

The Museum of Modern Art

11 West 53 Street, New York, N.Y. 10019 Circle 5-8900 Cable: Modernart

Monday, April 25, 1966

350 architects, art patrons, and critics are expected to attend a black tie preview this evening at The Museum of Modern Art of THE ARCHITECTURE OF LOUIS I. KAHN, an exhibition of models, photo-murals, and color slides, which opens to the public tomorrow.

Louis I. Kahn, who at 65, is considered one of the most influential living American architects, will be guest of honor at the Museum dinner for 80 people before the preview.

The preview itself will last from 9 p.m. to 11:30 p.m.

Additional information available from Elizabeth Shaw, Director, Department of Public Information, The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, New York, N. Y. 10019. Circle 5-8900.

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PRESS PREVIEW:

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11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

A comprehensive review of THE ARCHITECTURE OF LOUIS I. KAHN, including 22 models, 7 photographic murals, 62 photographic enlargements, 186 original drawings and plans of major buildings, projects, and works in progress, will open at The Museum of Modern Art on April 26 and will remain on view through May 30.

The exhibition, directed by Arthur Drexler, Director of the Museum's Department of Architecture and Design, and selected and installed by Ludwig Glaeser, Associate Curator of Architecture, in collaboration with Mr. Drexler, will survey the achievements which have brought the 65-year old American architect international acclaim.

Mr. Drexler has written, "Kahn's effort to make architectural form coincide with real and symbolic functions has profoundly impressed students and influenced his peers -- more perhaps than any other architectural philosophy since Mies' work in the forties."

Although Mr. Kahn had built almost nothing prior to 1950, and was known to few people other than his fellow architects and his students at Yale, his work in the past decade places him among the most important living American architects. Among his major buildings on view in the exhibition will be the Richards Medical Research Building at the University of Pennsylvania (1961-63), the First Unitarian Church in Rochester, New York (1959-62), the Eleanor Donnelley Erdman dormitory buildings at Bryn Mawr College in Pennsylvania (1960-65), and the laboratory buildings for the Salk Institute for Biological Research in La Jolla, California (1962-65).

Projects on view will include the planning studies of Penn Center and Midtown Traffic for Philadelphia drawn up in 1956-57, a city tower called "Tomorrow's City Hall" for the Concrete Institute in 1957, and the U.S. Consulate Buildings for Angola Luanda in Portuguese Angola, proposed in 1959-61 and now held in abeyance.

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Projects now under design to be shown in the exhibition are the Market Street Redevelopment Project, a study made for the City of Philadelphia and the Graham Foundation for Advanced Study in the Fine Arts in 1961-62, the Fine Arts Building for the Fort Wayne Arts Foundation, the Mikveh Israel Synagogue in Philadelphia and the Adele Levy Memorial Playground on Riverside Drive in New York City, all under study since 1961.

Currently under construction are the second capital of East Pakistan in Dacca, the Indian Institute of Management at the University of Kujarat in Ahmedabad, India, and the recently announced Philadelphia College of Art.

The exhibition will also include a continuous projection of color slides accompanied by a synchronized recorded narration by Vincent Scully, Professor of the History of Art at Yale University. In his narration, Mr. Scully says, "Structure, light, the relationship to nature and to other buildings -- how many the fundamentals of architecture are. Over the years, over the past fifteen years especially, Louis I. Kahn -- surely America's most inventive architect -- has grown step by step in them all."

Born in Osel, an island in the Russian Baltic, in 1901, Kahn has lived in the United States since 1905. He studied at the University of Pennsylvania School of Fine Arts, receiving a Bachelor of Architecture degree in 1924. After serving his apprenticeship as draftsman and designer with a number of Philadelphia architectural firms, he began independent practice in 1934. In 1936, his Jersey Homesteads Project was included in an exhibition of ARCHITECTURE IN GOVERNMENT HOUSING at The Museum of Modern Art.

From 1947 to 1952 he served as chief critic of Architectural Design at Yale University and from 1947 to 1957 he was Professor of Architecture there; since 1957 he has been Professor of Architecture at the University of Pennsylvania, as well as a lecturer at Yale, Harvard, the University of California, the University of North Carolina and Tulane. He was recently awarded the Paul Philippe Cret Professorship of Architecture at the University of Pennsylvania.

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In 1953 he was made a Fellow of the American Institute of Architects, in 1960 he was awarded the Arnold Brunner Prize by the National Institute of Arts and Letters. The following year he was awarded a fellowship by the Graham Foundation for Advanced Study in the Fine Arts to pursue his investigation of the larger aspects of civic design.

Models and drawings of the Richards Medical Research Building were first shown at The Museum of Modern Art in 1961, in an exhibition devoted entirely to that building, and were shown again in last year's MODERN ARCHITECTURE U.S.A., together with the First Unitarian Church in Rochester.

Photographs and additional information available from Elizabeth Shaw, Director, and Lynn Traiger, Assistant Director, Department of Public Information, The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, New York, N.Y. 10019. Circle 5-8900.