

THE BRITISH INTERIOR AND FURNITURE DESIGNER ARCHIVE

The Opportunity to Secure your Design Legacy in Perpetuity

**A Way to Give Back to the Industry that has Gifted so Much
to our Lives**

Version: 24 July 2026

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.

The British Interior and Furniture Designer Archive <https://bifda.org/> is a digital record of artistic, historic and scholarly importance which will continue to grow in stature as successive generations of distinguished 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, which records, showcases and preserves in perpetuity, the contribution made by these designers to the ever lengthening spiral of our combined designer DNA and, by this, to the cultural wealth of our nation

It's a developing record set down for the benefit of future generations of designers and design students, scholars, publications, researchers, historians and museums together with the wider public.

Steering Group:

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, Derek Frost** (retired).

BIFDA Administrators - Derek Frost & Michael Schienke. The Steering Group are looking for others who might be interested in taking on or sharing this role.

The **BIFDA** digital record has purposely been kept simple and with no contact back function. It was devised by Derek Frost working together with Cape Town based Web Designers **Web Factory** with whom he has worked successfully over several years.

The BIFDA record including all the designer's archives will remain viewable through bifda.org for as long as the BIFDA remains active and continues to fund bifda.org hosting - hopefully in perpetuity.

Selection Policy:

Only those designers whose work has made a notable contribution to the quality and innovation of British Interior and Furniture Design will be included in BIFDA.

The BIFDA is a record of the 'best' and not a 'design directory'.

The BIFDA Steering Group (SG) / Selection Committee (SC), will select which distinguished designers to include in the record. Recommendations for additional inclusions are welcome.

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

Designer's Archives:

Each designer's virtual archive is an opportunity for participating designers, each a distinguished artist, to reflect on their design career and to assemble a record of their contribution to the ever lengthening spiral of our collective designer DNA.

The BIFDA record offers participating designers the opportunity to secure their design legacies in perpetuity.

Some of these, no doubt, illuminating designer's archives will contain a mix of biography, images, drawings, editorial, monographs, audio, video, design story and philosophies plus much else.

Others may contain only a short video interview and a few pages scanned from the designer's published monographs - maybe less.

Each designer is free to represent themselves entirely as they wish.

Each designer archive will be assembled by each designer at their own cost.

Each archive can be amended by each designer at any later date.

Participating

If you'd like to participate and add your self compiled archive to the record please let the BIFDA administrator(s) know and we'll send your AI generated Info sheet for you to check and correct.

Each designer is free to assemble their own archive entirely as they decide best grouped under, whichever of the standard designer archive titles as they deem appropriate - **Drawings, Images, Press, Publication, Videos & Podcasts, Other.** The BIFDA Administrator(s) is happy to provide guidance.

Each archive can be as simple or as complex as each designer wishes.

Some archives may contain links to published monographs, other publications and press editorial, etc.. **Beware** - links may cease to remain live. Better please, having first resolved copyright issues with the right's holder, to supply 'primary source material' therefore ensuring the content remains readable in perpetuity.

Archives can be updated at any later date.

On receipt of each individual designer's archive, the BIFDA Administrator(s) will forward this to Web Factory, BIFDA's selected Web Designers, who will incorporate your archive into the BIFDA record.

Costs:

Until such time as designer's have demonstrated an appetite to participate and a core of designer's archives have been added to the BIFDA record, costs involved in advancing the birth of the BIFDA record will be covered by the BIFDA general fund.

Incorporating each designer's archive into the BIFDA record and making them Word Press readable will incur costs with Web Factory.

Post this early stage of development, subsequent designers wishing to add their archive to the BIFDA record will be asked to pay this cost.

Funding:

As a '**philanthropic, self funded, not-for-profit, freely accessible digital 'collective' archive**' additional BIFDA overheads, likely to be minimal as currently envisaged, will need to be funded from a general fund financed by donations from designers and design organisations.

Please consider pledging a donation to fund current and future BIFDA costs.

If BIFDA is seen to grow, prosper and become of increasing importance it may also attract legacy donations from those keen to see the initiative prosper into the future. In such circumstances Derek Frost is planning to make a legacy donation to it and hopes others may decide to do the same.

'a way to give back to the industry that has gifted so much to our lives'

In the future additional income might be generated as described below.

Generating Income from the BIFDA Archive:

Should participating designers wish, as Derek Frost is quite happy to do, to gift all high resolution files used to compile their archive together with grant of licence or gift of copyright ownership to BIFDA and should BIFDA decide to house it and manage it, then an important and potentially valuable accumulation of high resolution material starts to build - valuable in the sense of historic and scholarly

significance and with regard to income generation - licensing potential as source material for commercial exhibitions, editorial, etc..

Hard Copy Records and Storage:

Each designer's virtual archive will have been compiled, in part, from hard copy material - printed images and transparencies, original drawings and publications etc.. By way of spatial example the hard copy content of Derek Frost's physical archive measures 73cm x 31cm x 30cm.

Participating designers, wondering about their design legacy, may be considering the question of storing this material and if so how and where best?

In some instances, these hard copy archives might also prove to be a source of potential future revenue to whichever organisation takes ownership of them.

Future Vision:

In addition to all that is stated above, the possibility exists that the growing importance of this record and the funding that it attracts might allow BIFDA to become a significant benefactor within the design industry by funding student bursaries, design exhibitions and much else on into the future.

