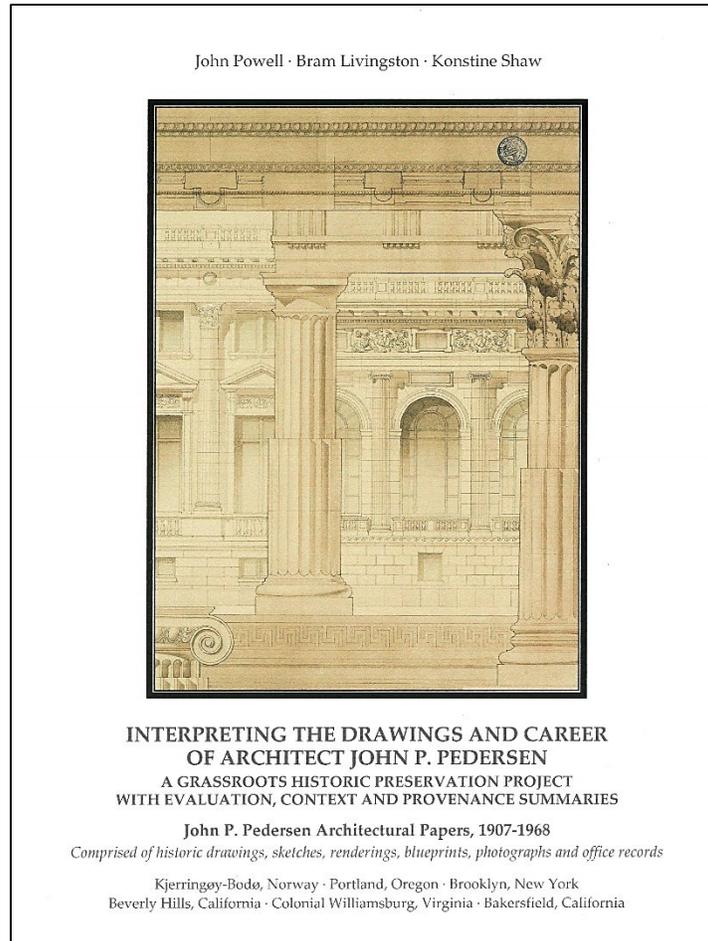


## 2016 Governor's Historic Preservation Awards

### **Interpreting the Drawings and Career of Architect John P. Pedersen**



In late October 2012 the volunteer inventory team of John Powell, Bram Livingston, and Konstine Shaw first unpacked, sorted, and began documentation of the more than 360 sets of architectural drawings, renderings, and photographs constituting the John P. Pedersen Architectural Papers. The collection dated from 1907 to 1968. Additional research was conducted throughout 2013 and 2014 to document the larger architectural community active in Beverly Hills during a clearly identified "period of significance," circa 1928. It was that year that the Certified Architects Association of Beverly Hills was established. The John Pedersen holding is one of the very few collections to survive from that pioneering group of Beverly Hills architects, and reflects the early design and development of the city's built environment.

A third and final phase of critical research continued until December 2015, resulting in the discovery of additional privately held collections of historic architectural drawings associated with the career of John P. Pedersen. Statistical and descriptive profiles of the John P. Pedersen collection were distributed to major architectural archives throughout California with the goal of securing a permanent home for the collection. That goal was realized when the entire collection was accepted by the Historical Research Center at Walter Stiern Library at California State University Bakersfield.

The University targeted the academic year 2016-2017 to begin offering an undergraduate history degree with an emphasis in public history. The degree program will utilize the John P. Pedersen Architectural Papers through the Walter Stiern Library digital conservation lab. Additionally, data from the Pedersen papers was shared with the Beverly Hills Cultural Heritage Commission, and the Beverly Hills Public Library Historical Collection, as well as local preservation groups.

The successful transfer of the John P. Pedersen Architectural Papers to California State University Bakersfield brought to formal culmination this all-volunteer grassroots effort stretching from May 2012 through December 2015, to preserve an important collection and make it available to scholars, architects, and others interested in the built heritage of California.

Learn more about the [John P. Pedersen Architectural Papers](#).