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Foreward for catalogue of exhibition 28
'Work of Young Architects in the Middle West',
The Museum of Modern Art, New York, 1933,

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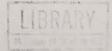
EXHIBITION 28 (Apr. 3 - 30, 1933)

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WORK OF YOUNG ARCHITECTS

IN THE MIDDLE WEST

MUSEUM OF MODERN ART, NEW YORK



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WORK OF YOUNG ARCHITECTS IN THE MIDDLE WEST

FOREWORD

It seems appropriate in the year that Chicago is the cynosure of architectural eyes that there should be an exhibition of the work of men whose attitude toward architecture is newer and younger than that of those in charge of designing the buildings for the Century of Progress Exposition. Some of those young men are working for the Exposition but their work will be lost in the midst of the official architecture which iominates the main pavilions.

Phis exhibition is also a logical successor to the International Exhibition of Modern Architecture held by the Museum in 1932. The younger generation, now beginning their independent practice, have broken away from academic design. They have not as much opportunity to build as their predecessors, but more so observe and study. As a result this exhibition consists mainly of projects, but projects which show not only research into new problems but great strides way from the Beaux Arts classical (not to mention he Beaux Arts "modernistic").

he two trends apart from the general one toward odern design which deserve comment are: first, that oward housing as a sociological study as well as a rotlem in design; and second, toward the mass-proued house.

he problem in housing goes far boyond architecture nto industry, economics, sociology and politics. a the end many experts will have to have a hand in plying it. But it is the peculiar province of the achitect, in other words, the artist, not only to pordinate the work of city planners, politicians, igneers and economists, but to imagine new solutions of old problems and new ways of living.

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t is the architecture of housing which is particuarly emphasized in this exhibition. It may be that one of the three projects shown will prove to be an echeapest or the most practicable solution of the iven problem. They remain, however, important architecturally as suggesting an aesthetic direction which the practical questions can be approached.

owis Mumford's pioneer writing, the work of Clarence tein and Henry Wright, the recent developments in ousing in Europe, have all contributed toward an nterest in housing. The carefully prepared charts f the A.I.A. Housing Exhibition summarized the atempts all over the world to solve this problem and resented the facts to the American public.

f the seven architectural firms invited to particiate in this exhibition, four worked out housing rograms. It is encouraging to see the interest of oung architects turning to live problems of this ind rather than to the mortuary chapels of our rehitectural competitions.

he mass-produced house which, through analogy to Model T" the public greeted a year ago with such nthusiasm, has reached a more mature stage. Amerian Houses Inc., of which Robert W. McLaughlin is he architect, has built its first house in Hazelton, a., and General Houses Inc., Howard T. Fisher, rehitect and engineer, has recently completed its irst house near Chicago. Both houses are completely modern in appearance as well as in engineering.

lthough the hope of future housing lies rather more n land economics and revised financial structure han in Fordized production, standardization, which ad reached every field but this one, has at last enverted domestic building from a craft into an adustry.

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t is no accident that the two important fields open o building today (palaces, churches and state capiols will not be so much needed in the future) are he very problems in which modern architects are est interested. We need no longer fear steel ouses masquerading in colonial dress, or large cale housing developments which resemble Cotswold illages.

- odorn architecture, so new that two years ago t needed a "Rejected Architects" secession in New ork, is today seriously considered by industry, eal estate and politics.

Philip Johnson