

THE DRAWINGS OF ARCHITECT JONATHAN LANE

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The objective of our Praxis project focused on the architectural drawings and career of Jonathan Lane (1931-2021), whose work explored the evolving suburban setting.



Collecting the Drawings

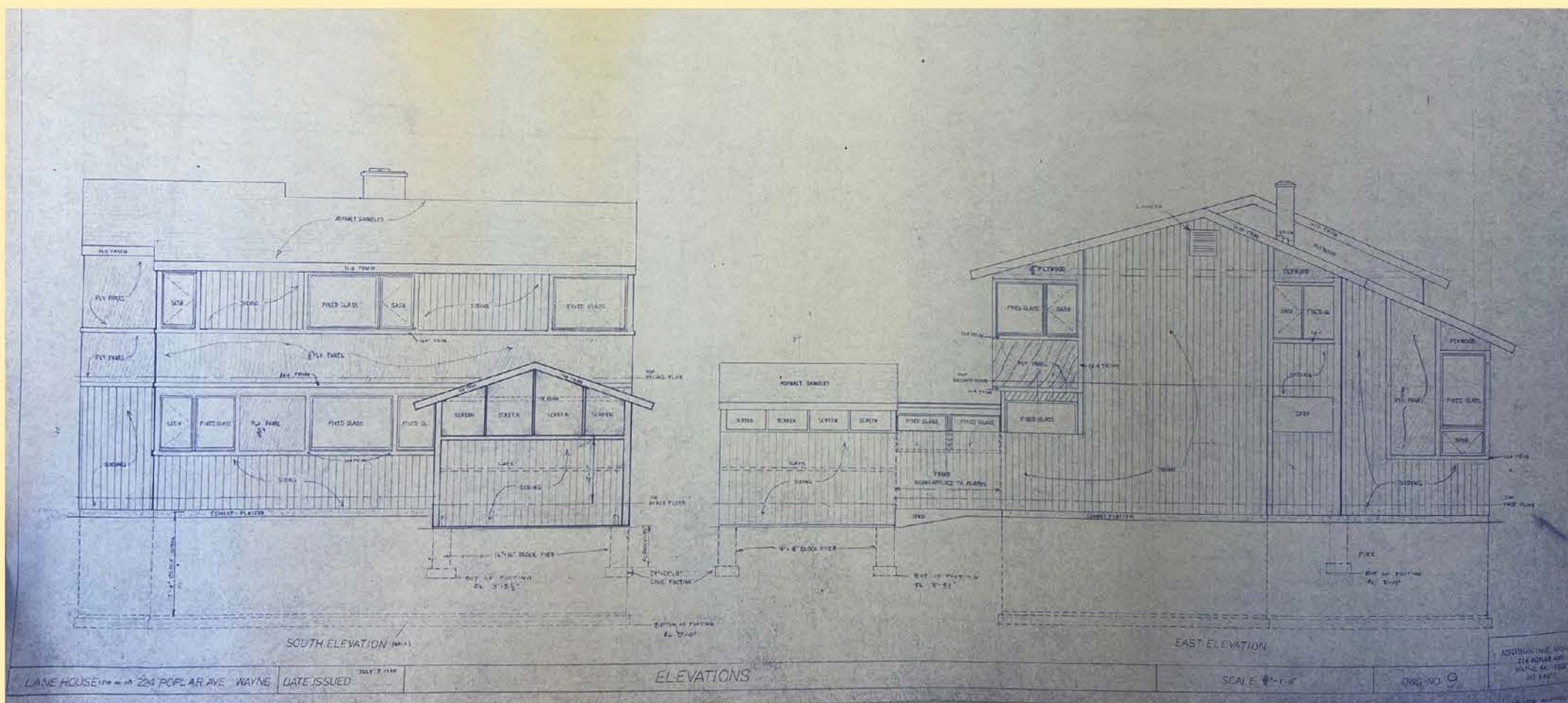
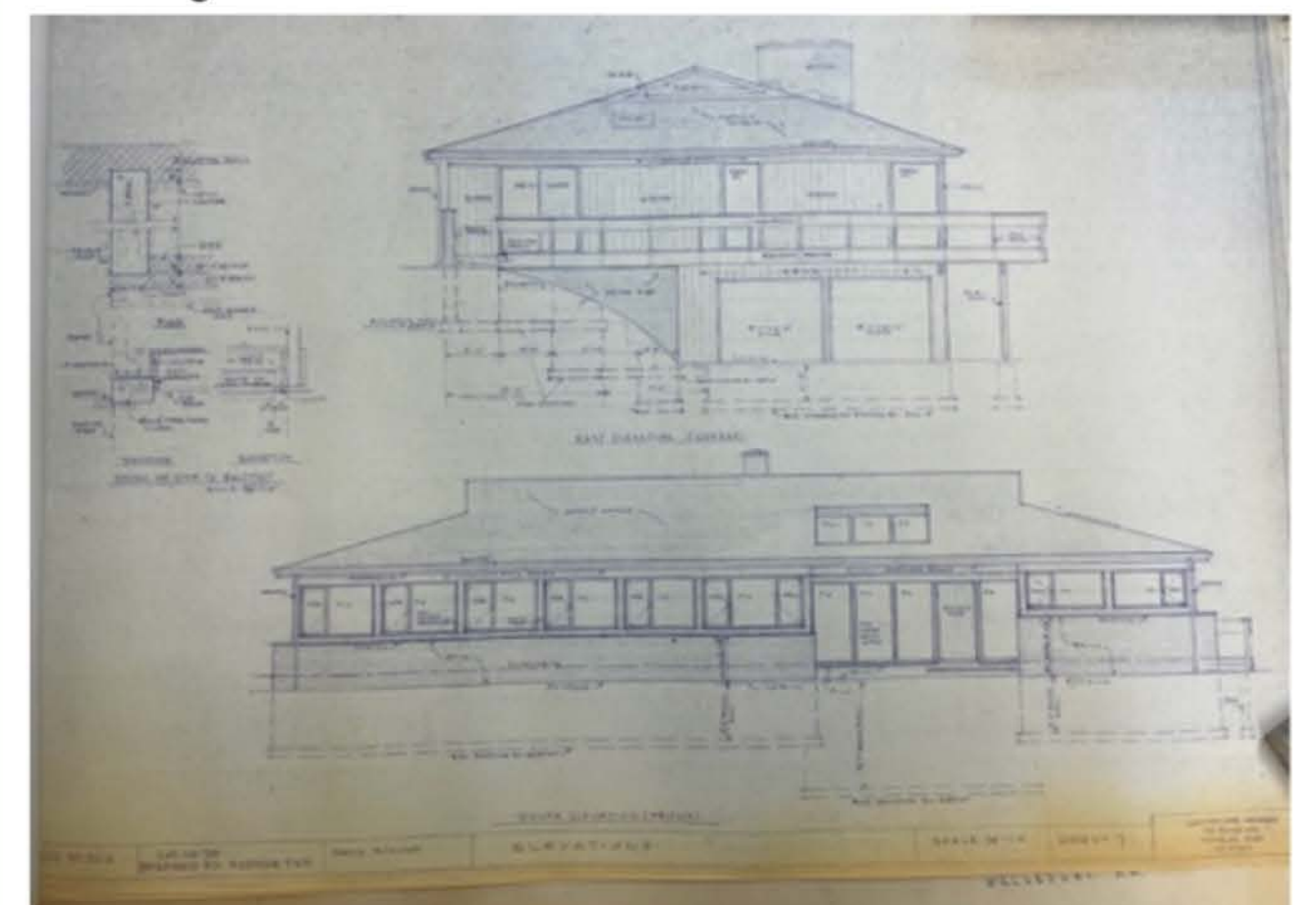
To learn more about Jonathan Lane's life and work, we met with his wife, Barbara Miller Lane (founder of the Growth and Structure of Cities Department at Bryn Mawr College). Lane's architecture studio in their backyard was a hub for his work. There we began our process, moving the rolls into a new space.

