

## Living archives: the NFF Archive as an Architectural Analysis tool

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The creation of the New European Bauhaus indicates how crucial architects and designers are to take meaningful action in an era marked by the SDGs. Architectural archives provide an excellent field to learn from particular interpretations on how to relate to the built environment.

Despite its potential as a valuable tool for research, archives are often disregarded in architectural education, vacating their understanding and interpretation to art and architecture historians. But, what is the role of architectural archives in the contemporary teaching of architecture? What can younger generations learn from the lessons from the past? Can archives be not only a tool for research but also a tool for practitioners?

This contribution aims to share the experience of bringing together relevant institutions through an architecture educational program, enhancing a multi-directional knowledge transfer in the same spirit of the New European Bauhaus agenda. On one side, professors and students of the Architectural Analysis subject at the ETSAM, the Architecture School of Madrid; and on the other, the Norman Foster Foundation (NFF) Archive, also in Madrid. The Foundation's Archive hosts Norman Foster's impressive collection of drawings, plans and models, showing an early understanding of sustainability as an essential tool of architectural thinking and practice.

During the Spring 2022 semester, prof. Madera and prof. Hernández teamed up with the NFF's archivists to promote amongst their ETSAM students the use of archival sources to enrich the understanding of the crucial role of the architect in the built environment, using Foster's work as a basis for a series of reflections systematised in an academic methodological approach. The students shared their architectural analysis with Foster, which started a fruitful conversation that will continue through an upcoming publication and exhibition in the Fall, enlarging the discussion with a broader audience.

