Archive of Art & Design Research Guide

Contemporary Art
The V&A's 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 archives can be consulted by appointment at Blythe House, located near Olympia in West London.

The V&A 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.

**Contemporary archives in the AAD**

- Antoni + Alison, fashion designers: records, about 1976–97  
  AAD/1997/20


- Habitat Ltd, furniture and household goods retailer and manufacturer: marketing records, about 1960–98  
  AAD/1995/12, AAD/1996/5, AAD/2000/13

- Heal & Son Holdings plc, bedding and furniture manufacturer and retailer: records, about 1810–2001
High street trawl ephemera in the AAD

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 in the AAD

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

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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