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# THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

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"BUILT IN U.S.A.: POST-WAR ARCHITECTURE" TO BE SHOWN AT MUSEUM

Forty-three buildings selected by the Museum of Modern Art as the most significant examples of modern architecture built in this country since 1945 will be shown in models, photo-murals and 3-dimensional color slides in the exhibition BUILT IN U.S.A.: POST-WAR ARCHITECTURE, which will be on view in the third floor galleries of the Museum, 11 West 53 Street, from January 21 through March 15.

As a permanent record of the Museum's first report on American architecture since its exhibition "Built in U.S.A." held in 1944, a 128-page book with 190 photographs of the buildings in the show will be published at the same time. The book was edited by Henry-Russell Hitchcock of Smith College and Arthur Drexler, Curator of the Museum's Department of Architecture and Design. Philip C. Johnson, Director of the Department, has written a preface to the book.

The buildings, chosen for their importance in the story of American architecture and for their quality as individual works of art were designed by 32 architects and are located in 14 different states. Nineteen private houses are included along with 6 office buildings, 5 apartment houses and dormitories, 4 industrial plants, 4 school buildings, a stadium, a hospital, a music center, a retail store and a chapel (a complete checklist is attached).

The introductory text to the exhibition states that three factors are responsible for what the Museum characterizes as a great post-war flowering of architecture, and for the fact that the battle for modern architecture has long been won. First, a generation of architects trained in schools that no longer teach the traditional styles has now begun to practice. Second, architects like Frank Lloyd Wright and Mies van der Rohe, whose work was first exhibited by the Museum 20 years ago, have recently been finding commissions worthy of their talents. Third, government and industry - most notably America's giant corporations - have become patrons of modern architecture.

Many of the Museum's third floor galleries have been rearranged for the exhibition; all interior walls have been replaced with open partitions of 2x4" studs painted white. The entrance hall is dominated by a 20x14' photo-mural of Frank Lloyd Wright's Helio-Laboratory designed for the Johnson Wax Company in Racine, Wisconsin. Ten-foot-high photo-murals in this section show Mies van der Rohe's new apartment buildings at 860 Lake Shore Drive in Chicago; the United Nations Secretariat designed by Wallace K. Harrison with a board of foreign consultants; Lever House in New York City, designed by Skidmore, Owings and Merrill, and the General Motors Technical Center in Detroit, designed by Saarinen, Saarinen and Associates.

On two sides of this high central hall the ceiling of the galleries has been lowered and the space divided by the open stud partitions. Here each building is shown in a large photograph, in 3-dimensional color slides and in 11 instances by scale models. An explanatory wall label illustrated with small photographs and plans accompanies each photographic enlargement exhibited.

Mr. Johnson, Director of the Museum's Department of Architecture and Design, says in his preface to the book BUILT IN U.S.A.: POST-WAR ARCHITECTURE:

...everyone cannot help but agree that the buildings included show a startling development compared with the material of the Museum's 1944 exhibition; and if we think back twenty years to the 1932 exhibition at the Museum the change is more striking. The International Style which Henry-Russell Hitchcock's book of 1932 heralded has ripened, spread and been absorbed by the wide stream of historical progress. Every building in this book would look different if it had not been for the International Style, yet few buildings today recall the rigorous patterns of those days--the cubic boxes with asymmetric window arrangements of the twenties.

The method of selecting the buildings to be included in the exhibition and book is new in the Department's work, as Mr. Johnson also points out in his preface:

In order to make the final selections as representative as possible of current expert opinion the Museum appointed an Advisory Committee....to sharpen the specific flavor of the selection, we felt that the final responsibility of choice should rest with one judge. For that judge we chose Professor Henry-Russell Hitchcock of Smith College, the leading historian of modern architecture in this country.

