

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

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

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RELEASE DATES FOR
EXHIBITION AND PUBLICATION:

Newspapers: Sunday papers,
January 18
Dailies, January 21
Magazines: February 1 issues

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ADVANCE ANNOUNCEMENT OF U. S. ARCHITECTURE

EXHIBITION TO BE HELD IN JANUARY

The major winter exhibition and publication of the Museum of Modern Art will be BUILT IN USA: POSTWAR ARCHITECTURE. For the show and the book, 43 buildings have been selected as the most significant examples of modern architecture built in this country since 1945. The exhibition will be on view in the third floor galleries of the Museum, 11 West 53 Street, from January 21 through March 15. Publication of the book will coincide with the opening of the show.

The exhibition will include 10 models, photographic enlargements and 3-dimensional color slides of every building. The 128-page book will contain more than 100 plates, a preface by Philip C. Johnson, an introductory essay by Henry-Russell Hitchcock and text by Arthur Drexler.

Mr. Johnson, Director of the Department of Architecture and Design, points out in his preface that the buildings were chosen on the basis of quality and significance of the moment by Professor Henry-Russell Hitchcock, "the leading historian of modern architecture in this country," after consultation with an advisory committee.

About half the buildings are private houses. Several school buildings are included as well as a hospital, a retail store, a chapel and a stadium. American business and industry were clients for much of the work selected. Buildings by Frank Lloyd Wright and by world famous architects from other countries who are now living in America, as well as by relatively unknown younger men, will be shown.

In his introduction Henry-Russell Hitchcock points out that American architecture has achieved a special prominence in the world today. He discusses some of the influences that are determining the many directions of modern architecture here and summarizes the trends and changes since the 1920s and 30s.

Arthur Drexler, Curator of the Museum's Department of Architecture and Design, analyzes individual buildings in terms of esthetic qualities and significance which determined their inclusion in the exhibition and book. His criticism covers Mies van der Rohe's Farnsworth house and houses by Eames, Soriano, Breuer and others. He describes the uses of the curtain wall in recent multi-story buildings such as Lever House, the UN Secretariat and Frank Lloyd Wright's Laboratory Tower for the Johnson Wax Company. Gropius' version of Harvard's traditional courts and yards for the Harvard Graduate Center, a corn refining plant in Corpus Christi with no outside walls, the Alcoa Building in Pittsburgh with walls made of prefabricated aluminum sheets and buildings considered particularly significant are discussed in detail.

Note: Photographs and additional material available from the Publicity Department, Museum of Modern Art, CI 5-8900.