

Design & Architecture

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

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

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EXAMPLES OF MODERN ARCHITECTURE IN THE NEW YORK AREA TO BE SHOWN IN PHOTOGRAPHS

Fifteen outstanding examples of modern residential and commercial buildings in and around New York will be shown in enlarged photographs at the Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, from June 11 through July 27. The exhibition, MODERN ARCHITECTURE IN THE NEW YORK AREA, is being presented on the occasion of the 84th Annual Convention of the American Institute of Architects which will be held in New York in June.

The exhibition is being directed for the Museum by the architect Huson Jackson, who states in an accompanying text: "Since the war, modern architecture has moved rapidly toward becoming the characteristic expression of our time. In New York almost all important large office buildings have abandoned historic styles. New stores and shops have quickly embraced modern design. In residential building a greater lag is noticeable, but many modern country houses have been built."

All the buildings in the exhibition have been completed since 1939. The five commercial buildings, executed during the past five years, will include offices, public buildings and one store. Photographs of Webb and Knapp offices at 383 Madison Avenue will show a penthouse that opens through glass walls to a landscaped terrace; also a paneled circular enclosure for the president's office. It was designed by the firm's architectural division, under the direction of I.M. Pei, and William Lescaze. The lobby of the Esso Building in Rockefeller Center, designed by Carson and Lundin will also be included. The United Nations headquarters, with the Secretariat, the Council Building overhanging the East River Drive, and the General Assembly Building, was designed by architects from the member nations under the direction of Wallace K. Harrison.

Lever House, a glass-sheathed tower designed by Skidmore, Owings and Merrill for the site on Park Avenue between 53 and 54 Streets, will be the most recent office building in the exhibition. The only

retail store will be Bonniers on Madison Avenue, for which Warner-Leeds designed a handsome two-story show window and an open stair to a mezzanine floor.

Residential buildings in the exhibition will range from medium-priced real estate developments to large private homes and are by such well-known architects as Frank Lloyd Wright and Marcel Breuer as well as by young men who have not been in the field very long. The housing development to be shown is in Morristown, New Jersey, and was designed by Nemeny and Geller in 1950. A one-story house designed by Edward Stone for A. Conger Goodyear in Old Westbury, Long Island, has a rectangular living room and circular dining room projecting out onto terraces.

Whitelaw Reid's house in Purchase, New York, designed by Edward L. Barnes, has a living-room-library wing linked by a glazed stair hall to the dining and bedroom areas. Huson Jackson's house on a hilltop in Armonk, New York, designed for John G. Morris, was planned to make maximum use of the view. Treatment of the problem of another kind of site will be shown in a beach house by J. Stanley Sharp of the firm of Ketchum, Gina and Sharp. Built for himself on Long Island, the living areas of the house are raised over the dunes and the bedrooms are on the lower floor. A town house in the east 60s designed by George Nelson and William Hamby has a front and rear section separated by a landscaped court and connected by glass-enclosed ramps will be the only private New York residence in the exhibition. Marcel Breuer's three-unit house built for Bert Geller on Long Island will be included as well as a house that John Johansen, a young architect, built for his family in New Canaan, Connecticut, with the living room cantilevered over the bedrooms which are in a basement set partially below grade. A house designed by Frank Lloyd Wright for a co-operative development in Pleasantville, New York, has three circular roofs and a sloping stone wall. Philip Johnson's famous glass house in New Canaan is also to be shown.

The buildings are all included in "New York Architecture, 1650-1952," a pocket-size guide to buildings in this area by Huson Jackson to be published by the Reinhold Publishing Corporation and to be sold at the Museum.