NOT FOR RELEASE UNTIL:

January 18, 1953, for  
Sunday papers  
January 21, for dailies  
February 1 issues, for  
magazines

Checklist for exhibition and book,

BUILT IN USA: POSTWAR ARCHITECTURE

- Aalto, Alvar & Co. - Senior dormitory, MIT, Cambridge, Mass., 1948
- Aeck, R.L., & Assoc. - Football stadium, Henry Grady High School,  
Atlanta, Ga., 1948
- Ain, Gregory - Wilfong house, Los Angeles, Calif., 1952
- Barnes, Edward L. - Weiner house, Fort Worth, Texas, 1952
- Barthelme, Donald, & Assoc. - West Columbia Elementary School,  
West Columbia, Texas, 1952
- Belluschi, Pietro - Equitable Building, Portland, Ore., 1948
- Breuer, Marcel - Co-operative dormitory, Vassar College, Pough-  
keepsie, N. Y., 1951
- Breuer, Marcel - Caesar house, Lakeville, Conn., 1952
- Corbett, Mario - Thomsen house, Vina, Calif., 1952
- Daily, Gardner, A. & Assoc. - Red Cross building, San Francisco, Calif.  
1948
- Eames, Charles - Case study house, Santa Monica, Calif., 1949
- Ferguson, H.K., Co. - Bluebonnet Plant, Corpus Christi, Texas, 1949
- Gropius, Walter - Harvard Graduate Center, Cambridge, Mass., 1950
- Harris, Harwell H. - Johnson house, Los Angeles, Calif., 1951
- Harrison, Wallace K., etc. - Alcoa Building, Pittsburgh, Pa., 1952
- Harrison, Wallace, K., etc. - UN Secretariat, N.Y., 1950
- Johansen, John MacL. - Own house, New Canaan, Conn., 1949
- Johnson, Philip C. - Own house (glass house), New Canaan, Conn., 1949
- Johnson, Philip C. - Hodgson house, New Canaan, Conn., 1952
- Kennedy, Koch, DeMars, etc. - 100 Memorial Drive apartment house,  
Cambridge, Mass., 1950
- Kump, Ernest J. - San José High School, San José, Calif., 1952
- Lyndon, Maynard - Vista Elementary School, Vista, Calif., 1950
- Mendelsohn, Eric - Maimonides Health Center, San Francisco, Calif.  
1950

- Mies van der Rohe, Ludwig - Farnsworth house, Planø, Ill., 1950
- Mies van der Rohe, Ludwig - 860 Lake Shore Drive apartment house, Chicago, Ill., 1951
- Mies van der Rohe, Ludwig - Boiler Plant, Illinois Institute of Technology, Chicago, Ill., 1950
- Neutra, Richard J.-Tremaine house, Montecito, Calif., 1949
- Polevitsky, Igor - Heller house, Miami, Fla., 1949
- Saarinen, Saarinen & Assoc. - General Motors Technical Center, Detroit, Mich., 1951
- Saarinen, Swanson & Saarinen - Berkshire Music Center opera shed, Stockbridge, Mass., 1947
- Schweikher & Elting - Upton house, Paradise Valley, Ariz., 1950
- Skidmore, Owings & Merrill - Lever House, N.Y.City, 1952
- Skidmore, Owings & Merrill - Garden apartments, Oak Ridge, Tenn., 1950
- Soleri P. & Mills M.-Desert house, Cave Creek, Ariz., 1951
- Soriano, Raphael - Case study house for "Arts & Architecture," Los Angeles, Calif., 1950
- Twitchell R. & Rudolph P. - Siogrist house, Venico, Fla., 1949
- Twitchell R. & Rudolph P. - Healy house, Sarasota, Fla., 1950
- Wright, Frank Lloyd - Helio-Laboratory for Johnson Wax Co., Racine, Wis., 1949
- Wright, Frank Lloyd - V.C.Morris store, San Francisco, Calif., 1949
- Wright, Frank Lloyd - Jacobs house, Madison, Wis., 1948
- Wright, Frank Lloyd - Friedman house, Pleasantville, N.Y., 1949
- Wright, Lloyd - Wayfarers' Chapel, Palos Verdes, Calif., 1951
- Yeon, John - Visitors' Information Center, Portland, Ore., 1949