

John G. Alden Plans Collection

The Alden plans collection is a largely complete record of the John G. Alden Company design work from 1909 to 2008, though there are some omissions. The plans are indexed by the company's design number, with separate series for preliminary designs and commercial and naval contracts. Plans for any given design are usually mostly complete. Early designs generally have lines and offsets, construction, cabin, and deck plans, and a sail plan. Later designs include additional information for tanks, machinery, electrical diagrams, and rig details. Commercial and military designs often include blueprints from the Navy or Maritime Administration.

The full series of yacht plans has been digitized, and an index to designs is available at <http://www.aldendesigns.com>. Commercial and military designs, for the most part, have not been digitized.

John G. Alden archives at the MIT Museum

The Alden archives include 36 boxes of design material and related office material. Among these boxes, 27 boxes are primarily yacht designs, 7 boxes are primarily military and commercial designs, and 2 boxes contain miscellaneous material.

Among the yacht designs, the material begins with design #14 and goes up to design #1248, with many omissions. Designs range from launches and daysailers to three-master schooners; a small number of designs did not originate with Alden. Some folders include material on multiple vessels built to the same design, often with modifications. The folders almost always include building specifications and often include design calculations. Folders sometimes include a small number of plans (often of details modified from the original plans); small prints of plans; sketches; photos; hull offsets; product information on components such as engines; correspondence with clients, builders, component manufacturers and others; design resources; results of trials; results of test tank research (after 1947); and stories in marine publications.

The military and commercial designs begin with design #313 and go up to design #994, with many omissions. Designs include fireboats, research vessels, cargo vessels, fishing boats, salvage vessels, harbor tugboats, rescue tugboats, tugboats designed for the Soviet Union during World War Two, ferries, Army barges and Coast Guard cutters. Most folders include material on multiple vessels built to the same design. Folders almost always include building specifications and calculations. Folders often contain plans, photos, trial data, hull offsets, correspondence and newspaper clippings.

Miscellaneous material includes account books from the early years of the company and, in Box 36, brochures and correspondence with builders beginning in the 1980s. Box 28 features historical material including an obituary for Alden, a talk Alden gave at the Boston Yacht Club in 1954, vessel brochures, Cruising Club of America rule information, references to museum projects at Peabody-Essex Museum and Mystic Seaport, and a privately published book on the schooner *Wendameen*.

Archival boxes and design contents

1. Historical material and designs 14 to 160
2. 161 to 262
3. 273B to 318
4. 319 to 367
5. 367B to 419
6. 421 to 482
7. 483 to 567
8. 568 to 644
9. 645 to 695
10. 696 to 759
11. 761 to 828
12. 828B to 863
13. 863B to 895
14. 896 to 916
15. 917 to 932C
16. 932D to 949
17. 949 (continued) to 963
18. 965 to 979
19. 980 to 990
20. 992 to 999, misc., B830, B837, P933 to P1113
21. 1015 to 1033
22. 1035 to 1042
23. 1043 to 1180
24. 1181 to 1215
25. 1219 to 1248
26. P1116 to P1138, one unnumbered design
27. P1148 to P1240, tank test results
28. Historical material
29. Commercial and military: 313 to 731
30. Commercial and military: 726 to 735
31. Commercial and military: 740, 884
32. Commercial and military: 741 to 883
33. Commercial and military: 884 to 892
34. Commercial and military: 893 to 918
35. Commercial and military: 918 to 994
36. Yards