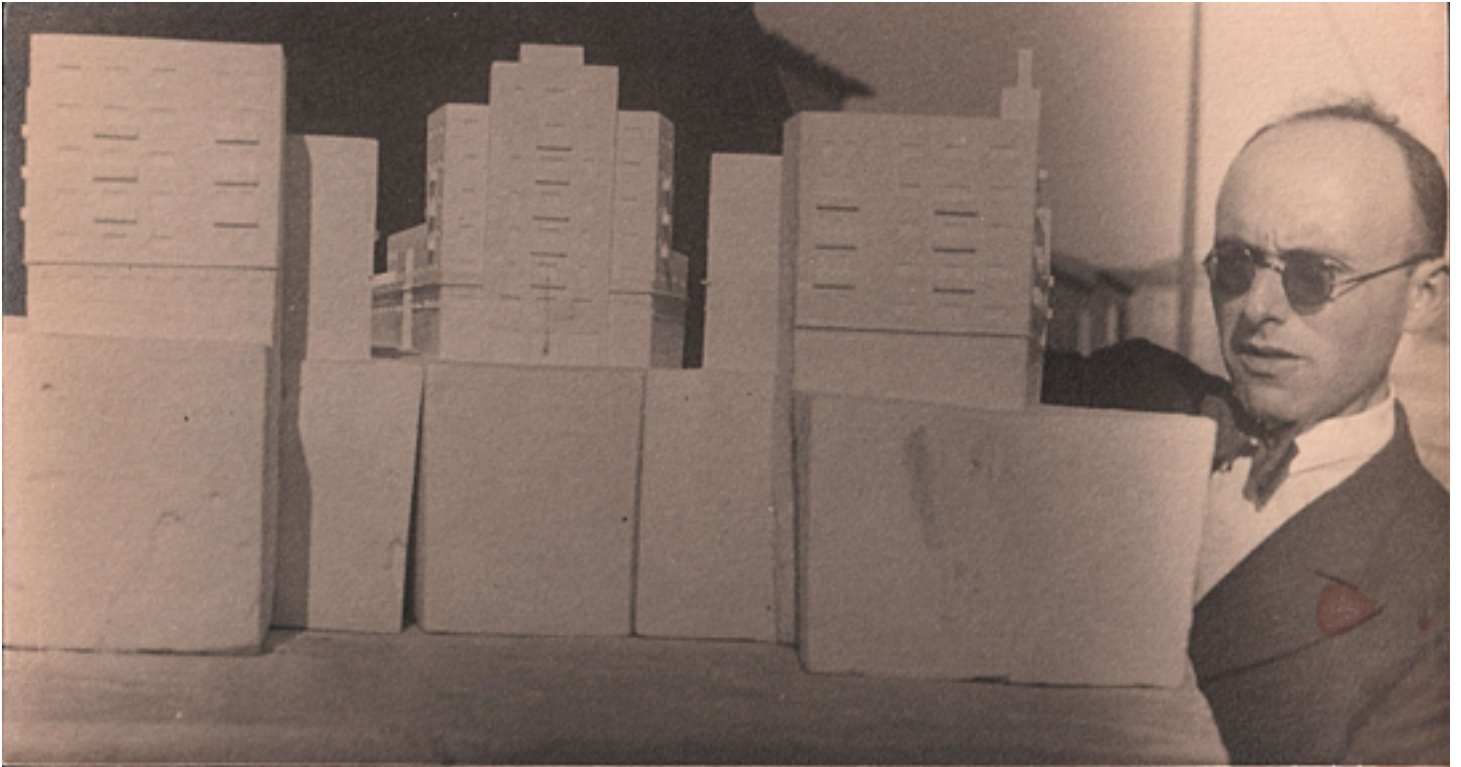


**THE PAPERS
OF
Max Loeb (Lev) (1901-1962)**



[Max Loeb (Lev) standing by his model of The New Commercial Center in Haifa, unknown photographer, c. 1930s]

The Architectural Heritage Research Center

Department of Architecture and Town Planning

The Technion – Israel Institute of Technology

(Arrangement & Description by Shira Wilkof, February 2017)

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FINDING AID

1 DESCRIPTIVE SUMMARY

Creators: Max Loeb (Lev) (1901–1962)

Title: The Papers of Max Loeb (Lev)

Dates: ca. 1922–1964 [bulk: 1930s–1950s]

Abstract:

The materials in this collection reflect the activities of Max Loeb (Lev), a German-born and trained Israeli architect. Holdings include materials concerning L.'s diverse architectural commissions in Palestine/Israel spanning from the late 1920s until his death in 1962. In addition, the collection contains important personal documents, as well as photograph albums displaying his diverse projects and a large collection of photographs and postcards of his various projects. The collection displays L.'s rich architectural oeuvre and its diversity of styles, types, and scales of projects. This is the only known collection of this highly prolific architect, who seems to have been left out of the scholarly canon of early statehood Jewish modernist architects in Israel.

