Radio - RT 20

Object: Radio

Place of origin: Germany (designed)
Germany (manufactured)

Date: 1963 (designed)
1963 (manufactured)

Artist/Maker: Rams, Dieter, born 1932 (designer)
Braun AG (manufacturer)

Materials and Techniques: Beechwood, powder-coated sheet steel, plastic, electrical components

Museum number: W.13-2007

Gallery location: In Storage

Public access description
The RT 20 table radio is a typical design by Dieter Rams for the West German manufacturer, Braun. It is an essay in visual simplicity, with no extraneous details or decoration. The front face of the radio slants slightly upwards to improve the legibility of the controls, and to cast the sound from the single loud speaker further into the room. The speaker itself is concealed behind the fascia with only pierced lines to indicate its presence. There is a natural logic to the placement of the controls that contributes to the timeless elegance of the appliance. Designs by Dieter Rams were always extremely functionalist but they also relied on a sense of intuition from their users, which softened and humanized them. His work continues to exert a strong influence on contemporary product designers including Jasper Morrison, Industrial Facility and Jonathan Ive at Apple Inc.

Descriptive line
RT 20 Radio, beechwood, sheet steel, designed by Dieter Rams, made by Braun, 1963

Physical description
Radio, oblong beechwood box with a white powder-coated sheet steel fascia tilted slightly backwards. The proper left side of the fascia is pierced with slots forming a circular loud speaker and the controls are on the proper right.

Dimensions
Height: 257 mm, Width: 500 mm, Depth: 180 mm including control knobs

Museum number
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URL
http://collections.vam.ac.uk/item/O152458/rt-20-radio-rams-dieter/