Public access description
The Villa Madama in Rome was commissioned by Cardinal Giulio de' Medici from Raphael who had completed the design in 1518. The building was left unfinished at the artist's death in 1520. The loggia, of which this model represents the central section, opened on to a garden, recreating the ideal of the villas of antiquity in which interior spaces and the natural world mingled. After Raphael's death the loggia was decorated in the antique grotesque style by his pupils Giulio Romano and Giovanni da Udine. Giovanni da Udine has been credited with the revival of the antique art of stucco decoration. The loggia was therefore the Renaissance counterpart of a decorated Roman building.

From its establishment in the mid nineteenth century the Museum collected architectural models including examples of Western, Asian and Far eastern buildings and monuments in their idealised or actual states. This collecting policy related to the Museum’s founding principles and role in promoting ‘good’ design.

Descriptive line
Architectural model, loggia of Villa Madama, Rome.

Physical description
Model, wood with ornamental details in coloured stucco. A representation, on a scale of one tenth, of a portion of the hall of the Villa Madama on the Monte Mario, Rome, said to have been designed by Raphael for Cardinal Giulio dei Medici (Pope Clement VII), and decorated, about 1523, by Giovanni da Udine and Giulio Romano, as well as other pupils of the master.

Museum number
334:6-1889

Object history note
Bought for 350l.

URL
http://collections.vam.ac.uk/item/O169229/loggia-of-the-villa-madama-architectural-model-mariani-annibale-cavaliere/