Subjects:

National Socialism ; Jews -- Germany -- History -- 20th Century ; [Architecture, Modern -- 20th century -- Europe](#) ; Architecture, Modern -- 20th Century -- Philosophy ; [Architecture, Modern -- 20th century -- Israel](#) ; Palestine -- Emigration and Immigration -- 20th Century ; Zionism

Languages: German; Hebrew; English

Quantity: 5 Boxes (74 Files)

Repository: The Architectural Heritage Research Center, Department of Architecture and Town Planning, The Technion – Israel Institute of Technology

2 BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Max Loeb (Lev) (1901-1962) was a German-Israeli architect. Born in Kassel, he was an active Zionist from his youth, and he co-founded the local *Blau-Weiss* branch, along with his brother and others. He began to study architecture in Munich in 1920 and later in Dresden, before graduating from the *Technische Hochschule* Darmstadt in 1925. Upon graduation, he was invited to work at the office of the architects Hecker and Yellin in Jerusalem. He accepted the invitation and emigrated to Palestine in 1925, settling in Jerusalem. In this capacity, he was engaged in the design of The Hebrew Teachers College Jerusalem, a landmark of the Beit Ha'Kerem neighborhood, as well as other public buildings (synagogues and religious seminars), all built in the eclectic style. He returned to Germany for a brief period where he worked in offices in Bonn and Cologne. In early 1929, he moved back to Jerusalem and opened an office with a local engineer Yosef Danon, which remained in operation until 1933. For a brief period after the 1929 Palestine Riots, he worked at the Technical Office of the Jewish Agency. His commissions from his second period in Jerusalem included a main branch of Bank Anglo-Palestine as well as various educational, commercial and residential projects. He designed single-family houses for the Jerusalemite émigré elite, including for the Berlin-born philosopher Ernst Simon (in 1932), Professor Alfred Bonne, and Dr. Hirsch, as well as for the local community, such as the Baruch Brothers residence in Rehavia. In Jerusalem, he was associated with a circle of leading Zionist architects of German background, including Richard Kauffmann, Leopold Krakauer, and Fritz Kornberg. The group used to meet and converse in their mother tongue. In 1931, he was married to Yehudit (née Kanne) and they had two children: Uzi (born 1934) and David (born 1936).

In 1934, L. received the commission to design the “New Commercial Center” in the Harbor District of Haifa. He moved to Haifa to supervise construction and remained in Haifa thereafter. Based in this northern city for the rest of his life, L. was an active architect, planning residential, commercial, and industrial buildings as well as schools, synagogues and housing blocks. He specialized in designing schools, for which he won the praise of architectural historian Julius Posener, who dedicated an article in 1935 to L.'s schools. Among his school projects were the Hareali campuses in both Ahuza and Mt. Carmel, Haifa; an elementary school in Geula, Haifa; the Agricultural School in Pardes Hannah; an elementary school in Tiberius; and the Henrietta Irwell Vocational School for Girls (WIZO), Haifa.

During the Second World War, L. served as an Assistant Architect in the Public Works Department for the Police Building Programme (also known as Tegart Forts). He supervised the



Max Loeb (Lev) Portrait, 1924 (unknown artist)
[Source: The Papers of Max Loeb (Lev) Collection,
The Technion

construction of the Police Stations in Magdal (Migdal Gad), Iraq Swaidan, Gaza, Be'er Sheva, Khan Yunis, and Ramla. From March 1942 until January 1944, he served as the Haifa Supervisor of Heavy Industry. After the war, he returned to his private practice. Among his later projects are the Qiryat Eliyahu housing block, the Agricultural Engineering Building, Technion, Warhaftig Print House, as well as many modernist residences in Haifa, such as the Milstein-Warhaftig House, Dr. Prager House, and Dr. Libeberstein Houses on the Carmel and in Bat Galim. L. was also active in professional organizations (especially in the Association of the Engineers and Architects in Palestine), serving on different committees related both to Haifa and national professional matters. As well, L. published architectural critique. In 1943, he published a short essay in the Journal of the Association of the Engineers and Architects in Palestine, calling for the creation of a local “architectural culture and education for public taste”, urging his colleagues to develop

“professional discipline and to acquire knowledge and experience as the basis for the artistic actions.” He died on October 26, 1962.

