

# The Museum of Modern Art

50th Anniversary



NO. 79  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## EILEEN GRAY CHRONOLOGY

- 1879 Born in Enniscorthy, County Wexford, Ireland.
- 1895 Mother inherits title Baroness Gray.
- 1898 Studies drawing at Slade School in London. Discovers shop repairing oriental lacquer in Soho and begins to learn complicated technique of making lacquer.
- 1902 Decides to leave England and make life for herself in Paris, where she continues to study art and work in lacquer.
- 1905 Contracts typhoid fever, travels through North Africa during convalescence where she observes Moorish houses.
- 1907 Takes apartment in Paris at 21, rue Bonaparte, which she keeps throughout her life.
- 1913 Exhibits lacquer work in Paris Salon des Artistes Decorateurs, and is well received by critics.
- 1914 Designs screens, tables, etc. in lacquer for grand couturier Jacques Doucet.
- 1916 To London with her chief Japanese lacquer worker.
- 1918 Returns to Paris.
- 1919-22 Designs and executes interior of apartment for famous modiste Suzanne Talbot, with lacquer walls as well as furnishings.
- 1922 Opens gallery Jean Desert in rue du Faubourg, St. Honore, selling furniture, lamps, lacquer, and carpets she designed. Her work is discovered by de Stijl architects in Amsterdam.
- 1923 Exhibits bedroom-boudoir for Monte Carlo in Salon des Artistes Decorateurs, which is savagely attacked by French critics. Dutch architect J.J.P. Oud, however, sees photograph of room and writes her in praise.
- 1924 Entire issue of avant-garde Dutch design magazine Wendigen devoted to her work. With prompting of architects such as Oud and Le Corbusier, and especially Jean Badovici, begins to make architectural studies.
- 1926-29 Designs and builds house for herself and Badovici "E-1027" at Roquebrune on Riviera, including furnishings.

- 1929 Entire issue of L'Architecture Vivant devoted to E-1027.
- 1930 Designs studio apartment for Badovici in Paris. Closes her gallery, Jean Desert.
- 1932-34 Builds second house, "Tempe a Pailla," for herself near Menton. Works on variety of experimental architectural and furniture projects. Continues working on projects for rest of life.
- 1937 Le Corbusier exhibits her architectural work at his pavilion in the Paris International Exhibition.
- 1940 Interned by Nazis as enemy alien.
- 1945 Returns to "Tempe a Pailla," which was occupied by German, Italian, and American troops during War, and attempts to rebuild it.
- 1956 Having lost most of her sight, sells "Tempe a Pailla" to painter Graham Sutherland and returns to Paris.
- 1968 Articles appear on her in Italian and American architectural magazines. Young scholars become aware of her.
- 1971 Small exhibition of her work at Royal Institute of British Architects.
- 1976 Exhibition "1925" at Paris Musée des Arts Decoratifs features her work. She dies at 97.
- 1979 Exhibition organized by MOMA on her opens in Victoria and Albert Museum, with accompanying book.
- 1980 "Eileen Gray: Designer" exhibition opens in New York City at The Museum of Modern Art, February 7.