

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

11 WEST 53RD STREET, NEW YORK 19, N. Y.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MUSEUM OF MODERN ART SELECTS FORTY-SEVEN BUILDINGS

OF BEST MODERN DESIGN BUILT IN U.S.A. SINCE 1932

On Wednesday, May 24, the Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, will present to the public its selection of outstanding examples of recent American architecture. Photographs of forty-seven buildings from many parts of the country will be shown in the architecture section of the Museum's big fifteenth anniversary exhibition Art in Progress, opening May 24.

Elizabeth Mock, Acting Curator of the Museum's Architecture Department, will direct the architecture section, which will be called Built in U.S.A., 1932-44. Under the same title and simultaneously with the opening of the exhibition, the Museum will publish a book of 128 pages, which will contain approximately three hundred halftones and architects' plans of the forty-seven buildings, analyses of the salient features of the design and construction of the buildings, data on their architects, and a preface by Philip L. Goodwin, Chairman of the Museum's Architecture Committee. Mrs. Mock has edited the book and written the introduction.

Mrs. Mock writes in part as follows:

"The year 1932 was the date of the Museum's famous international exhibition of Modern Architecture. For the first time in this country, popular attention was directed toward the exciting developments which had taken place since 1922. The American public, amateur and professional, was strongly, if not cordially, interested in the Museum's presentation of the new architecture. The immediate and extremely important influence, however, was on students, to whom the new way of building came as the revelation of a brave and wonderfully successful new world.

"The modern architect has a broad view of the scope and social responsibilities of his profession, so that architecture becomes more than a matter of designing the shells of individual buildings. The architect deals with mechanical equipment, with furniture, textiles and utensils; he deals with the space around buildings and with the relationship of one building to another. The architectural process of rational analysis and creative synthesis logically carries over without break into design for the crafts and for industry, and into landscaping and city planning.

"The fresh approach of the progressive architect has already benefited each of these fields but he struggles against popular apathy and mistrust even though he sees clearly the exacting role which he must play if we are to have a more satisfactory environment. Many architects feel that their position in the post-war world will be indeed precarious if they do not take vigorous initiative in social and technical problems, while at the same time maintaining their traditional concern for excellence of design."

Selections of the forty-seven buildings were made by the Museum's Architecture Committee and by a special advisory committee. Letters and questionnaires were sent to more than three hundred architects and interested laymen in all parts of the United States requesting them to recommend selections. The resulting choices include private houses, apartment houses, community housing, schools and other educational buildings, community centers, civic buildings, shops, office buildings, factories, public utilities and bridges.

Fourteen states are represented by buildings to be shown in the exhibition: Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Illinois, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Jersey, New York, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Tennessee and Washington. Representation of any one architect is limited to three examples.

The two committees responsible for the selections of the forty-seven buildings consist of the following:

Architecture Committee of the Museum of Modern Art

Philip L. Goodwin, Chairman; Winslow Ames, Alfred H. Barr, Jr., Catherine Bauer, Ensign John Coolidge, Carl Feiss, Talbot Hamlin, Henry-Russell Hitchcock, Jr., Joseph Hudnut, Lt. Edgar Kaufmann, Jr., John McAndrew, George Nelson, Cpl. Stamo Papadaki, Ernestine Fantl Carter (Honorary Member), and Pvt. Philip Johnson (Honorary Member).

Special Advisory Committee for "Built in U.S.A., 1932-44"

Dr. Walter Curt Behrendt (Department of Art and Archaeology, Dartmouth College, Hanover, N. H.)

Serge Chermayeff (Professor, Chairman of Department of Design, Brooklyn College, Brooklyn, N. Y.)

Mary Cooke Barnes

Nathaniel C. Curtis (Professor, School of Architecture, Tulane University, New Orleans, Louisiana)

John Entenza (Editor, CALIFORNIA ARTS AND ARCHITECTURE)

John M. Gaus (Professor, Department of Political Science, University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin)

Dr. Siegfried Giedion (author, Space, Time and Architecture)

Frederick A. Gutheim

Alice Carson Hiscock

George Howe (Supervising architect, Public Buildings Administration, Federal Works Agency, Washington, D. C.)

Howard Myers (Publisher, ARCHITECTURAL FORUM)

Janet Henrich O'Connell

Kenneth Reid (Editor-in-Chief, PENCIL POINTS)

Kenneth Stowell (Editor-in-Chief, THE ARCHITECTURAL RECORD)