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THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART
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FOR RELEASE, Saturday
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In cooperation with the Museum of Modern Art, the American Federation of Arts announces the sixth of its new series of "Art in America" programs, to be broadcast over Station WJZ and national network Saturday, November 10, from 8:00 to 8:20 P.M. Eastern Standard Time. The program will be in dialogue, from material prepared by Professor Henry-Russell Hitchcock, a leading critic and historian of modern architecture. The subject will be "Academic Revivalism and Official Architecture."

With the exception of Louis Sullivan's skyscraper designs, originality in American architecture after the Civil War went into a long eclipse with the death of Henry Hobson Richardson in 1886. Where Richardson had turned to the past for inspiration, other architects of his time and later revived old forms of architecture in exact imitations. With the World's Fair in Chicago, in 1893, "dead" architecture in this country became the fashion. All the Fair buildings were classical in design and started a national epidemic of Graeco-Roman architecture in public buildings that has lasted to the present day.

Schools, colleges, libraries, post offices, and federal, municipal and public buildings of all kinds have suffered most from the determination to ignore modern architecture as a fitting style to suit our great technical advances in building methods. The government building program recently completed in Washington is the climax of academic revivalism in this country.

This very controversial subject, illuminated by shocking and amusing examples of architectural misjudgment and waste, will be discussed in dialogue form on next Saturday night's program. The "Art in America" programs broadcast every Saturday night from October 6 to January 26 are a continuation of the series initiated by the General Federation of Women's Clubs and made possible through the cooperation of the Carnegie Corporation of New York, the American Federation of Arts, the National Advisory Council on Radio in Education, The National Broadcasting Company, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, The Art Institute of Chicago and the Museum of Modern Art.