



*Modern Design Across Borders* examines the cross-cultural web of connections among people, ideas, and movements that made modern design's remarkable reach and lasting impact possible. Focusing on five spotlight subjects within the global story of interwar design—transportation, the 1925 Paris Expo, tea and coffee, plywood, and cocktail culture—the exhibition homes in on the innovation and trends that spread from country to country, expressing progress and new ideals. Featuring products by designers such as Norman Bel Geddes, Josef Hoffmann, Alvar Aalto, and Charles and Ray Eames, *Modern Design Across Borders* draws from the Wolfsonian collection and teases out the trademark design choices (geometry, clean lines, functionality) that defined novel visual languages of modern life and continue to shape design today.

*La Superba* explores Genoa's unique character and introduces our sister institution, The Wolfsonian, in celebration of its 20th anniversary, paying homage to the enduring cultural connection between Italy and the United States. Through paintings, travel posters, ephemera, and decorative arts from our collection, this exhibition provides a picture of Genoa as a hub for industrial development in the first half of the 20th century. The Wolfsonian has loaned a study for *La pietà umana*, a painting in the Wolfsonian collection by Alberto Helios Gagliardo, to this installation. Housed separately, yet now on view together for the first time, the two works reflect our founder's intended cultural bridge between Genoa and Miami.

"As we celebrate milestone anniversaries together, it seemed only fitting that these two exhibitions also honor the global connections we share," said Barisione. "Our founder, Mitchell Wolfson, Jr., has chosen two port cities to display the most diverse artifacts he collects during his travels around the world."

-FIU-

[\*\*Modern Design Across Borders hi-res images and captions\*\*](#)

[\*\*La Superba: Genoa and The Wolfsonian hi-res images and captions\*\*](#)

#### **About The Wolfsonian–Florida International University**

The Wolfsonian–FIU is a museum, library, and research center that uses objects to illustrate the persuasive power of art and design, to explore what it means to be modern, and to tell the story of social, political, and technological changes that have transformed our world. The collections comprise more than 200,000 items from the period 1850 to 1950—the height of the Industrial Revolution to the end of the Second World War—and include fine arts, decorative arts, graphic design, industrial design, architectural drawings, rare publications, and ephemera.

The Wolfsonian receives generous and ongoing support from the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation; Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs and the Cultural Affairs Council, the Miami-Dade County Mayor and Board of County Commissioners; State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs and the Florida Council on Arts and Culture; and City of Miami Beach, Cultural Affairs Program, Cultural Arts Council.

#### **About FIU**

Florida International University is a Top 50, preeminent public research university with 55,000 students from all 50 states and more than 140 countries, as well as an alumni network of more than 330,000. Located in the global city of Miami, the university offers more than 200 degree programs at the undergraduate, graduate and professional levels, including medicine and law. FIU faculty are leaders in their fields and include National Academy members, Fulbright Scholars, and MacArthur Genius Fellows. A Carnegie R1 institution, FIU drives impactful research in environmental resilience, health, and technology and innovation. Home to the Wall of Wind and Institute of Environment, FIU stands at the forefront of discovery and innovation. With a focus on student success, economic mobility and community engagement, FIU is redefining what it means to be a public research university.