

The Museum of Modern Art

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THE ARCHITECTURE OF THE ECOLE DES BEAUX-ARTS will be on view at The Museum of Modern Art from October 29 through January 4. Directed by Arthur Drexler, Director of the Museum's Department of Architecture and Design, in collaboration with David Van Zanten of the University of Pennsylvania, Neil Levine of Harvard University and Richard Chafee of the Courtauld Institute, London, the exhibition of more than 200 original drawings examines the dominant ideas of 19th-century French academic architecture against which modern architecture rebelled.

In addition to drawings made for competitions and school assignments on ambitious projects like reconstructed antiquities, monuments, railroad stations, churches, and casinos, the exhibition includes drawings by such former students as Charles Garnier for the Paris Opéra, and Henri Labrouste for the Bibliothèque Ste. Genevieve. Part of the exhibition is devoted to photographs of major French and American buildings reflecting Beaux Arts ideas applied to practical problems, including the design of urban spaces.

Many of the drawings in the show -- some as large as 18 feet wide and astonishingly beautiful -- had not been unrolled since they were submitted by students to their professors 80 or 100 years ago and more than two-thirds have never been published. The selection, made primarily in the storerooms of the Ecole in Paris, is intended to illustrate the nature of architectural instruction and the debates which influenced the evolution of 19th-century French architecture, and to indicate sources of much pioneering American work by such architects as H. H. Richardson and Louis Sullivan.

Two public symposia will be held in conjunction with the exhibition. Dates and speakers will be announced.

A profusely illustrated book is being published to accompany the show. The exhibition and book are made possible by a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts.

Additional information 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.
