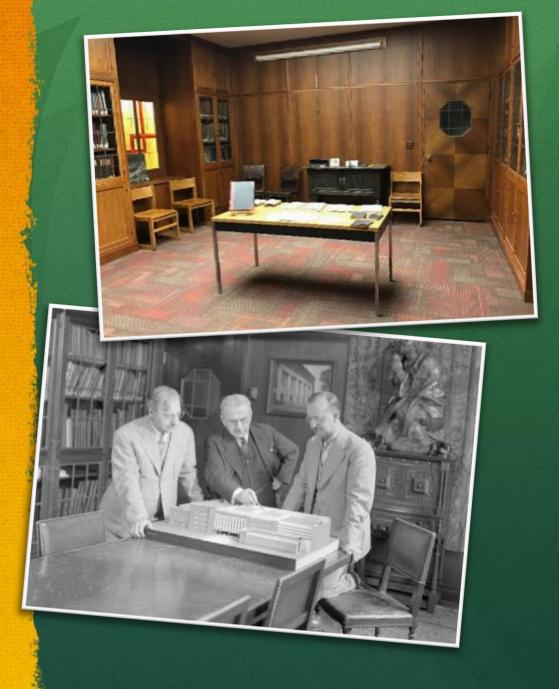
# Uncovering a Hidden Treasure

Adrienne Aluzzo, Lawrence Technological University

## The Library

Nearly 3,000 titles so far of books, periodicals, scrapbooks, and photographs housed within the very walls of Kahn's Detroit architectural office.



## No Archives at LTU

- It is not always a given that your administration will recognize and support an Archives
  - Keep Alumni involved/Fundraising
  - Have materials ready for anniversary events or articles
  - Material for growing digital image collection
  - Bring in researchers
- Reasons were varied:
  - No space set aside
  - No money for it
  - Misunderstanding around privacy issues and how an archives is maintained

# We had to take the first steps

- We knew we had a gem in the AK collection
  - Write a grant to have collection evaluated by a professional
  - Investigate current research into Kahn
  - Catalog materials
  - Discover exactly what we have
  - Investigate ways to attract scholars and researchers



# **AK Research Coalition**

- It started with a granddaughter
- Carol Rose Kahn never knew her grandfather. Her first visit to LTU changed everything.



### Claire Zimmerman

June 2016 Zimmerman & Deirdre Hennebury visit the Kahn Library while visiting gallery space for AK exhibit at LTU.

Deirdre Hennebury



# The Partnership

#### **Mission Statement:**

The mission of the Albert
Kahn Research Coalition is to
preserve Albert Kahn's legacy
and to educate our
community on the
importance of his work.













# Albert Kahn: From the Archives

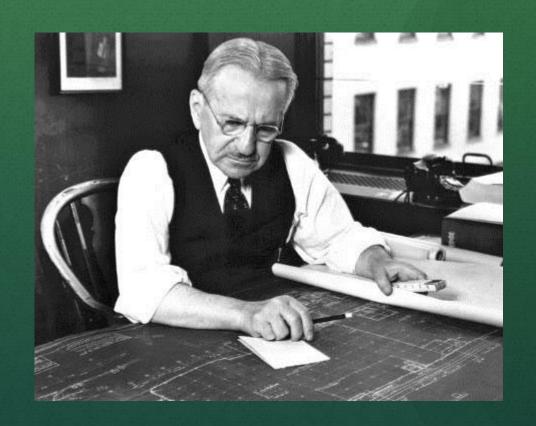
#### Four Events

General Interest Lecture

Exhibition

Research Symposium

Special Collection Open House



# The Ubiquitous Mr. Kahn:

Albert Kahn's Architectural Legacy



Joel Stone
Senior Curator,
Detroit Historical Society

General Audience interest lecture from noted local historian.





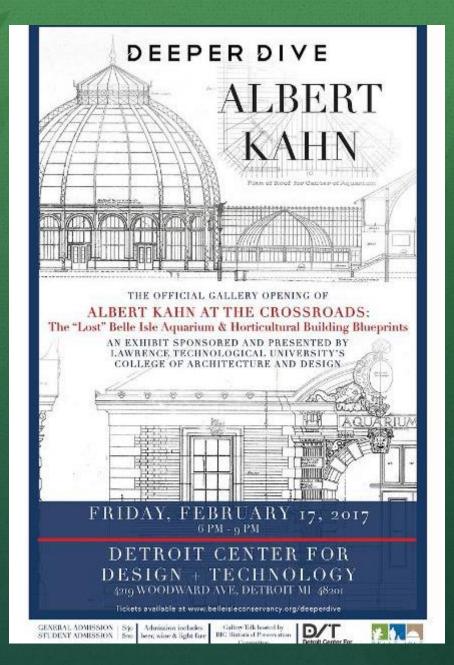
# Albert Kahn at the Crossroads:

The "Lost" Belle Isle Aquarium & Horticultural Building Blueprints

Christopher Meister Independent Kahn Scholar

Event featured a special night for LTU Alumni to visit the DCDT, attend lecture by Meister and dinner

Exhibition ran February 17 – March 10th



# Albert Kahn under Construction

Digital Exhibition

Curated by

Dr. Claire Zimmerman

Chaired by Dr. Deirdre Hennebury





# Albert Kahn: From the Archives

Albert Kahn under Construction

Claire Zimmerman,

University of Michigan, "The Kahn Library"

Michael Abrahamson,

University of Michigan,

"Actual Center of Detroit: Decentralizing Tendencies in Albert Kahn's General Motors Building"

> Francesco Marullo, University of Illinois, Chicago

"Architecture and Revolution. Albert Kahn's Typical Plans and the evolution of the Social Factory"



#### Albert Kahn:

Reuse and Restoration

Albert Kahn Associates:
Don Bauman
"New Center One Reimagined"

Alan Cobb
"Albert Kahn's Influence on the Modern
Movement"

Chris Meister Unique Opportunity: The Belle Isle Aquarium & Horticultural Bldg.

Robbert McKay
Michigan State Housing Development Authority
"Practical Preservation Issues"

Panel Discussion





# Albert Kahn Library Open House





## Lessons Learned

- Recommendations from Evaluations
  - More breaks
  - Student poster session
  - Hold next symposium in a Kahn building
- Suggestions for future events
  - Dan Gilbert and/or new owners to speak of their plans for AK buildings
  - Create an online forum to promote discussion after the event
  - Feature University of Michigan buildings

#### More Lessons

- You can't advertise your events too much!
- Underwriters for next year's event
- Mixture of scholarly and general interest programming

### Future Plans

# Kahn Special Collection

- Submitted another NEH "Preservation Assistance Grants for Smaller Institutions"
- Arrange & Describe the AK archival items and create finding aid
- Budget for archives at LTU

#### Symposium

- Decide next year's program
  - Big symposium every other year, smaller lecture series off year
- Look into grants or other means of financial assistance for Symposium
- Recruit more partners



Questions??