

Guide to the Taylor Construction Company Collection

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Summary Information

Repository:	University of Nevada, Las Vegas. University Libraries. Special Collections and Archives.
Contributor:	Mason, James Nathan
Creator:	Taylor Construction Company
Contributor:	Mason, Stuart
Title:	Taylor Construction Company Collection
ID:	MS-00664
Date [inclusive]:	1954-1973
Physical Description:	0.2 Linear Feet (1 box)
Language of the Material:	English
Abstract:	The Taylor Construction Company Collection (1954-1973) consists primarily of publicly distributed information and provides a glimpse of some of the hotels, housing, public buildings, and remodeling projects handled by the company. It contains two booklets on the construction projects of the company from 1954 to 1972. It also includes Las Vegas International Hotel's projected revenues from 1969 to 1973, a newspaper article on Taylor Construction Company projects in Florida, and an invitation to the groundbreaking ceremony for the MGM Grand Hotel.

Preferred Citation

Taylor Construction Company Collection, 1954-1973. MS-00664. Special Collections, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

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Historical Background

Taylor Construction Company, now known as Taylor International Corporation, has built many iconic hotels on the Las Vegas strip since 1954. Morry M. Mason acquired the Taylor Construction Company in Florida in 1940. Under his direction, the company expanded its operations from building small houses to constructing a diverse collection of luxury hotels, banks, apartment buildings, hospitals, stadia, and manufacturing plants. Taylor Construction established its reputation building iconic hotels in Miami, and in 1964 it moved its operations to Las Vegas. Eventually ownership passed from Morry Mason to his son Stuart Mason, and in 1997, Stuart's sons Jim and Bill Mason bought ownership of Taylor.

Taylor started its first project in Las Vegas, the Riviera, in 1954. Morry Mason followed up by building the Tropicana in 1955, but it wasn't until 1964 that he moved the whole company to Las Vegas permanently. In 1958 Morry's son Stuart started working for the company full time, traveling to Jamaica, Aruba, Puerto Rico, and Grand Bahama to build hotels. When Jay Sarno approached Taylor to build Caesars Palace in 1964, Morry moved the company to Las Vegas and Stuart followed to oversee the project. Stuart Mason had the distinction of building the largest hotel in the world four times: the International Hotel (now the LVH), the MGM Grand (now Bally's), the MGM Grand Hotel and Casino, and the Las Vegas Sands-owned Venetian/Palazzo complex. Other Taylor projects in Las Vegas include: the Riviera, the Tropicana, Caesars Palace, and the Stratosphere Tower.

Sources:

"Stuart Mason Obituary." *Las Vegas Review-Journal*. Accessed January 28, 2015. <http://obits.reviewjournal.com/obituaries/lvrj/obituary.aspx?pid=157361983>.

"About Us." *Taylor International Corp*. Accessed January 30, 2015. <http://www.taylor-usa.com/about-us/>.

Chronology	
1940	Morry Mason acquires Taylor International Corp.
1954	Builds the Riviera in Las Vegas.
1955	Begins construction on the Tropicana.
1964	Moves to Las Vegas. Begins construction on Caesars Palace.
1969	The International Hotel opens. It has 1500 rooms, making it the largest hotel in the world at the time.
1973	MGM Grand (now Bally's) opens.
1993	MGM Grand Las Vegas opens one block south of original MGM Grand (now Bally's).
1996	The Stratosphere, containing the tallest freestanding observation tower in the United States, opens.
1997	Bill and Jim Mason buy Taylor International from their father, Stuart Mason.
1999	The Venetian opens.
2007	The Palazzo opens.

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Scope and Contents Note

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Arrangement

Materials remain in original order.

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Administrative Information

Access

The collection is open for research.

Publication Rights

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Acquisition Note

Materials were donated by Jim Mason; accession number 2014-065.

Processing Note

Materials were minimally processed by Lindsay Oden in 2014 in compliance with current professional standards.

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Names and Subjects

- Construction -- Nevada -- Las Vegas
- Architecture -- Nevada -- Las Vegas -- Twentieth century
- History -- Las Vegas -- Nevada

Collection Inventory

Title/Description	Containers	
Newspaper article on Taylor Construction Company projects in Florida, undated	box 01	folder 01
Booklet on Taylor Construction Company projects, undated	box 01	folder 02
"Architecture and Design: A Selection of Buildings Erected by Taylor Construction Company, Miami, Florida", 1954 September	box 01	folder 03
Invitation to MGM Grand groundbreaking ceremony and Las Vegas International Hotel projected revenues, 1969-1972	box 01	folder 04