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Philip C. Johnson Archive

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Remarks

Remarks of Mies van der Rohe, 1956

Johnson Archive

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Remarks on Mies van der Rohe by Philip Johnson

(6/26/52)

Philip C. Johnson Archive 31

Mies van der Rohe might be called the architect's architect. There can be no question, from my point of view as a middle-aged architect, that he has been the greatest influence in the world in the field of tall buildings. The debt which all of us young architects owed to his pioneering can hardly be exaggerated. It might be said more strongly, there is no way a young architect could possibly design a tall building today (except, of course, purely commercial) without being conscious of Mies' great designs. Some may indeed revolt against them, but none can ignore. For us in the profession, the construction of the Seagram Building, Mies' masterpiece, is perhaps the most important architectural event of this century.