

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART
11 WEST 53RD STREET, NEW YORK

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about Jan. 10-33?

For Immediate Release.

"Chicago and not New York is the birthplace of the skyscraper", declares Philip Johnson, Director of the Department of Architecture of the Museum of Modern Art, as announcement was made today of the next exhibition, "Early Modern Architecture: Chicago 1870-1910", to open to the public at the Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53d Street on Wednesday, January 18. Few people realize that on the ashes of the Chicago fire of 1871 there was built the only architecture that can truly be called American." The Museum will present for the first time an exhibition of this architecture.

"The great names in the building of the frontier city, Mr. Johnson states, "were three architects, H.H. Richardson, Louis Sullivan and Frank Lloyd Wright, who with their followers made the end of the nineteenth century the greatest epoch in the architectural development of our country. They created a native product not indebted to English or continental precedent. To these men goes the credit of bridging the gap between the Crystal Palace of steel and glass in London in 1851 and the skyscraper of today. They were the first to take advantage of the shift from masonry to cast iron and from cast iron to steel. This independent American architecture finally succumbed to the wave of classical revivalism which the world's Fair first brought to Chicago in 1893."

The Museum's exhibition will therefore be the first record of a great architecture which is vanishing rapidly under the sledgehammer of the housewrecker.

Mr. Johnson who also directed the Exhibition of Modern Architecture, held at the Museum of Modern Art in February and March 1932, and now on tour throughout the country, spent the summer in the middle West with Professor Henry Russell Hitchcock of Wesleyan University collecting information from the source and photographing important buildings still standing.

FOR INFORMATION AFTER MUSEUM HOURS :

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The Exhibition "Early Modern Architecture: Chicago 1870-1910" will follow the Exhibition of "The Art of the Common Man in America", now on view at the Museum of Modern Art and continuing to January 14. The Exhibition of American Painting and Sculpture, which includes the famous painting "Portrait of the Artist's Mother" by James McNeil Whistler, will remain on view on the first three floors of the Museum until January 29.