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.

Throughout the 20th century Britain produced distinctive and popular textile designs which influenced how we decorated our homes. The collections of the Archive of Art and Design allow us to see not only a wide variety of fabrics that were being sold in popular stores, but also the research and ideas of the individual designers.

The Heal's fabric sample books, for example, are an invaluable guide to a company renowned for promoting modern design in Britain, while the archives of prominent designers Lucienne Day and Jacqueline Groag contain designs immediately associated with the 1950s which are still popular today. Technical advances in textile production in the first quarter of the century are described in the diaries of James Morton, founder of Morton Sundour Fabrics Ltd, and later illustrated in the textile sample books of Calico Printers' Association.

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.

Design

- Joyce Badrocke, textile designer: papers, 1940s-1980s. AAD/2009/4
- O.M. Bayles, advertising artist and textile designer: textile designs, ca.1938-50. AAD/1984/14
• Carpet, rug and wallpaper designs, ca.1905-25. AAD/1984/12
• T.A. Fennemore, pottery, textile and wallpaper designer: papers, 1924-1990. AAD/1983/3
• Rita Gooday, textile designer: album, ca.1920-35. AAD/1987/6
• Ronald Grierson, textile designer: papers, 1932-1986. AAD/1989/1
• A. Haines & Son, textile designers: designs, ca.1950-60. AAD/1986/2
• David Hicks, interior and textile designer: papers, ca.1960-1973. AAD/1986/4
• W. Gordon Hunton, textile designer: records, 1903-1944. AAD/1987/4
• Margaret Calkin James, graphic and textile designer: papers, ca.1930-1985 AAD/2010/11
• Enid Marx, artist and designer: papers, ca.1900-1998. AAD/2007/3
• Morris & Co. Art Workers Ltd, decorative artists: embroidery patterns, ca.1920-ca.1939. AAD/1990/6
• Trude Neu, textile designer: papers, ca.1912-1996. AAD/2000/7
• Daphne Sanderson, textile designer: papers, ca.1956-ca.1980. AAD/2009/5
• Elizabeth Tomalin, textile designer: papers, ca.1930-ca.1960. AAD/2011/1
• Helena Uglow, ceramic and textile designer: papers, 1970s-90s. AAD/1999/9
• Allan Walton, interior and textile designer: papers, ca.1904-55. AAD/1980/6, AAD/1986/3

Production
• Calico Printers' Association Ltd: textile sample books, 1933-70. AAD/1988/9
• Courtaulds plc, textile manufacturers; design library: records, ca.1780-1977 AAD/2002/7
• Madame Crystal Ltd, glove maker and A. Tugendhat, yarn importer: records, 1928-90. AAD/1991/6
• Charles Holme, textile manufacturer, entrepreneur, founder of The Studio magazine: papers ca.1873-c.1924. AAD/2003/10

Research
• Arthur Cecil and Clara Cary Edwards, oriental carpet researchers: papers, ca.1940-57. AAD/1984/1

Upholstery
• Holland and Sons Ltd, cabinet makers and upholsterers: records, 1821-1968. AAD/1983/13, AAD/1998/1

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.