

Field Notes

SCRC Series: Lewis Clarke Oral Histories Project – MC 00191

Field Notes: S. Giacomo Vincelli (compiled April 20, 2012)

Interviewee: S. GIACOMO (“JACK”) VINCELLI

Interviewer: Yona R. Owens

Interview Date: Wednesday, March 28, 2012

Location: Raleigh, North Carolina to Canada via Skype

Length: Approximately 94 minutes

THE INTERVIEWEE Jack Vincelli was born in Montreal, Canada where his father, who emigrated from Italy, operated a wholesale and retail nursery and a landscape construction company. Originally starting at Cornell, Vincelli transferred to North Carolina State University School, now College, of Design in 1955, and graduated in 1960 with a degree in landscape architecture. He has been in landscape architecture practice for over fifty years.

THE INTERVIEWER Yona R. Owens is the Lewis Clarke Oral Histories project manager at North Carolina State University Libraries’ Special Collections Research Center (SCRC).

DESCRIPTION OF THE INTERVIEW Both the interviewer and the interviewee were seated in their respective homes. Vincelli is accustomed to public speaking and was forthcoming in his answers.

CONTENT OF THE INTERVIEW Vincelli talked about his father and grandfather, told insightful anecdotes about Dean Henry Kamphoefner, Luigi Nervi, Eduardo Catalano, Lewis Clarke, the facilities that housed the early School of Design, and discussed at least three examples of how and why landscape architects have to interact with architects and clients.

NOTE ON RECORDING The interview was conducted over Skype from a PC computer to Vincelli’s landline. Unfortunately, the landline was a cordless telephone. At one point in the interview, the battery in the cordless handset went dead. When the connection was reestablished, Vincelli had to speak through the intercom in the cordless phone’s base, which produces a different ambiance in the quality. Those familiar with cordless phones will recognize the notorious problem. To record the interview, I used CallBurner to produce a mix track .wav file as well as separate tracks for the incoming and outgoing sides of the call. I made a copy of the mixed track .wav file to use to edit out the conversation that was recorded during the call back and regrouping. For this reason, the time stamp in the unedited transcript matches the two .wav files, but not the edited .wav file where the two parts of the interview have been spliced together. This spliced .wav file matches the edited transcript.