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 Victoria and Albert Museum is not just a museum of the past, but also the present and the future, and is committed to collecting the best of today’s art, design and visual culture. A wide range of exhibitions, events and displays have been planned to bring international design from around the world to the Museum.

The Archive of Art and Design, within the V&A, also strives to ensure that its collections support this mission and has archives with a contemporary focus. Individual designers, companies and organisations listed below are either still being added to, such as Habitat or Antoni + Alison, or are recent reflections on the current art and design scene in the UK.

For more details please visit Search the 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.

Contemporary archives

- Millennium Awards: records, ca. 2000- ca.2002
Ephemera

High street trawl
High Street Trawl ephemera (1988-) is collected once a year on 16 June by a small number of Museum staff. The purpose of the trawl is to collect ephemera from everyday life in order to document contemporary graphics, topical issues and 'high street ambience'.

Exhibition ephemera
Ephemera is collected from public exhibitions and trade shows concerned with design, principally those held at Earl’s Court and Olympia, London.

Contact details
Archive of Art and Design
Blythe House, 23 Blythe Road, London, W14 0QX
Tel: +44 (0)20 7942 2303
Contact us online

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