



ADSW PRESERVATION CASE STUDIES

EDGARD SFORZINA COLLECTION

ADSW PRESERVATION

With the support of Sforzina's granddaughter, Denise Allen, and Deborah Sorensen, curator with the National Building Museum, ADSW has inventoried more than 500 items from Sforzina's practice.

ADSW continues to scan and photograph the inventory, and we are in the process of securing it with archival-grade storage materials.

BACKGROUND AND SIGNIFICANCE

In early 2019, ADSW was approached by Denise Allen, the granddaughter of Art Deco era designer Edgard Sforzina. She was interested in showing ADSW the vast

collection of drawings, furniture prototypes, photographs and professional correspondence from Sforzina's practice that had been in her possession for some time.

Edgard Sforzina was a talented Art Deco era designer trained and active in his native France until World War I. After service in the Great War and suffering some personal losses, Sforzina eventually immigrated to New York where he was professionally active in the 1920s and 1930s. He had a relatively brief but prolific twenty year career in the States before his premature death at age 54 in 1940.

He worked on a wide variety of commissions, both independently and through an association with the New York Architecture firm of Fellheimer and Wagner. Sforzina worked on a wide variety of projects, designing buildings, furniture, cocktail sets, housewares, and interiors. The extensive collection of over 500 artifacts includes drawings, furniture prototypes, photographs and correspondence. Sforzina was an immensely talented draftsman and illustrator, as the handful of examples included here shows.

FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES

Much detective work remains to be done to fill in the gaps in the professional history of Sforzina's career. He is credited with designing the interiors for an apartment for George Gershwin, select interiors of the Cincinnati Union Terminal and interiors for many department stores, including Hutzler Brothers in Baltimore. ADSW hopes to share more of the collection through articles, talks and possibly a catalog. Ms. Allen hopes to find a permanent home for the collection with an institution interested in sharing it for posterity.

SELECTED SFORZINA DESIGN SKETCHES

[left to right, from the top] Private residence, Sitting room suite, Board room furniture for Cincinnati Union Terminal, Water carafe sets, Double settee and side table, Bed, Cocktail set, Headquarters building for CBS.

