

**THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART****11 WEST 53 STREET, NEW YORK 19, N. Y.**

TELEPHONE: CIRCLE 5-8900

PRESS PREVIEW: March 25  
Tuesday 2-5 p.m.

520319-26

NEW DESIGN TRENDS  
March 26 - June 1, 1952

FOR WEDNESDAY RELEASE

EXHIBITION NO. 506

COMPARISON OF EARLY AND LATE MODERN DESIGN

ITEMS TO SHOW HOW STYLE HAS CHANGED

"New Design Trends," an exhibition of 11 pairs of comparable objects illustrating changes in design during the past 20 years, will be on view on the first floor of the Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, from March 26 through June 1. The exhibition, which will include a variety of objects from typewriters to furniture, is being organized and installed by Greta Daniel, Assistant Curator of the Department of Architecture and Design.

Comparison of today's design with that of the 'thirties - a period of great maturity in the modern movement - readily shows how emphasis has shifted from pure geometric forms to greater fluidity of line and shape. Through the use of expressive forms and rich play of textures, there is today a much more marked decorative quality than was current in the geometrical precision of 20 years ago.

An armchair by Le Corbusier designed in 1928 illustrates how the new architects of the day endeavored to achieve the same new freedom for their furniture as they had evolved in their architecture. The tendency was towards lightness and rigidity of structure. By contrast, a recent armchair by the Danish architect Finn Juhl with its rich display of wood and fabric textures and its sculptural contours, seems to protest against the simplicity of the earlier chair.

A comparison of two wooden platters shows interesting divergences both in shape and in the use of material. One, the work of James Prestini in the mid-'thirties, has the clarity and symmetry of form characteristic of Machine Art, although Prestini works with craftsman's tools. The other is a recent design by Tapio Wirkkala using a solid block of wood strips from which an asymmetrical shape is carved.

Through these and the other comparative exhibits in this display, most of which come from the Museum's own Design Collection, the evolution of the modern style and the constant emphasis of the designer on the idiom of his own time may be observed.

The pairs of items to be shown are as follows:

- MC Armchairs: Le Corbusier, 1928  
MC Finn Juhl, 1946
- 52.252 Cocktail tables: Mies van der Rohe, 1930  
52.136 Edith and William Hernandez, 1949
- MC Floor lamps: Peter Pfisterer, 1940  
52.203 Ostuni, 1951
- MC Flower containers: Alvar Aalto, 1937  
32.119 Paolo Venini, 1950-51
- MC Vases: Frank G. Holmes, 1908  
52.250 Carl Harry Stalhane, 1951
- MC Bowls: A. D. Copier, 1930  
52.94 Vera Liskova, 1948
- MC Ashtrays: Frederick Carder, before 1934  
MC Luigi Fontana, 1947
- 52.217 Platters: James Prestini, 1934  
52.197 Tapio Wirkkala, 1951
- MC Fowl shears: Henkels, before 1940  
52.101 Grasoli Werk, post-war
- 52.120 Typewriters: W. A. Dobson, 1927  
MC Marcello Nizzoli, 1947
- 52.121 Fabrics: Anni Albers, 1926  
52.253 Virginia Nepodal, 1951
- MC COCKTAIL SHAKER

ITEMS RECORDED BUT NOT EXH'D.

<u>Mus. #</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Designer</u>
52.95	Glass bowl (No.220)	Liskova
52.96	Glass tumbler (No.L130)	"
52.97	Glass tumbler (No.L255)	"
52.98	Glass fingerbowl (No.463)	"
52.99	Glass tumbler (No.248/155)	Loos
52.100	Glass tumbler (No.248/251)	"
52.102	White porcelain bowl	Aune Siimes
52.103	Glass vase, clear	New Design, Inc.(lender)
52.104	Glass Vase, clear	" " " "
52.105	Limoges china jam pot, white	Mayhew Shop (lender)
52.106		
a-b	Metal Cocktail Shaker	Philip Johnson (lender)
52.118	Heavy glass vase	Seguso
52.129	Vase, clam shell shape, glass	"
52.130	Vase, glass	"
52.131	Vase, glass	"
52.132	Ladies Brush, black	Cosby Brush Co.(lender)
52.133	Ladies Brush	" " " "
52.134	Ladies Brush	" " " "
52.135	Club Brush	" " " "
52.138	Meat Grinder	Hammacher-Schlemmer & Co. (lender)
52.198	Birch bowl, 7" diam. x 2 5/8" h.	Prestini
52.199	Honduras Mahogany bowl, 7 1/4" diam. x 3 3/8" h.	"
52.200	Walnut bowl, 6 7/8" diam. x 3 3/4" h.	"
52.201	Honduras Mahogany bowl, 6 3/4" diam. x 3 3/4" h.	"
52.202	Birch bowl, 6 1/8" diam. x 2 7/8" h.	"
52.213	Birdseye Maple Platter, 9" diam.	"
52.214	Wavy Maple Platter, 9 1/4" diam.	"
52.215	Honduras Mahogany Platter, 9 7/8" diam.	"
52.216	Mexican Mahogany Platter, 10 5/8" diam.	"
52.218	Walnut Platter, 11 3/4" diam.	"
52.219	Stoneware vase, cream	Rorstrand, Inc.(lender)
52.251	Stoneware vase, white	Stahlhane
52.255	Cocktail Table	Mies van der Rohe
52.137	Italian Floor Lamp	Ostuni