Despite L.’s impressive oeuvre, which positioned him by the 1930s, according to Warhafatig, as a “pre-eminent exponent of Modern architectural style in Palestine” (p. 110), L. seems to have gone under the scholarly radar of architectural historians. Warhaftig’s short biographical outline appears to be a singular attempt to address L.’s work, and much of the biographical note here was put together on the basis of primary source materials from the collection.

Further Reading

Warhaftig, Myra. *They Laid the Foundation: Lives and Works of German-Speaking Jewish Architects in Palestine: 1918-1948*. Tübingen/New York, N.Y: Wasmuth, 2007. pp. 110-119.
Posener, Julius. “On the Schools of Max Lev,” *Habinyan bamisrah hakarov* 11-12 (March 1937).
Max Lev, “The Architectural Competitions,” *the Journal of the Association of the Engineers and Architects in Palestine* 4, no. 4, (June/July 1943):11-12.

3. SCOPE AND CONTENTS

The collection reflects the lifelong professional work of L., spanning from 1920s Mandate Palestine to 1960s Israel. There is no record regarding the receipt of the collection in the archives, and it seems to contain only a part of his complete oeuvre. The original filing system has been mostly kept intact.

The majority of the collection includes subject files organized according to L.’s architectural commissions between the 1930-1950s. These folders include ample textual and visual materials concerning the project, from legal documents and correspondence to maps, plans and handwritten sketches and drawings. As well, there is a large collection of visual materials

documenting L.'s projects. These include photograph albums organized according to projects as well as a relatively large amount of photographs in which L. documented different aspects of his projects, in various stages of construction (see series IV). The collection also includes a relative small quantity of personal documentation concerning L. and his family, as well as L.'s official educational and professional documents.

Note on the marking of files: File titles with consecutive Arabic numbers all belong to one original folder, which was then separated due to its size. Titles written in quotation marks reflect the original file name given by the creators of the collection themselves and were preserved in this way in order to reflect the original intention and manner of organization.

SERIES I: PERSONAL MATERIAL

This series contains formal documents of L. and his family, as well as material concerning L.'s job applications in Palestine and later in Israel. It includes the family's immigration certificates, L.'s graduation diplomas, L.'s certificates of service in the British government administration, a handwritten biographical sketch in Hebrew (1957), as well as other documents regarding L.'s public and professional service. Letters of reference include letters from architects such as Hans Schumacher, Hans Keller, Georg Jacobowitz, and Martin Kremmer. L.'s job applications to the British government, The Jewish Agency and the Technion (1941-1951), including L.'s a detailed CV and a list of projects as well as various correspondences (such as with the economist Alfred Bonne from the Jewish Agency).

SERIES II: PROFESSIONAL MATERIAL

The series consists of manuscripts and notes concerning architectural matters, materials concerning L.'s architectural projects as well as various materials regarding L.'s other professional activities. Manuscripts and notes include handwritten notes (in no particular order) in both German (the majority) and English concerning Zionist settlement types and architecture; handwritten notes on auditorium planning and a 1930 text on "Einzelhäuser oder Reihenhäuser?" [Single-Family Houses or Row Houses?]. The bulk of materials in this series are subject folders, which contain L.'s architectural projects. Projects are from the 1940s until the early 1960s, and include mostly residential and commercial projects, but also educational buildings (The Agricultural Engineering Building at the Technion), and one industrial commission (the Blue Band Margarine Factory, Haifa Bay). The overwhelming majority of the projects are located in Haifa and its environs. One exception is L.'s commission for David's department store in Jerusalem, where he also did the interior design. The folders include ample textual, architectural and legal material concerning the projects.

Other professional materials include documents from the period L. worked at the architectural offices of Hecker and Yellin in the 1920s; L.'s expert report co-authored with Professor A. Rading in the late 1940's on architect Richard Kaufmann's Rishon Le-Zion extension scheme (and supporting textual and architectural materials). In addition, it includes L.'s entry to the 1955 Israeli Association of Engineers and Architects competition and a 1945 Memorandum on the Planning and Development of Mount Carmel, submitted to Haifa municipality.

SERIES III: PRINTED MATTER

This series contains printed matter from the 1940s through the 1960s. It includes the 1951-1953 volumes of *Leket: Building News in Israel* published by the Association of Engineers and Architects in Israel as well as professional literature, circulars and correspondence with the Association. It also includes professional brochures, reports and publications concerning the local architectural field and commercial promotional literature from overseas. Newspaper clippings include items from Haaretz (and possibly other publications) regarding Israeli architecture and the built environment.

