

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

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GAUDI by Henry-Russell Hitchcock. 52 pages, 86 black and white photographs. Published by the Museum of Modern Art, New York. Distributed by Simon & Schuster, New York. \$1.95

The first monograph in English devoted to the work of the Spanish architect Antoni Gaudí (1852-1926) was published on December 18 by the Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, New York, in connection with its current exhibition of work by this man whose extraordinary buildings have lately attracted the renewed interest of architects, sculptors and painters.

Written by the well known architectural historian, Henry-Russell Hitchcock, Professor of Art at Smith College, the book contains 85 black and white plates illustrating exteriors, interiors and details of Gaudí's apartment houses, churches, and a park. Arthur Drexler, Director of the Department of Architecture and Design at the Museum of Modern Art, has provided an introduction.

Professor Hitchcock suggests that it is the recent preoccupation of many architects with sculptural forms and curved surfaces, and the latest international movements in painting and sculpture, which have provided the impetus for the recent quickening of interest in Gaudí's architecture. He places Gaudí's work against the background of Spain and analyzes in detail five major projects.

The exhibition, consisting of photo-murals, color stereo slides, a wrought iron window grill, a chair, and cast of a sculpture, and models of a nave window and a column, was installed at the Museum by Mr. Drexler, assisted by Wilder Green. It will remain on view through February 23. All the objects and many of the photographs were made available through the cooperation of the Amigos de Gaudí, Barcelona, who have scrupulously photographed and documented Gaudí's work.

"In the total picture of modern architecture of the 20th century," Professor Hitchcock says, "Gaudí stands apart; his uniqueness is of an order no others approach. Not the least value of studying his work is the exhilaration that comes from realizing how vast, how unplumbed, are the possibilities of architecture in our time, how limited the aspects of the building art which most architects are today exploiting."

Gaudí's work is characterized by curves, by the sculptural modelling in facades and interiors, by the use of highly imaginative wrought iron grills and gates, and colorful mosaics of bits of broken colored pattern, glass and tile. He used stone, rubble, brick and plaster and worked with enormous attention to technical and structural methods. Often his buildings resemble organic growths of eroded natural forma-

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tions. He frequently designed the furniture and fixtures for his buildings, which achieve an unusual richness and complexity of forms quite unlike the main line of development taken by architecture since the mid-twenties.

Professor Henry-Russell Hitchcock, Guest Director of this exhibition, is Professor of Art at Smith College. He is the co-author of Built in USA: Postwar Architecture and author of Latin American Architecture Since the War, both published by the Museum, and recently published a two volume study on Early Victorian Architecture (Yale University Press).

Review copies available on request from Elizabeth Shaw, Publicity Director, Museum of Modern Art, NY. Circle 5-8900.
Photographs also available on request.