Cataloguing the Drawings

- Hundreds of drawings, some rolled and some stored flat in drawers, we began to understand the breadth of Jonathan Lane's architectural work.
- We worked to catalogue more than 50 rolled sets, mostly of blueprints, while his son, Steven Lane, began working through the flat drawers, providing further information.
- Our process was to accumulate a mass document, taking note of project, client, date, location, and number of drawings for each. We hoped to account for all of Jonathan Lane's works.

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35 Sheets
House no.210-A Lot no.38 Briarwood Road Radnor TWP
1968
8 drawings/sheets



Jonathan Lane's Trademarks

- Expansive horizontal layouts spanning multilevel sites - inspired by Frank Lloyd Wright's Robie House in Chicago, Illinois
- Dark vertical wood panel siding
- Fireplace and long decks
- Long windows and corner windows
- Ceiling planes uninterrupted by light fixtures



Next Steps

In addition to organizing all available information, we began the process of connecting the drawings to homes that still stand today. We anticipate integrating the cataloguing into the Philadelphia Architects and Buildings database. We also plan to transfer the drawings to the University of Pennsylvania Architectural Archives supervised by William Whitaker.



Final Thoughts

Working closely with the architectural drawings and the family of Lane, to view and understand architectural work was a unique and unforgettable experience. This opportunity will guide us in future endeavors as we move through our academic and personal careers.

