

THE ARTCARE™ ADVANTAGE: PROFILES IN CONSERVATION



THE CLIENT PROFILE

The Architectural Archives of the University of Pennsylvania are home to hundreds of drawings including remarkable designs by such masters as Louis I. Kahn, Paul Philippe Cret and Le Corbusier. Unfortunately the damaged or fragile condition of many outstanding works kept within these Archives has prevented the University from displaying them and forced it to keep these historic records off limits to both scholars and visitors alike.



"The watercolors of architectural artist William Breton provide an important historic record of Philadelphia's original buildings."

University of Pennsylvania Saves Architectural Legacy with Artcare Products

THE CONSERVATION CHALLENGE

Recently, one of the most important collections of the Archives, one that documented the nation's architectural legacy, was found to be in jeopardy. In fact, the condition of many of these works was found to be so poor that their survival was now threatened. The University suddenly found itself faced with the task of immediate conservation to ensure their survival.

The most common problems University officials faced in this conservation effort included brittleness, damage from adhesion to inferior quality support boards, folds and cracks. In addition, stains caused from pressure sensitive tape, severe aging and deterioration rounded out the problems these officials came in contact with.

THE PROCESS AND SOLUTION

The initial phase of the conservation process began with the surface cleaning of the documents. Using solvents, experts removed residual adhesives and stains. The drawings were then flattened, and tears and losses were repaired using Japanese paper and wheat starch paste. In the final phase of the conservation, each repaired drawing was placed in a sink mat of 4-ply Alphasag Artcare. The matted item was then further protected in a sealed package consisting of UV filtering acrylic glazing along with Artcare Archival Corrugate backing board and polyester film.

THE SUCCESS OF ARTCARE

Because the conservation of these important drawings was such a great success, and because these documents are now safely protected utilizing Artcare products, the University of Pennsylvania plans to exhibit the restored drawings at a reception in recognition of the project's completion. In April 2000, many of these works were on display for viewing by over 15,000 participants at the annual American Institute for Architecture (AIA) convention.

The Artcare™ Archival System
The art of protecting your art.

1-800-9ARTCARE
www.artcare.com

Alphasag® Artcare™ 4 ply 100% cotton rag barrier paper as protective storage folders.

Artcare™ Archival Corrugate as the backing board to secure artifact within the frame and block gaseous pollutants from entering through the back of frame package.

Japanese rice paper hinges and wheat paste for mounting images to board.

Original frames re-used for presentation.

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