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THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

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FOR FRIDAY RELEASE

MANUFACTURERS OF PRIZE-WINNING FURNITURE ANNOUNCED

Rene d'Harnoncourt, Director of the Museum of Modern Art, and Ira A. Hirschmann, Executive Director of Museum Design Project, Inc., the organizations sponsoring the International Competition for Low-Cost Furniture Design, announced on December 8 that arrangements have been made for the manufacture of prize-winning designs. Full-size production models will be exhibited during the January 1950 home furnishings market in Chicago.

The first-prize design for storage will be produced as a complete series of units, including a bed and dressing table, by the Johnson-Carper Furniture Co. of Roanoke, Virginia. This company has been actively engaged with the British designers Robin Day and Clive Latimer in adapting their English concept to American conditions. Johnson-Carper has a long record of wide distribution and reasonable prices, and their recent plant reorganization gives them exceptional facilities for carrying out the aims of the Competition.

In the category of seating, the first prize awarded to Don R. Knorr will be manufactured by Knoll Associates who since their founding in 1943 have been leaders in the modern furniture field. Considerable experience in equipping hotels and other large buildings has given Knoll a special understanding of quantity production.

The second prize for seating was split between Davis J. Pratt, an individual Chicago designer, and a research team composed of Charles Eames and staff members of the University of California. The Eames-U.C.L.A. design will be manufactured by the Herman Miller Furniture Co. of Zeeland Michigan, whose pioneering endeavors and successful record in the modern furniture field are well known. Mr. Pratt's chair will be produced by the Bunting Glider Co. of Philadelphia, one of the best-known manufacturers of metal furniture in this country.

Ira A. Hirschmann has made the following statement in connection with the manufacture of the prize-winning designs:

"With the closing of the contracts and the building of the furniture by leading manufacturers in the United States, the International Competition for Low-Cost Furniture Design is coming to successful fruition. With certain new principles being introduced for the first time, this furniture, designed by a group of brilliant and enterprising young men, should mark an important step forward in the manufacture and design of better furniture at lower cost."

Edgar Kaufmann, Jr., Director of the Competition, has stated:

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"The fine response which these designers have found in the American furniture industry leads me to expect that we will realize our original hope of finding new techniques and design concepts which could give modern householders more value for their money. The important process of fitting the original concepts to practical requirements of specific factories has brought forth real skill and understanding on the part of all concerned."