

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART
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THE WOODEN HOUSE IN AMERICA: AN EXHIBITION
OF DOMESTIC ARCHITECTURE OPENS AT MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

The use of wood as America's favorite and most characteristic building material for four centuries is graphically illustrated in a small exhibition The Wooden House in America which opens at the Museum of Modern Art on Wednesday, September 10. Photographs of ten recent wooden houses, with diagrams and text, place special emphasis on modern construction. Prepared by the Museum's Department of Circulating Exhibitions, the exhibition is being shown in New York for the first time after an extensive tour of other museums and galleries throughout the country. At the close of the exhibition on September 30, it will again be circulated.

The exhibition briefly traces, through historical and explanatory material, the changes in wood construction and design as affected by the development of building tools, by the country's growing prosperity, and by imported styles. Examples illustrated include the massive early hand-hewn log house, the heavy frame construction of New England Colonial homes, the refinements of the Georgian era, the development of the light stud frame--an important American invention--and finally modern experiments in construction. Samples of typical American building woods as well as wood products such as plywood and wood fibre panels are also shown.

Today wood is being utilized in increasingly interesting and ingenious ways for modern houses, despite the variety of materials now available to architects. This fresh approach to a traditional American building material is shown in photographs of ten recently built houses. Some are on the rocky New England coast, others along the Pacific shore, another repeats the contour of a great mountain nearby, still another juts out over a lake to derive full benefit from its location. Each of these houses draws upon natural surroundings and indigenous materials for inspiration; each reveals the adaptability of wood to modern design. These wooden houses range from permanent year-round homes to weekend bachelor quarters and summer houses and, in cost,

