

# THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

14 WEST 49TH STREET, NEW YORK

TELEPHONE CIRCLE 7-7470

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Two young draughtsmen in New York offices have just won the most important architectural competition held in America during the last fifteen years. Richard M. Bennett and Caleb Hornbostel have received the commission for the half-million-dollar art center to be erected at Wheaton College, Norton, Mass. Conducted by the Museum of Modern Art and the Architectural Forum, the competition was on a strictly anonymous basis with 253 unsigned designs submitted by 243 individuals and firms throughout the United States. The contest closed May 24 and judging began June 2 by seven jurors whose names were not announced until the last entry had been received. The jurors had no means of knowing who the individuals were until the contest's Professional Adviser, George Nelson, of the Architectural Forum, had checked through the sealed envelopes which contained the contestants' names. This was done only after the awards had been made.

The jurors were Dr. Walter Curt Behrendt, former state architect of Prussia, now Director of Research Station of Buffalo (N.Y.) City Planning Association; John Wellborn Root, Chicago architect; Edward Stone, New York architect; Roland Wank, chief architect, TVA; Stanley R. McCandless, Professor in the Yale Drama School; Dr. Esther Isabel Scaver, Wheaton College; John McAndrew, Chairman of the jury, Curator of architecture, Museum of Modern Art.

Specifications for the art center, which might be either a single building or a related group of buildings, required an auditorium seating five hundred, a smaller theater for concerts, lectures, etc., a library, exhibition galleries, studios for music and art, workshops, and classrooms. The winning design was selected because of its suitability to the needs and informal character of a small college in a small New England community; its attractive and practical adjustment to the rolling, wooded terrain and nearby pond; and above all, its ingenious and economical arrangement in one

72  
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NOTE

The prize winning architectural design for the Wheaton College half-million-dollar art center competition, referred to in the attached release, will be put on exhibition at the Museum of Modern Art, 14 West 49 Street, Tuesday, June 28, together with the designs that received awards and those honorably mentioned.

building of the many varied units required by the departments of music, art, drama, and the dance--convenient not only for each department in itself but in their relation with one another and to the library which serves them all.

The commission was awarded to Richard M. Bennett and Caleb Hornbostel on the basis of the plan which brilliantly solved this complex and difficult problem. The elevations, considered less important, had obviously received less study by the young architects.

A very close second was the brilliant and handsome design submitted by the famous architects, Walter Gropius and Marcel Breuer, formerly of the Bauhaus, and now professors of architecture at Harvard University.

The other awards were as follows:

3rd: Paul Wiener, John W. Stedman, Jr., Pierre Bézy,  
NEW YORK

4th: Alexis Dukelski, NEW YORK

5th: Percival Goodman, NEW YORK  
Lyndon & Smith, DETROIT  
Eero Saarinen, BLOOMFIELD HILLS, MICH.

Honorable Mention

Robert Green & Gordon Bunshaft, NEW YORK  
Robert T. Handren, NEW YORK  
Carter Edmund Hewitt, PEORIA, ILL.  
George Howe, PHILADELPHIA  
Richard J. Neutra, LOS ANGELES  
G. Holmes Perkins & Frances W. Hartwell, BOSTON  
John B. Rodgers, William T. Priestley, Jr., and  
Carl F. Brauer, NEW YORK.

An interesting feature of the competition was the youth of the winners and of most of those who placed, an encouraging sign for the future of architecture in this country.

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Biographical Notes:

RICHARD MARSH BENNETT, 232 East 40 Street, New York City.  
Born February 4, 1907, Braddock, Pa. Went to school in Youngstown, Ohio. Was graduated from Harvard in 1928; from Harvard School of Architecture in 1931. Travelled and studied architecture, on a fellowship, for a year and a half in Europe. His first job in this country was with a sign company in Boston, where he designed posters, neon signs, etc. At present employed as an architectural draughtsman in office of Edward Stone, New York. Also lectures on architecture at Vassar College and Columbia University.

CALEB HORNBOSTEL, 263A West 12 Street, New York City.

Born September 23, 1904, Bay Shore, Long Island. Went to Collegiate School, Broadway and 77 Street, New York City. Was graduated from Carnegie Institute of Technology in 1929; from l'Ecole des Beaux Arts 1933. He set up practice for himself and built sixteen houses in France and in this country before the recession put him out of business. At present employed as an architectural draughtsman in the office of Norman Bel Geddes.

Mr. Hornbostel is the son of the famous architect, Henry Hornbostel, who has won more architectural competitions than anyone else in this country. At his son's present age he produced the winning plan for the Carnegie Institute of Technology. In addition to many other architectural commissions for important structures, Mr. Hornbostel Sr. was the architect for Hell Gate Bridge, New York. He told his son that it was easy to win architectural competitions. "All you have to do," he said, "is to put in more columns than anybody else."

As a matter of record, however, it may be stated that the winning design for the Wheaton art center has not one single column.

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Wheaton College, at Norton, Mass., established in 1834, is the oldest institution in this country for "advanced education of females." From the beginning it has paid particular attention to the arts. Departments of music and art were established in 1870, and departments for drama and the dance have been added more recently. Wheaton limits its number of students to 500, the majority drawn from New England and the Atlantic seaboard states, although all parts of the country are represented.