SERIES IV: MEDIA AND OTHER OBJECTS

This series contains photograph albums of L.'s projects, a wide collection of assorted photos and postcards, mostly of L.'s projects, as well as several glass negatives. The photograph albums display L.'s different projects, spanning both his earlier Jerusalemite period (late 1920s) and his later Haifa-based practice. The bulk of this series are the photos and postcards (1922-1960s). Holdings contain personal photos from L.'s studies in Darmstadt in the early 1920s, photos of L. as well as L. and his family, and various local and international sites. Most of the photos and postcards document various projects of L. in Palestine/Israel. There are frequent duplicates within the folders.

Note on subseries I (Photo Albums of Projects) and II (Photos and Postcards):

Subseries I: Each album is kept in a different folder. Most of the albums were found in good condition and left intact in their original cover. The only exception is the album "Various Projects, 1930s-1950s", found crumbling and falling apart. Photos from this album are kept in numbered envelopes, each envelope covering a different page, reflecting the original page order.

Subseries II: The photographs were mostly found with no identification of sites, and were mostly kept in envelopes (only very few with captions). Identification process included consulting with various historical, visual and textual sources. Since the original order was kept, in many cases there are unidentified photos (from probably the same film roll, reflecting the chronological order by which the photos were taken) along with the dominant identified project. Folders contain numerous duplicates, in various forms, from negatives to positive photographs and postcard prints. Instructions written in the back of the photos (mostly in German) point to the fact that these photos were part of L.'s working process by which he selected photos and gave instructions to the developer.

4 CONTAINER LIST

SERIES I: PERSONAL MATERIAL

Folder/Box	Title	Date
B1/f1	Official and Professional Documents (1)	1920-1957

B1/f2	Official and Professional Documents (2) [Original Folder]	1920-1957
B1/f3	Power of Attorney (Furst) (1)	1935-1936
B1/f4	Power of Attorney (Furst) (2) [Original Folder]	1935-1936
B1/f5	Job Application Material (1)	1940-1951
B1/f6	Job Application Material (2)	1940-1951

SERIES II: PROFESSIONAL MATERIAL

Subseries I: Manuscripts and Notes

Folder/Box	Title	Date
B1/f7	"Die Form der Siedlung"	c. 1940s
B1/f8	Notes on Auditorium Planning	1930s
B1/f9	"Einzelhäuser oder Reihenhäuser?" [Single-family Houses or Row Houses?]	1930

Subseries II: Projects

Folder/Box	Title	Date
B1/f10	Wunderlich House (1)	1939
B1/f11	Wunderlich House (2)	1935-1938
B1/f12	Wunderlich House (3)	1935
B1/13	Wunderlich House (4)	1934-1935
B1/14	Wunderlich House (5) [Original Folder]	1934-1935
B1/15	Professor Yosef Broyer, Panorama St.	1954
B1/16	"לפידוס, טראגוט, בלומנטל" [Lapidus, Traugott, Blumenthal] (1)	1950-1954
B1/17	"לפידוס, טראגוט, בלומנטל" [Lapidus, Traugott, Blumenthal] (2)	1950-1954
	"לפידוס, טראגוט, בלומנטל" [Lapidus, Traugott, Blumenthal] (3)	
B1/18	[Original folder]	1950-1954

B1/19	"David's" Project Jeruslaem (1)	1934
B1/20	"David's" Project Jeruslaem (2)	
B1/21	"David's" Project Jeruslaem (3) [Original folder] ," שאול נתניאל, הצנובר 54-56, חיפה 54-56	
B1/22	HaZnobar St. Haifa (1) Shaul Nethaniel, 54- 56 , חיפה, הצנובר 54-56, " שאול נתניאל"	1950-1951
B1/23	HaZnobar St. Haifa (2) ," שאול נתניאל", הצנובר 54-56, חיפה 54-56, Shaul Nethaniel	1950-1951
B1/24	HaZnobar St. Haifa (3) ," שאול נתניאל", הצנובר 54-56, חיפה 54-56, " שאול נתניאל"	1950-1951
B1/25	HaZnobar St. Haifa(4)	1950-1951
B2/f1	The Cherniak House, Haifa , חיפה, " בית צ'רניאק" (1)	1953-1955
B2/f2	The Cherniak House, Haifa , חיפה, " בית צ'רניאק" (2)	1953-1955
B2/f3	The Cherniak House, Haifa , חיפה, " בית צ'רניאק" (3) The Cherniak House, חיפה, " בית צ'רניאק" Original Folder]] (4)	1953-1955
B2/f4	Haifa	1953-1955
B2/f5	Blue Band Margarine Factory, Haifa (1)	1950-1952
B2/f6	Blue Band Margarine Factory, Haifa (2)	1938-1953
B2/f7	Blue Band Margarine Factory, Haifa (3) [Original Folder]	1938-1953
B2/f8	Nethaniel Project, 121-123 Wingate St., Haifa (1) Nethaniel Project, 121-123 Wingate St., Haifa (2) [Original	1947-1951
B2/f9	Folder]	1947-1951
B2/f10	Hotel Project, 134-136 HaZnobar St., Haifa	1951-1952
B2/f11	Israel Neighborhood, Hadera (1)	1948-1952
B2/f12	Israel Neighborhood, Hadera (2) [Original Folder] רב קומות בקריית אליהו, גוש ב", חיפה Qiryat	1948-1952 1959
B2/f13	Eliyahu' Haifa] (1) [Multistory House, Qiryat גוש ב", חיפה Qiryat	1959-1961
B2/f14	Eliyahu' Haifa] (2)	
B2/f15	Agricultural Engineering Building, Technion (1)	1955-1963

