

October, 1968

ARTHUR DREXLER, DIRECTOR  
DEPARTMENT OF ARCHITECTURE AND DESIGN

Arthur Drexler, Director of the Department of Architecture and Design at The Museum of Modern Art, joined the staff of the Museum as Curator of Architecture and Design in 1951 and has been Director of the department since 1956.

Before joining the Museum, Mr. Drexler was associated with the George Nelson design studios and was architectural editor of Interiors magazine. He was born in New York City in 1925 and attended the High School of Music and Art and Cooper Union.

Since 1951, Mr. Drexler has organized numerous exhibitions for the Museum, among them: Eight Automobiles (1951), Ten Automobiles (1953), Japanese House (1954 and 1955), Textiles U.S.A. (1956), Buildings for Business and Government (1957), Architecture Worth Saving (1958), Gaudi (1958), 20th Century Design from the Museum Collection (1958-59), Three Structures by Buckminster Fuller (1959), Visionary Architecture (1960), The Drawings of Frank Lloyd Wright (1962), Design for Sport (with Mildred Constantine and Greta Daniel, 1962), Le Corbusier: Buildings in Europe and India (1963), Twentieth Century Engineering (1964), Modern Architecture U.S.A. (1965), Drawings by Ludwig Mies van der Rohe (1966), The Architecture of Louis I. Kahn (1966), Toward a Rational Automobile (1966) and The New City: Architecture and Urban Renewal (1967).

As Director of the Department of Architecture and Design, Mr. Drexler is responsible for the works which are selected for the collection. He is also the director of the permanent exhibition in the Philip L. Goodwin Galleries for Architecture and Design on the second floor of the Museum's East Wing, where about 320 works drawn from the Museum's Collection of more than 4,500 objects are installed. The Museum is the only place in the world where an international selection of furniture; machine-tooled and hand-crafted useful objects; architectural models, plans and drawings; textiles; posters and other examples of graphic design, selected on the basis of quality and

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historical significance, is permanently on view. The collection surveys the major styles from Art Nouveau, de Stijl, the Bauhaus, to the present day.

Mr. Drexler has written many catalogs for the Museum exhibitions which he has directed. His books published by the Museum include: Built in U.S.A.: Postwar Architecture (with Henry-Russell Hitchcock, 1952), The Architecture of Japan (1955), Introduction to 20th Century Design (with Greta Daniel, 1959), and Twentieth Century Engineering (1964). He has also written Mies van der Rohe, published by George Braziller in 1960, The Drawings of Frank Lloyd Wright published by Horizon Press in 1962 and the introduction to the 1958 Rinascente book, Il Museo d'Arte Moderna di New York, as well as articles in such periodicals as Harpers magazine, Architectural Record, Progressive Architecture, Arts and Architecture and Interiors.

In addition to his duties at the Museum, Mr. Drexler has lectured at New York University, Yale University, Harvard University, Pratt Institute and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. In 1964, he participated in the Governor's Conference on Good Design in Sacramento, California, and on several occasions has been a speaker at the International Design Conference in Aspen, Colorado. Mr. Drexler is Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Institute for Architecture and Urban Studies, established in 1967 by The Museum of Modern Art in collaboration with Cornell University.

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Photographs and additional information available from Elizabeth Shaw, Director, Department of Public Information, The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, New York, N.Y. 10019. 245-3200.