Archive of Art & Design Research Guide

Jewish émigré designers
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 working archives, and some private papers, of many Jewish emigre designers and practitioners are represented in the AAD. Some of the most important contributors to British design in the mid- and late-twentieth century were Jewish émigrés, many of whom who escaped Nazi Germany in the 1930s or survived the persecution of the Second World War to make their homes in Britain in the 1940s.

Bringing with them a modernist outlook, their work for large and established institutions such as the General Post Office, London Transport, and British Overseas Air Corporation (BOAC) reached huge audiences and helped to shape British design in the mid- and late-20th century.

One of the best known graphic designers of the mid-20th century was Hans Schleger (‘Zero’). The AAD holds a large archive documenting his career, including his work for the Ministry of Information during the War, and subsequently for large numbers of clients including Shell, London Transport, John Lewis and the Edinburgh Festival.

Also represented is George Him, an illustrator, graphic and exhibition designer, whose work on high profile campaigns for clients including Schweppes contrasts with more personal projects, such as illustrations and layouts for the unrealised publication *The Life and Death of the Warsaw Ghetto*.

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 Gaby Schreiber, the industrial and interior designer who established her own design consultancy and developed a particular specialism in plastics design and interiors for aircraft and ships (including the cruise liner Queen Elizabeth II for Cunard).

The AAD also holds the work of lesser known designers, such as the textile designer Trude Neu, whose archive includes personal recollections of her arrival in Britain in addition to her bold and colourful design work, and Trudie Bradley, who trained as a window designer/dresser, probably at the Reimann School in London.

Work on cataloguing and selectively digitising material from these archives has been supported by the David Berg Foundation New York.

**Designers and practitioners in the AAD**

- The Ambassador, the British export magazine for textiles and fashion: records, 1933–92
  AAD/1987/1
• Bernhard Baer, print director: papers, 1947–85
  AAD/1985/1

• Misha Black, industrial and exhibition designer and architect: papers, 1922–78
  AAD/1980/3

• Charlotte Bondy, aluminium foil packaging designer: papers, about 1925–84
  AAD/1983/7, AAD/2016/5

• Ervin Bossanyi, stained glass artist: papers, about 1890–2007

• Trudie Bradley, designer of shop windows: papers, 1937–38
  AAD/2013/4

• Georg Calmann, furniture designer and framemaker: papers, about 1930–39
  AAD/1988/1

• Oskar Ehrenzweig, textile designer: papers, 1921–65
  AAD/2007/11, AAD/2009/17

• Hartwig Fischel, architect: papers, 1829–1928
  AAD/1983/10

• Klaus Friedeberger, graphic designer: papers, about 1940–2003
  AAD/2010/4

• Jacqueline and Jacques Groag, textile and wallpaper designer and architect: papers, about 1929–85
  AAD/1994/2, AAD/1995/17

• Ann and Herman Hecht: graphic and textile designers: papers, about 1950–2011
  AAD/2011/19

• George Him, illustrator, graphic and exhibition designer: papers, 1919–86
  AAD/1997/19

• Tom Karen, industrial and product designer: design and creative work and publications, about 1955–2009
  AAD/2015/14

• Madame Crystal Ltd and A. Tugendhat, glove maker; yarn importer: records, 1926–90
  AAD/1991/6

• Romek Marber, graphic designer: records, 1957–2005
  AAD/2011/16

• Trude Neu, textile designer: papers, about 1912–96
  AAD/2000/7

• Pilot Fashions, ladieswear designers and wholesalers: fashion sketches and press cutting albums, 1940–62
  AAD/1995/11
• Porgy and Bess, film production (Samuel Goldwyn): records, about 1958–62
  AAD/1991/7

• Fritz Rosen, graphic designer: papers, about 1920–62
  AAD/2003/20

• S. London Ltd., furrier: records, about 1920–68
  AAD/1994/5, AAD/2011/15

• Bertha Sander, interior designer: papers, 1917–about 1963
  AAD/1986/10, AAD/1988/3

• Hans Schleger, corporate exhibition and graphic designer: papers, 1919–2013

• Gaby Schreiber, consultant designer for industry: papers, about 1940–89

• Silhouette (Salop) Ltd., sportswear, swimwear and underwear manufacturer: marketing records, 1957–about 1989
  AAD/1994/21

• Franz Singer, artist, architect, furniture, theatre and interior designer and Friedl Dicker, artist, textile, theatre and interior designer, educator and art therapist: papers, about 1913–50
  AAD/1982/3

• Elizabeth Tomalin, textile designer: designs and fabric samples, about 1930–60
  AAD/2011/1

• Hans Unger, graphic designer and mosaic artist: papers, 1939–77
  AAD/1978/1, AAD/2007/12, AAD/1987/1

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

Archive of Art and Design
Blythe House