The Architecture of Gunnar Asplund

Author
Asplund, Erik Gunnar, 1885-1940

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1979

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The Museum of Modern Art

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The Architecture of Gunnar Asplund

The Museum of Modern Art
11 West 53 Street, New York, N.Y. 10019
(212) 956-7230
An exhibition of the work of Sweden's leading architect in the years between the two world wars, guest directed by Stuart Wrede, an American-educated Finnish architect. Employing photo and text panels, GUNNAR ASPLUND provides an important and long-overdue analysis of Asplund's remarkable oeuvre. Although his work has had an important influence on a small group of today's leading architects and theorists, Asplund has remained largely unknown to a wider postwar generation.

After finishing his architectural studies in 1911 under the influence of the masters of Swedish National Romanticism, Asplund's architecture gradually evolved through a free integration of vernacular and classical motifs toward a more rigorous classicism that culminated in the Stockholm Public Library. The work of this period established him as Scandinavia's most innovative and influential architect.

His conversion to the International style led to his much-admired buildings for the Stockholm Exhibition of 1930 and to the general emergence of functionalism in Scandinavia. Having embraced functionalism, Asplund was one of the first architects to react against it. From the mid-1930s onward he began to reintegrate modern architecture with classical, vernacular, and archaic sources. His ability to distill and combine formal and psychological essences from different kinds of architecture makes Asplund's work especially facinating today. His untimely death at the age of 55 ended a brilliant career at its height.

The 61 panels range in size from 36 x 12" to 48 x 36", and are mounted on light-weight aluminum.

Contents: 61 photograph and text panels
Space: 175-225 running feet
Fee: $1,000, plus prorated transportation
Available: June, 1979 - November, 1979
2nd tour commencing 1981 and continuing indefinitely

An exhibition organized by The Museum of Modern Art, New York, and made possible with public funds from the New York State Council on the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts, Washington, D.C.
(Top)
Upper Promenade
Skandia Theatre
Stockholm, 1922-23

(Center)
Woodland Chapel
Woodland Cemetery
Stockholm, 1918-20

(Bottom)
Enterance Pavilion
Stockholm Exhibition
1928-30