



**Museum of Domestic Design & Architecture (MoDA)
Middlesex University, Cat Hill, Barnet, Herts, EN4 8HT**

ACQUISITION STATEMENT, 2006-2007

MoDA's collections are relevant to themes relating to domestic interiors, domesticity, household management, and the design and decoration of 'ordinary' homes. This policy supports MoDA's Mission and Key Aims which states that:

MoDA's internationally renowned collections relate to British domestic design and architecture, 1870-1960.

For full details please see MoDA's *Acquisition & Disposal Policy*, which is available to download from www.moda.mdx.ac.uk/about

We are frequently offered items for the museum's collections. MoDA is an Accredited Museum, which means we need to meet high standards in terms of looking after our collections and making them available to the public. By agreeing to accept an item into our permanent collection we agree to look after it and make it available for ever. This is clearly a large commitment, which means we have to think carefully about what we are and are not able to accept.

THINGS WE ARE NEVER ABLE TO ACCEPT

We are not able to accept large domestic items such as gas cookers, fridges, kitchen cabinets, gas or electric fires. We are also unable to accept items such as suites of furniture, sewing machines, record players or televisions. The museum does not have enough space to store them or the resources to make them available to the public. We are not able to make any exceptions to this policy.

You might find it useful to look at the 24 Hour Museum website – www.24hourmuseum.org.uk - to locate other institutions which may collect this type of material.

THINGS WE SOMETIMES ACCEPT

We are frequently offered books, magazines and pamphlets relating to the domestic interior, household management, cooking, house buying, house planning and decorating etc. We are

happy to consider these items, assuming we do not already have similar items in the collections. We might be interested in the instruction manual for a refrigerator, for example, even if we are not able to accept the fridge itself.

We are also potentially interested in examples of wallpaper, textiles or lino (preferably unused off-cuts) which are often found in the loft or garage. These will be more interesting to us if you are able to tell us which rooms they were used to decorate, the location of the house in question, and the dates they were used. We are also more interested in examples of wallpaper or curtains if you also have a photograph of the room in which they were used, showing how they related to the other furnishings and items in the room.

If you have items of this kind it is helpful if you could send us a list (for books) or an image (for wallpapers/textiles etc) so we can establish whether we already have anything similar in the collections.

THINGS WE ARE KEEN TO ACCEPT

The museum is interested in the history of 'ordinary' domestic interiors. In other words, we would like to acquire items which tell us about houses and how people live in them. We are particularly keen to collect photographs of interiors and gardens from the first half of the twentieth century, especially if they relate to the North London suburbs. If you have photographs but don't want to part with the originals we would be happy to copy them for you.

We are also very happy to accept any material (brochures, pamphlets, leaflets, books, documents etc) relating to house building and purchasing, especially in the North London area. In addition we are currently especially interested in any material relating to the Ideal Home exhibition.

When you give us items for the collection we will ask you to sign a form to confirm that you transfer ownership, and rights of copyright or reproduction, to the museum. (There will be an additional form to sign for photographic material). This form also confirms that the museum's governing body will hold the items on trust for educational purposes and for the public benefit, in accordance with the MLA's Museum Accreditation Scheme.

CONTACTING THE MUSEUM

If you have items you'd like to donate which you think we would consider please contact a member of the Curatorial Team to discuss things further. Please note that we are not always able to make an instant decision, as we sometimes need to consider the long-term resource implications of accepting your item. MoDA's Preventive Conservation Officer may sometimes need to be consulted to establish the likely conservation requirements for any potential acquisition. No item will be acquired unless the Museum can provide adequate long-term storage in accordance with MoDA's Conservation Policy.

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