A special feature of MARIO BELLINI: DESIGNER, which opens at The Museum of Modern Art on June 25, is the design of the installation itself. Created by Mario Bellini in collaboration with Agata Torricella, an architect in Bellini's studio, the exhibition space complements the furniture and industrial designs for which the designer is best known. This installation represents Bellini's first architecture project in the United States. Organized by Cara McCarty, assistant curator in the Department of Architecture and Design, the exhibition is on view through September 15, 1987.

Based on the integration of two distinct design principles—the arc and the grid—the space unifies the variety of objects that comprise the exhibition. "The major aim of the installation design is to keep together, in the same space, small and large objects, machines and furniture," states Mr. Bellini. "We felt the need for a strong structure."

Mr. Bellini continues, "The space revolves around the focal point of a semi-circular platform, with other platforms radiating from it. These support furniture and larger objects, such as stereos and lamps. The arc created between the platforms rotates the visitor from the entranceway through the space. As the visitor progresses, the area between the platforms increases."

The circular platform design is crossed with a grid of pedestals, each supporting an office machine or small industrial product. Placed parallel to 53rd Street—which is visible through nearby windows—the pedestals are in fact oriented to the New York City grid.
The arc and the grid forms are linked by a long narrow arcade which traverse diagonally the entire exhibition space. The walls of the arcade also function as gallery space. The gallery is brightly lit to emphasize the passageway and highlight the sketches. The outlying exhibition space is darkened, with dramatic spotlighting on the furniture pieces and machines. Through the Museum's windows on 53rd street, passersby can get a glimpse of the installation.

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For further information or photographic materials, contact the Department of Public Information, 212/708-9750.