

1st RESEARCH GRANT FOR THE STUDY OF DOMESTIC APPLIANCES

The Design History Foundation and the Alfaro-Hofmann Collection of domestic appliances are launching the first grant for the study of domestic appliances.

The aim of the grant is to encourage international research on the history of domestic appliances. The scope of the grant is the Alfaro Hofmann collection, which includes more than 5.000 appliances from all over the world, a library and a documents archive. (See the description below). The collection is located in Godella, Valencia, Spain.

1. The grant is open to professional scholars and Phd students¹. Scholars working anywhere in the world — whether independently or in the employ of an institution — are encouraged to apply.
2. The Research Grant will be used towards the costs incurred for:
 - Research trips to the collection.
 - It may also cover the costs of research trips to companies and archives related with the project.
 - Copies and photocopies.Equipment and hardware, spirits and high class travel or accommodation are not covered by the grant.
3. Applications will be judged on the following criteria:
 - Significant contribution to the discipline of design history (not including architectural or art history)
 - Qualifications of applicants to conduct the proposed research.
 - Feasibility of outcomes and dissemination.
 - Direct contribution to the activities of the Fundació and the Alfaro Hofmann Collection
 - Value for money
4. A fund up to 4.000€ will be awarded every two years. The sum will be divided amongst several applications deemed of high merit by a judging panel drawn from the FHD Board of Trustees.

¹ In that case the application needs to be supported by a researcher with doctoral qualifications who will supervise the quality of the research. The project can be part of a doctoral thesis but not a full thesis.

5. Recipients of the 1st Research Grant must provide an article of 5.000 words relating to their project, to be published in the Fundació Història del Disseny and Alfaro Hofmann Collection websites. The articles can be written in English, Spanish or Catalan. They will also give a public lecture at the collection headquarters.
6. Applications must be written in English or Spanish and include:
 - Name, address and a full CV of the applicant
 - Name, address and short CV of the supporting supervisor (if necessary)
 - A text of 800-900 words describing: 1) aims and objectives; 2) research content; 3) methodology; 4) planned outcomes; 5) Work programme.
 - A budget
7. A judging panel drawn from of the FHD Board of Trustees will examine the applications and a letter of acceptance will be sent to the successful applicants.

Applications must be submitted to info@historiadeldisseny.org

Key dates:

- Deadline for applications: 14 July 2012
- Notification of acceptance: 30 september 2012
- Delivery of article: 30 september 2013

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About the Alfaro Hofmann Collection

The Alfaro Hofmann Collection is a private institution devoted to the exhibition and dissemination of its holdings of everyday objects from the 20th century, especially electrical household appliances.

Although Alfaro Hofmann made his first acquisitions at the end of the 1970s, the collection as such took shape from 1980 with a systematic process of selection and object documentation.

As with any collection, it is underpinned by personal choices, whether relating to formal values or innovation criteria, but in all cases with a firm grounding in industrial tradition. Most of the pieces have a strong local link, and are varied in their origins, reflecting the fact that this is a country receptive to industrial products. Within the Collection, the following companies have an important presence, due to their technological innovation and design-led approach:

General Electric (USA), markets the first electric home appliances from 1905.
AEG (Germany), a pioneer in its introduction of the designer as part of the business and manufacturing structure, in architecture, corporate identity or product design.
Siemens (Germany), with its Protos division, created one of the most complete ranges of electric appliances for domestic use.
Electrolux (Sweden), one of the earliest manufacturers of vacuum cleaners with metal runners.
Philips (Netherlands), offering a broad range of radios with a strong formal component.
Miele (Germany), washing machines and vacuum cleaners celebrated for their reliability, both in the industrial and domestic spheres.
Bang & Olufsen (Denmark), sound and vision appliances of great elegance and sophistication.
Braun (Germany), representing German functionalism, with an impeccable styling.
Sony (Japan), a pioneer of consumer electronics.
Bionvega (Italy), representing Italian design of the 60s and 70s.

Objects

Preserving foods

Refrigerators: 22 units

Preparing foods

Mixers: 150 units

Hand mixers: 100 units

Blenders: 62 units

Grinders: 75 units

Kitchen machines: 75 units

Coffee mills: 75 units

Squeezers: 62 units

Kitchen scales: 62 units

Tin-opener: 12 units

Electric knife: 25 units

Kitchen timer: 25 units

Kitchen clock: 37 units

Cooking foods

Cookers: 18 units

Ovens: 18 units

Toasters: 200 units

Kettles: 66 units

Coffee makers: 120 units

Pressure cookers: 45 units

Cleaning

Vacuum cleaners: 300 units

Floor polishers: 25 units

Dishwashers: 2 units

Washing machines: 22 units

Irons: 250 units

Sewing machines: 42 units

Cooling & Heating

Heater:	95 units
Fan heaters:	42 units
Fans:	120 units
Bed warmer:	20 units

Personal care

Shavers:	350 units
Hairdryers:	175 units
Bath scales:	50 units

Communication

Telephones:	200 units
Porter's telephones:	60 units
Radios:	200 units
Gramophones/Record players:	75 units
Hi-Fi Equipments:	30 units
Televisions:	125 units

Library

The Alfaro Hofmann Collection has a library specialized in architecture and design. It is a significant bibliographic archive for the study of the history of design, and particularly the domestic habitat and domestic appliances, arranged in the following sections:

- **Publications:**

Classified in five themes: design (with an important section devoted to electrical appliances and their manufacturers and designers), architecture & interiors, technology, home ethnology, collecting and museology. Over 4.000 titles.

- **Commercial catalogues:**

Of the most important firms in the field of, mostly, domestic appliances and furniture. About 1.200 volumes.

- **Old books:**

A collection ranging from the late 1900s to 1940. Around 500 books.

- **Reference:**

Section comprising dictionaries, yearbooks, guides and encyclopedias specialized in architecture and design. Approximately 240 works.

- **Newspaper and periodicals:**

Section with over 325 titles.

- **Archive:**

With documents bearing a special relevance for their relationship with pieces in the Collection, as well as for their aesthetic value, rarity or age. Apart from graphic material, they include product manuals, advertising brochures, plans, patents, etc. In this section, are available nearly 300 posters and more than 10.000 ads and brochures about domestic appliances.

Further information about the Alfaro Hofmann Collection: www.alfarohofmann.com