Architecture in the V&A's Archive of Art and Design

The V&A's Archive of Art and Design holds the working papers of individual artists and designers, as well as the records of companies and associations involved in all aspects of applied art and design. The archives can be consulted by appointment at Blythe House, located near Olympia in West London.

The architecture collection in the Archive of Art and Design demonstrates a broad spectrum of styles, influences and interests amongst the architects it represents. For example, architect and president of the Royal Academy of Arts 1954, Alfred Edward Richardson, held a deep interest in the 18th century. This is represented in his archive which consists of many glass lantern slides depicting furniture, interiors and exteriors of buildings which mainly concentrate on the 18th century.

Other notable archives include individuals such as Misha Black, the exhibition designer and architect who was involved with many of the activities and developments of British art and design associations, and E.W. Godwin, working in the mid to late 19th century, the pioneer of the Anglo-Japanese style. The earliest holdings are for the Crace Family dating back to 1740 and taking in four generations of talented interior designers who were well known for working closely with leading architects and for the decoration of the Royal Pavilion in Brighton. Austrian architect Hartwig Fischel's archive covers the period from 1829 to 1928 and includes photographs of the buildings he designed, sketchbooks of architectural details and still lifes, journals and even his own metal name plate. Sean Kenny worked as an architect during the mid-twentieth century before becoming a film and stage production designer. His archive holds an eclectic range of drawings and designs from nightclub floor plans to a stage set for the musical 'Blitz!' which has been signed by the song-writer Lionel Bart.

For more details please visit ‘Search the Archives’ (http://www.vam.ac.uk/archives/) or consult the Guide to the Archive of Art and Design, Victoria & Albert Museum by Elizabeth Lomas (London: Fitzroy Dearborn Publishers in association with the Victoria and Albert Museum, 2001), which not only lists the AAD archives, but also identifies related material in the V&A Museum and other institutions.

Architects

- Misha Black, exhibition and industrial designer, architect: papers, 1922-78. AAD/1980/3
- Sir Hugh Casson, architect, designer, illustrator and journalist: papers, 1867-2007
• Margaret Macdonald Casson, architect, designer and photographer: papers, 1897-2004
    AAD/2008/3
• Crace Family, interior decorators: papers, c. 1740-1919
    AAD/1992/3
• F.C. Eden, architect and designer: designs, photographs, drawings, c.1909-c.1944.
    AAD/2013/5
• Ian Hamilton Finlay, artist, designer and poet: Peterhead Power Station publication and photographs of drawings, 1978.
    AAD/1979/8
• Hartwig Fischel, architect: collection, 1829-c.1928.
    AAD/1983/10
• E.W. Godwin, furniture and stage designer, architect: papers, 1844-88.
• Eileen Gray, architect, furniture and interior designer: papers, 1913-74.
    AAD/1980/9
• Gervase Jackson-Stops, architectural historian: papers
    AAD/2007/10
• Jacqueline and Jacques Groag, textile and wallpaper designer; architect: papers, c.1929-85.
    AAD/1994/2, AAD/1995/17
    AAD/1995/30
• George Ramon, architect, interior and stage designer: papers, 1950s-1980s.
    AAD/2002/10
• Albert Edward Richardson, architect: lantern slides collection, 1885-1940.
    AAD/1990/7
• Franz Singer, architect, artist and interior designer: papers, 1913-50.
    AAD/1982/3
• Charles Harrison Townsend, architect and designer: papers, 1806-c.2003
    AAD/2003/14
• George Walton, architect and designer: papers, c.1920s-2003
    AAD/2004/7
• Philip Webb, architect: records, c.1831-c.1997
    AAD/2014/5, AAD/2014/6

Contact details
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Access to the Archive of Art and Design

The Blythe House Archive & Library Study Room is open Tuesdays to Fridays, from 10.00 to 16.30, by appointment only.

You can find further access information, including a map on the V&A’s website.