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MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

11 WEST 53RD STREET, NEW YORK

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MUSEUM OF MODERN ART OPENS EXHIBITION OF ARCHITECTURE

FOR THE MODERN SCHOOL

The latest development in elementary school architecture embodies the intimate and personal qualities of the little red school-house of our forefathers. The importance of modern architecture in meeting a child's psychological as well as physical needs will be shown in an exhibition Modern Architecture for the Modern School which opens to the public Wednesday, September 16, at the Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street.

The exhibition has been designed by Elizabeth Mock for the Department of Circulating Exhibitions, which will send it on a tour of schools, colleges and museums throughout the country after it closes at the Museum of Modern Art on October 18.

The exhibition consists of 40 enlargements of the best modern schools for the elementary grades, a scale model, and 30 panels with drawings, photographs and explanatory labels which contrast the old and the new methods of elementary education and show the contribution modern architecture can make to modern education. Examples of good modern design are shown not only in schoolhouses of the United States but in those of Brazil, England, France, Sweden and Switzerland. A few non-elementary schools are shown, which present different problems but similar principles of design. Solutions of the problems of school-building brought about by priorities in materials and stoppage of non-essential construction are also considered.

Mrs. Mock, designer of the exhibition, comments on its purpose as follows:

"Educators today are very much concerned with child psychology, but they often forget that the child's sense of unity and security, his appreciation of honesty and beauty, are affected by his school surroundings as well as by his school activities.

"The purpose of this exhibition is to show that the elementary school should be designed in relation to the child's psychological as well as his physical needs. Not only should it provide spacious, well equipped, conveniently related rooms and plenty of light and air - these requirements have long been recognized even if they have not always been met - but it should be a place where the child can feel that he belongs, where he can move in freedom, and where he can enjoy immediate contact with the outdoors.

"For these reasons the really modern school should be a rambling, child-scaled, one-story building, gay and friendly, direct and unpretentious, that welcomes the outdoors as enthusiastically as the old-fashioned school sought to exclude it. Instead of faking the architecture of other times and places it should offer children the very real experience of good contemporary architecture."

Some of the schools shown are:

School Architecture Begins to Catch up with new Educational Methods -

Bell School, Los Angeles, 1934-35
Richard J. Neutra, architect

School at Ross, Calif., 1941
Carl F. Grommé, architect

Larkin School, Monterey, Calif., 1939
Robert Stanton & Thomas B. Mulvin, architects

Consolidated School at College Station, Texas, 1940
Finney & Langford, architects

School for Crippled Children, Denver, Colo., 1939
Burnham Hoyt, architect

Hessian Hills School, Croton-on-Hudson, N.Y., 1931
Howe & Lescaze, architects

Grade School, Northville, Mich., 1936
Lyndon & Smith, architects

Crow Island School, Winnetka, Ill., 1940
Eliel & Eero Saarinen; Perkins, Wheeler & Will, architects
(with scale model of typical classroom unit)

New Problems and New Solutions in Wartime

Carquinez Heights School, Vallejo, Calif., 1941 (FWA)
Franklin & Kump, architects; W. W. Wurster, consultant

School at Garden City, Mich., 1942 (PBA)
Lyndon and Smith, architects

School-Community Center at Woodville, Calif., 1941 (FSA)
Vernon DeMars, chief architect

School-Community Center at Center Line, Mich., 1942 (USHA)
Eero Saarinen, architect

The Non-Elementary School

Kindergarten, Northville, Mich.
Lyndon & Smith, architects, 1936

Nursery School, Kensal Heights, London, England
E. Maxwell Fry, chief architect, 1936

Junior High School. Ralph Waldo Emerson School,
Los Angeles
Richard J. Neutra, architect, 1936

Trade School, Bern, Switzerland
Hans Brechbühler, architect, 1939

High School. Acalanes Union High School, Calif.
Franklin & Kump, architects, 1940

High School, Ansonia, Conn.
William Lescaze and Vernon F. Sears, architects, 1937