

The Museum of Modern Art

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The Museum of Modern Art announced today the appointment of Ludwig Glaeser as Curator of The Mies van der Rohe Archive at the Museum. The Archive, established in 1968 by the Trustees of the Museum on the recommendation of Mr. Glaeser, is the major repository for Mies van der Rohe's drawings and documentary materials. Its formation was the result of more than three decades of close association between the Museum and the architect who was one of the founders of the modern movement.

In recognition of the Museum's action Mies van der Rohe bequeathed, before his death in 1969, all of his several thousand drawings to the Museum. An initiating grant from Philip C. Johnson enabled the Archive to begin its cataloging and conservation work in the same year. The continued operation of the Archive, which now encompasses the collection of material from other sources as well as the recording of recollections by Mies van der Rohe's friends and colleagues, is made possible by substantial annual contributions from Phyllis Lambert and the recently formed association of The Friends of the Mies van der Rohe Archive. In addition, Mr. Glaeser received for his work at the Archive a three-year grant from The Graham Foundation for Advanced Studies in the Fine Arts. An active program of research, publication and exhibition is projected with the aim of developing the Archive into one of the major research centers for the history of modern architecture.

In recognition of its unique importance, an Advisory Board for the Archive has been established consisting of Alfred H. Barr, Jr., former Director of Museum Collections; Arthur Drexler, Director of the Department of Architecture and Design; Myron Goldsmith, Senior Partner of Skidmore Owings and Merrill and Chair-

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man of the Friends of the Archive; Philip Johnson, Trustee and Chairman of the Advisory Committee of the Department of Architecture and Design; Phyllis Lambert; and Dirk Lohan, Partner of The Office of Mies van der Rohe and grandson of the architect.

Ludwig Glaeser, Curator of the Archive, joined The Museum of Modern Art staff in 1963 to direct research for the exhibition "Twentieth Century Engineering." From 1964 he was Associate Curator and from 1968, Curator of Architecture. One of his major publications for the Museum was "Ludwig Mies van der Rohe: Drawings in the Collection of The Museum of Modern Art" published in 1969.

Mr. Glaeser studied architecture at the Technische Universitat, Berlin, and art history and anthropology at the Freie Universitat, Berlin, where he received his Ph.D. He worked in Berlin with the architect Eduard Ludwig who, as a student and collaborator of Mies van der Rohe, was responsible for the survival of the drawings which remained in Germany after the architect came to this country, and which constitute the majority of the Archive's present holdings.

Among the other major exhibitions Mr. Glaeser directed at the Museum were "The Architecture of Louis Kahn," "The Architecture of Museums," "Theo van Doesburg: The Development of an Architecture" and the "Work of Frei Otto." A monograph by Mr. Glaeser on the innovative German architect was published by the Museum this spring. Mr. Glaeser, who is a Visiting Fellow of the Institute for Architecture and Urban Studies in New York, and a Visiting Lecturer at the Cooper Union, has recently been appointed Adjunct Professor at the Graduate Center of the City University of New York.

The Archive is a division of the Museum's Department of Architecture and Design, which had held on extended loan some 45 of Mies' drawings originally assembled by Philip Johnson for his 1947 exhibition of Mies' work. Subsequent

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negotiations with the architect were undertaken by Arthur Drexler, Director of the Department of Architecture and Design, and led to an initial gift by Mies to the Museum's collection of 86 drawings. In honor of the architect's eightieth birthday, 78 of these drawings were exhibited in 1966, and were described by Mr. Drexler as "among the most compelling architectural images ever made, revealing even more clearly than photographs of actual buildings the development of Mies' ideas about structure and space." The Department's collection also includes 10 examples of Mies' furniture and 6 models of his buildings.

Additional information and photographs available from Elizabeth Shaw Director, Department of Public Information, The Museum of Modern Art, 11 W. 53 St., New York, NY 10019. Phone: (212) 956-7501, -7504

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The Friends of the Mies van der Rohe Archive at the Museum of Modern Art

For Immediate Release

Chicago, Ill., May 5, 1972

The formation of The Friends of the Mies van der Rohe Archive was announced today in Chicago by Myron Goldsmith, Senior Partner of Skidmore, Owings and Merrill and Chairman of the Organization Committee. Its members -- Philip Johnson, New York; Phyllis Lambert, Toronto; Dirk Lohan, Chicago; John Rodgers, San Francisco; Gene Summers, Chicago; James Johnson Sweeney, New York -- are former students and close collaborators of the late architect, who is universally recognized as one of the founders of modern architecture.

The purpose of the association is to assist in the preservation, study and publication of Mies van der Rohe's work and ideas. Its immediate goal is to raise funds for the operation of The Mies van der Rohe Archive at The Museum of Modern Art in New York. Established in 1968 on the recommendation of Ludwig Glaeser, the Archive incorporates the collection of Mies drawings, furniture and architectural models assembled over the last three decades by the Department of Architecture and Design of which the Archive is a part. The appointment of Dr. Glaeser as the first Curator of the Archive was announced simultaneously in New York by The Museum of Modern Art.

Since the architect's death in 1969, the Archive's staff has undertaken the cataloging and restoring of several thousand drawings which, together with numerous documentary materials, Mies van der Rohe bequeathed to the Museum. In addition, the Archive has begun to collect material from other sources and to record the

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recollections of Mies van der Rohe's friends and colleagues. It has also made efforts to obtain drawings and documents from those students and associates whose work reflects the architect's ideas. In a recent agreement the Archive secured the papers of the late Ludwig Hilbersheimer, the architect and friend of Mies van der Rohe.

The statutes of the Archive not only prescribe documentation and preservation procedures, but also envisage an active program of research, publication and exhibition at The Museum of Modern Art. By encouraging the participation of students, scholars and other institutions, the aim is to develop the Archive and its resources into a major research center for the history of modern architecture.

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