

The Museum of Modern Art

For Immediate Release
June 1987

MARIO BELLINI DESIGNS EXHIBITION SPACE

A special feature of MARIO BELLINI: DESIGNER, which opens at The Museum of Modern Art on June 25, is the design of the installation itself. Created by Mario Bellini in collaboration with Agata Torricella, an architect in Bellini's studio, the exhibition space complements the furniture and industrial designs for which the designer is best known. This installation represents Bellini's first architecture project in the United States. Organized by Cara McCarty, assistant curator in the Department of Architecture and Design, the exhibition is on view through September 15, 1987.

Based on the integration of two distinct design principles--the arc and the grid--the space unifies the variety of objects that comprise the exhibition. "The major aim of the installation design is to keep together, in the same space, small and large objects, machines and furniture," states Mr. Bellini. "We felt the need for a strong structure."

Mr. Bellini continues, "The space revolves around the focal point of a semi-circular platform, with other platforms radiating from it. These support furniture and larger objects, such as stereos and lamps. The arc created between the platforms rotates the visitor from the entranceway through the space. As the visitor progresses, the area between the platforms increases."

The circular platform design is crossed with a grid of pedestals, each supporting an office machine or small industrial product. Placed parallel to 53rd Street--which is visible through nearby windows--the pedestals are in fact oriented to the New York City grid.

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The arc and the grid forms are linked by a long narrow arcade which traverses diagonally the entire exhibition space. The walls of the arcade also function as gallery space. The gallery is brightly lit to emphasize the passageway and highlight the sketches. The outlying exhibition space is darkened, with dramatic spotlighting on the furniture pieces and machines. Through the Museum's windows on 53rd street, passersby can get a glimpse of the installation.

Made possible by Mobil, this year's SUMMERGARDEN series is a collaboration between The Museum of Modern Art and The Juilliard School, under the artistic direction of Paul Zukofsky. Performances are held at 7:30 p.m. on Friday and Saturday evenings in the Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Sculpture Garden. The Garden is open from 6:00 to 10:00 p.m.

The second SUMMERGARDEN program features pianist Bruce Brubaker in a concert of the following compositions:

- ROGER SESSIONS, Second Piano Sonata (1940)
- ARNOLD SCHONBERG, Suite, Op. 25 (1925) and Piano Pieces, Op. 33 a and b (1929, 1932)
- JOHANNES BRAHMS, Fantasies, Op. 116 (1891-92)

Bruce Brubaker is a graduate of The Juilliard School, where he received his bachelor and master of music degrees, studying piano with Jacob Lateiner, chamber music with Felix Galimir, and analysis with Milton Babbitt. A native of Iowa, he has performed at Alice Tully Hall, Lincoln Center; the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, Boston; and the Tanglewood Music Center, Massachusetts, as well as on numerous regional radio programs. He has received several prestigious awards, including the Thirtieth American Music Scholarship International Competition, the National Federation of Music Clubs Young Artist International Competition, and the Gina Bachauer Memorial Fellowship from Duke University.

No. 65

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