	Agricultural Engineering Building, Technion (2) [Original	
B2/f16	folders]	
B2/f17	Unidentified Project, Mount Carmel, Haifa	1948-1949

Subseries III: Other Professional Material

Folder/Box	Title	Date
B3/f1	Hecker and Yellin, Jerusalem (1)	1927-1930
B3/f2	Hecker and Yellin, Jerusalem (2) [Original Folder]	1927-1930
B3/f3	Henrietta Irwell Vocational School for Girls (WIZO), Haifa, Competition Entry (1)	1955
B3/f4	Henrietta Irwell Vocational School for Girls (WIZO), Haifa, Competition Entry (2) [Original folder]	1955
B3/f5	Expert Report on R. Kauffmann's Rishon LeZion Expansion Plan, 1947-1948	1947-1948
B3/f6	Memorandum on the Planning and Development of Mt. Carmel, 1945	1945
B3/f7	Original Sketches and Floor Plans	n.d.

SERIES III: PRINTED MATTER

Subseries I: Professional Literature by Others

Folder/Box	Title	Date
B3/f8	"לקט: ידיעות בניה בישראל" (Leket: Building News in Israel) 1951	1951
B3/f9	"לקט: ידיעות בניה בישראל" (Leket: Building News in Israel) 1952	1952
B3/f10	"לקט: ידיעות בניה בישראל" (Leket: Building News in Israel) 1953	1953
B3/f11	The Association of Engineers and Architects in Israel (Circulars and Correspondence)	1948-1953

B3/f12	Promotional Literature from Overseas (1) Promotional Literature from Overseas(2) [Original folder]	n.d.
B3/f13		n.d.
B3/f14	Israeli Brochures, Reports and Publications	1945-1959

Subseries II: Clippings

Folder/Box	Title	Date
B3/f15	News Items on Israeli Architecture	c. 1950s-1960s

SERIES IV: MEDIA AND OTHER OBJECTS

Subseries I: Photo Albums of Projects

Folder/Box	Title	Date
B4/f1	"Ministry of Housing" ["משרד השיכון"]	
B4/f2	Qiryat Eliyahu Public Housing Project [Shikun]	c. 1950s
B4/f3	Agricultural Engineering Building, Technion	c. 1950s
B4/f4	Public Buildings, Jerusalem, 1927	1927
B4/f5	Projects in Jerusalem and Water Tower in Jezreel	1927-1922
B4/f6	Various Projects 1930s-1950s	1930s-1950s
B4/f7	unidentified modern complex	n.d.

Subseries II: Photos and Postcards

Folder/Box	Title	Date
B5/f1	Personal photos, Local and International Landscapes	1922-1959
B5/f2	Tegart Police Stations, Khan Yunis, Kibbutz Negba	1941
B5/f3	Projects of Schools by Lev	1941- 1951
B5/f4	Commercial and Industrial Projects by Lev Synagogues and Higher Education Building Projects by	c. 1930s-1950s
B5/f5	Lev	1925-c. 1950s

B5/f6	Single-Family Residential Projects by Lev (Haifa and Jerusalem)	1920s-1950s
B5/f7	Public Housing Projects (Shikunim) by Lev Anglo-Palestine Bank, Beit Hama'alot (Jerusalem) and	1951- early 1960s
B5/f8	Unidentified	c. 1930s-1950s
B5/f9	Original Envelopes	c. 1930s-1950s

Subseries III: Glass Plate Negatives

Folder/Box	Title	Date
B5/f10	New Commercial Center, Haifa and Unidentified Single-Family Residence	c. 1920s-1930s