The Archive of Art and Design (AAD) 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 architecture collection in the AAD 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-20th 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.

Architects in the AAD

- Sir Hugh Casson, architect, designer, illustrator and journalist: papers, 1867–2007 AAD/2008/2
- Margaret Macdonald Casson, architect, designer and photographer: papers, 1897–2004 AAD/2008/3
- Crace Family, interior decorators: papers, about 1740–1919 AAD/1992/3
- F.C. Eden, architect and designer: designs, photographs, drawings, about 1909– about 1944 AAD/2013/5
- Ian Hamilton Finlay, artist, designer and poet: Peterhead Power Station publication and photographs of drawings, 1978 AAD/1979/8

• Eileen Gray, architect, furniture and interior designer: papers, 1913–74 AAD/1980/9

• Gervase Jackson-Stops, architectural historian: papers AAD/2007/10


• Sean Kenny, film and stage production designer, architect: designs and press cuttings, about 1960– about 1969 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– about 2003 AAD/2003/14

• George Walton, architect and designer: papers, about 1920s–2003 AAD/2004/7


Search

Search the Archive of Art & Design

You can also 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 and other institutions.

Access

The V&A Archive of Art & Design is located at Blythe House, near Olympia in West London and can be consulted by appointment only.

Find out how to access the Archive of Art & Design
Contact

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