

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

11 WEST 53RD STREET, NEW YORK

TELEPHONE: CIRCLE 5-8900

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**NOTED MODERN ARCHITECT OF EUROPE GIVEN RETROSPECTIVE EXHIBITION
AT MUSEUM OF MODERN ART**

A noted modern architect, who during the past twenty years has designed many outstanding modern buildings in Germany, England and Palestine and a large factory development in Russia, will be given a retrospective exhibition at the Museum of Modern Art opening Wednesday, November 26, and continuing through Sunday, January 4. The architect is Eric Mendelsohn, German by birth and education, who took up permanent residence in New York in the spring of 1941.

The earliest building shown in the exhibition, which will consist of drawings, photographs, and photographic enlargements, will be Mendelsohn's second executed work, the observatory built in Potsdam in 1920 and originally known as the Einstein Tower, the most famous example in the world of expressionist architecture. The Germans have changed the name of the Einstein Tower to the Institute of Sun Physics. The latest examples of Mendelsohn's work to be shown in the exhibition will be photographs of an impressive series of projects which he designed in Palestine between 1934 and 1938. These include a large government hospital in Haifa; a bank and a private library and office building in Jerusalem; a Trade School in Yagour; and the complete scheme for a Hebrew University on Mount Scopus of which the Medical Center has now been completed. These have never before been exhibited or published in this country.

The earliest work to be shown in the exhibition will be a selection of the many drawings Mendelsohn made while serving with the engineers in the German army between 1914 and 1918. These vigorous sketches, for the most part not intended as drawings of actual projects, form an important document of the Expressionist movement in architecture. They are further interesting for characteristics which, appearing here, remain consistent throughout Mendelsohn's subsequent work. His great interest in concrete and steel construction and his sense of monumentality is as strong in these early sketches (frequently two inches square or smaller) as in the Einstein Tower built in 1920, the department stores of the late twenties, or the Jerusalem bank building of 1938. But the sculptural streamline curves

of the Einstein Tower and the early drawings give way in his mature work to a style more essentially architectural in character.

Other works of Mendelsohn to be shown in the exhibition include some of his huge industrial projects and his extensive city planning schemes of the 1920's and early 30's. His important series of department stores, designed between 1924 and 1928, whose cantilevered facades with strong horizontal emphasis were widely imitated, will also be shown. Consideration is also given to Mendelsohn's English work done in partnership with Serge Chermayeff, which was shown more fully in the Museum's 1937 exhibition of Modern Architecture in England.

After the exhibition closes at the Museum of Modern Art it will be circulated throughout the country.

Eric Mendelsohn was born in 1887 in Allenstein, East Prussia. In 1907 he began the study of economics in the University at Munich, where he received his degree in architecture in 1912. While in Munich he became a great friend of the German Expressionist painters, among them Klee, Kandinsky, and Marc. He was particularly active in an expressionist theatre which was just about to put on its first production when war broke out.

From 1914 to 1918 he served with the engineers in the German army in Russia and on the western front. At the close of the war in November, 1918 he opened his own office in Berlin. From 1919 to 1933 he practiced architecture in Germany and also designed important architectural works in Russia and Palestine. In 1926 he made a visit to the United States. An exhibition of his work was held in 1929 at the Art Center in New York, as part of the Contempera exhibition sponsored by a Committee of architects, of which Frank Lloyd Wright was Chairman.

In 1933 Mendelsohn left Germany for England, where he established himself in the practice of architecture in London in partnership with Serge Chermayeff. From 1934 to 1940 he designed several large buildings for Palestine, living in that country from 1937 until his arrival in the United States in 1941.

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Architecture of
ERIC MENDELSON, 1914-40

Exhibition at
The Museum of Modern Art
Nov. 26, 1941 - Jan. 4, 1942

EINSTEIN TOWER, Potsdam, 1920-21

HAT FACTORY FOR FRIEDRICH STEINBERG, HERMANN & CO., Luckenwalde,
1921-23

FACTORY FOR THE LENINGRAD TEXTILE TRUST, Leningrad, 1925-27

UNIVERSUM CINEMA (now Luxor Palast), Kurfuerstendamm, Berlin,
1927-28

SCHOCKEN DEPARTMENT STORE, Stuttgart, 1926-28

PETERSDORFF DEPARTMENT STORE, Breslau, 1927

SCHOCKEN DEPARTMENT STORE, Chemnitz, 1928-29

Competition: PALACE OF THE SOVIETS, Moscow, 1929

PAVILION FOR THE RUDOLF MOSSE PUBLISHING COMPANY, Pressa Exposition,
Cologne, 1928

Project: CITY BLOCK, corner of Gitschinerstrasse and Alte
Jakobstrasse, Berlin, 1928

METAL WORKERS UNION, Administration Offices and Press, Alte
Jakobstrasse, Berlin, 1929

Competition: ADMINISTRATION BUILDINGS (and greenhouses, etc.)
FOR THE GERMAN NITROGEN SYNDICATE, Wilmersdorf, Berlin, 1929

COLUMBUS HOUSE (offices, shops, restaurants), Potsdamerplatz,
Berlin, 1931

Competition, first prize: BERLIN PASSENGER TRANSPORT BUILDING
(offices, shops, restaurants, and swimming pool), Friedrich-
strasse, Berlin, 1931

Project: CITY BLOCK (office buildings, film theatre auditorium
and hotel), Alexanderplatz, Berlin, 1931

OWN HOUSE, Rupenhorn, Berlin, 1929

DE LA WARR PAVILION, Bexhill-on-Sea, England, 1934-35

Project: WHITE CITY DEVELOPMENT, London, 1935 (housing project
and exhibition building, shopping center, film theatre)

Project: HOTEL AND GARAGES, Blackpool, 1937

ZINC FACTORY AND POWERHOUSE, Magdeburg, 1931-32

HOUSE FOR PROFESSOR CHAIM WEIZMANN, Rehoboth (near Tel-Aviv),
Palestine, 1936

HOUSE FOR SALMAN SCHOCKEN, Jerusalem, 1936

TRADE SCHOOL FOR REFUGEES, Jagur, Palestine, 1937 (partly built)

ANGLO-PALESTINE BANK, Jerusalem, Palestine, 1937-38

HEBREW UNIVERSITY, Mount Scopus, Palestine. Project: 1935 in-
corporating existing buildings

MEDICAL CENTER 1. Rothschild-Hadassah University Hospital, 1937-39
2. Henrietta Szold-Hadassah School of Nursing
3. Nathan Ratnoff Medical School for Post-Graduate
Teaching and Research

GOVERNMENT HOSPITAL, Haifa, Palestine, 1937-38

DANIEL WOLFF LABORATORIES, Rehoboth, Palestine, 1939 (laboratories
for chemical research)

AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE, Rehoboth, 1939

Sketches:

OPTICAL FACTORY, 1917

FACTORY

WAREHOUSE, 1917

SKYSCRAPER, 1919

SKYSCRAPER

HOUSE OF FRIENDSHIP

SKYSCRAPER, 1919

SKYSCRAPER CHURCH, 1924

FACTORY BUILT OF STEEL, 1914

EXHIBITION HALL, 1914

SILOS, 1915

SKETCH FOR HANGARS, 1914

RAILWAY STATION, 1914

FACTORY BUILT OF STEEL, 1914

WAREHOUSE, 1914

FILM STUDIO AND CINEMA, 1914

SKETCH OF A FACTORY SHOWING

CRANE, 1917