

THE BRITISH INTERIOR AND FURNITURE DESIGNER ARCHIVE

THE BIFDA PROPOSAL

Version: 7 October 2026

The British Interior and Furniture Designer Archive <https://bifda.org/> is an ever developing permanent digital record of artistic, historic and scholarly importance which will continue to grow in stature as successive generations of significant UK based Interior and Furniture designers add their individual archives to it.

It's a philanthropic, self-funded, not-for-profit, freely accessible, digital 'collective' archive and educational resource which seeks to collect, record and preserve in perpetuity, the contribution made by these designers to the ever lengthening spiral of our combined designer DNA.

Registration of BIFDA as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, CIO, with the Charity Commission of England and Wales is currently pending.

It is a developing record established for the benefit of future generations of designers and design students, scholars, publications, researchers, historians and museums together with those many members of the general public interested in design and cultural history; established to advance education and preserve and advance our British cultural heritage by researching, recording, collecting, documenting, preserving and making freely accessible knowledge and material relating to the history, development and contribution of interior and furniture design and designers in Britain.

Every year, valuable records of Britain's interior and furniture designers are lost - drawings disappear, photographs deteriorate, publications go out of print and personal archives are dispersed after retirement or death. Without deliberate preservation, an important part of Britain's design history risks being lost forever.

Derek Frost - Concept Origination 2024 & Initial Development

Trustees:

Derek Frost (Chair), Jeremy Norman (Treasurer) and Susie Rumbold (Past President - British Institute of Interior Design).

Advisory and Selection Committee:

Liz Bell (President - British Institute of Interior Design), Susie Rumbold (Past President - British Institute of Interior Design), Michael Schienke (Director - British Institute of Interior Design), Claire German (CEO - The Design Centre Chelsea Harbour), Patsy Baker (Member External Affairs Committee - The Design Museum), Lucia van der Post (Founding Editor - Financial Times 'How to Spend It'), Designers: Tim Gosling, Joanna Wood, Lavinia Dargie and Derek Frost

Administrators:

Derek Frost & Michael Schienke. We are looking for others who might be interested in sharing this role.

The **BIFDA** record has purposely been kept simple and with no contact back function. Developed by Derek Frost together with Cape Town based Web Designers **Web Factory**.

Should BIFDA find itself forced to cease operating, its governing body will seek to transfer its record and associated rights to another charity with compatible objects.

Selection Policy:

BIFDA is a curated historical record rather than a comprehensive design directory.

Inclusion is determined by the Selection Committee only on the basis of the designer's significance and contribution to the history and development of British interior and furniture design, in line with BIFDA's charitable purposes and entirely independent of any donation designers or design organisation may choose to make to BIFDA.

Where a member of the Selection Committee has a personal, professional or other interest in a proposed selection, including if their own archive is under consideration, that member will declare the interest and will take no part in the relevant decision.

Recommendations and requests for inclusion are welcome.

If selected, <https://bifda.org/>, you'll see your black and white portrait showing within the decade in which we believe you started your design career. If dates are incorrect please let the BIFDA administrator know.

Post submission of individual designer's archive this black and white portrait will be altered to a colour portrait. Clicking on this colour portrait will then open this designer's archive.

Designer's Archives:

The opportunity to share your design legacy in perpetuity.

A standard style template has been determined for every designer's entry under titles: **History, Drawings, Images, Other, Press, Publications, Videos & Podcasts.**

Each designer is encouraged to represent themselves entirely as they choose set down under whichever of these titles suits their purpose best.

Please refer to existing designer archives for clarification. The BIFDA Administrator is happy to provide any additional guidance required.

Participating designers will be asked to meet the reasonable and proportionate costs attributable to the preparation and uploading their individual archive, including any third-party technical costs incurred by BIFDA for that purpose. Such payments are intended solely to recover costs and do not constitute payment for selection and inclusion in the BIFDA Record.

Archives can be updated at any later date.

Participating

Selected designers wishing to add their individual archives to the **BIFDA** record should, read, sign and submit to the BIFDA administrator(s) the accompanying **'Designer's and other Contributor's Submission and Agreement'**.

Others, who feel equipped to do so, subject to approval from the BIFDA Advisory and Selection Committee and to signing the same agreement, are welcome to make contribution to the BIFDA record - either to specific designers' archives or to the section of the record called 'Context'.

General Costs:

General **BIFDA** administrative costs (currently only Derek Frost & Michael Schienke - both working 'pro bono'), likely to be minimal as currently envisaged, will include the cost of 'hosting and domain charges' payable to Web Factory.

All costs to date have been paid by Derek Frost.

Funding:

As a '**philanthropic, self funded, not-for-profit, freely accessible digital 'collective' archive**' BIFDA general administrative and any other costs will, it is envisaged, be funded from a general fund financed by donations from designers and design organisations.

Please consider making a donation (this will be supplemented by Gift Aid assuming registration as a CIO proves successful) **to fund current and future BIFDA costs and ambitions.**

If BIFDA is seen to grow, prosper and become of increasing importance it may also attract legacy donations from those keen to see this charitable initiative prosper into the future. In such circumstances Derek Frost is considering making a legacy donation to it and hopes others may consider doing the same.

Future Vision:

It may be that BIFDA, will find future home under the umbrella of either **The British Institute of Interior Design (BIID)** or London's **Design Museum**. Conversations are already in play with both organisations.

In such an event BIFDA's charitable objectives, as stated above, will remain unchanged.

