DAVID HARMAN POWELL ON THE EKCO RADIO

I was at at E.K.Cole Ltd ( 1951) when Wells Coates was presenting designs in the final period under contract. As a young designer I was familiar with most of Wells Coates work before joining EKCO , from Southend Art School. Upon becoming part of the Industrial Design Studio under J.K.White the chief designer I absorbed every thing possible about the Wells Coates designs for the Company . There were I recollect some nine variations of the AD 65 (1934 - 1945 ) The moulding tools were made in such a way that changes could be undertaken without incurring major tool costs. I believe all design changes were undertaken by Wells Coates and were his work alone. Finally this question of colour. Chermaff & Wells Coates first choice was always black phenolic with chrome plated trim . This suited the modernist's , whilst mottled walnut was the preferred for traditional home market interior . The first real use of primary colours and mid grey , stunned most of us who visited the Festival of Britain 1951. We were living in a drab post-war period which the Festival of Britain showed what could be aimed for…………….

David Harman Powell