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THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART
NEW YORK

Letters from Philip Johnson to Mies
van der Rohe, 1945

11 WEST 53rd STREET
TELEPHONE: CIRCLE 5-8900
MAILS: MODERNART, NEW-YORK

DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY

OCT 18 1945

PERSON

Dear Mies

Since we are trying
strenuously in our
garden can not
get any money, which is perhaps not an unusual thing these days.
We shall therefore have to think of something else to do.

My hope is this, that you can design a pavilion for, let us
say, Lincoln Park or some appropriate site in Chicago to contain
"Guernica". In this way there would be no limits of money to
stop us and you could let your fancy free rein.

I would like to show these designs by means of your per-
spectives, with "Guernica" montaged on them. This could be of
large scale, as is your usual way with perspectives, and would
be beautifully reproduced in the book which we expect to put out.

Indeed the book has now become more important than the ex-
hibition because of the lack of funds. It will be a book of the
ideas of the best artists of the world on War Memorials. I hope
to get Le Corbusier, Oud, Frank Lloyd Wright, Henry Moore, Calder,
Picasso to do drawings for us. Such a book ought to serve the
purpose of turning attention of the people who commission monu-
ments toward newer ideas.

I wish I could offer you money for this, but the Museum has
authorized me only to give a token honorarium of \$150 to the
artists which must serve to cover incidental expenses as well.

I hope you are coming to New York soon and will let me offer
you some very good food and wine. I shall tell Nierendorf to
keep after you.

Very sincerely yours,

Philip C. Johnson

Philip C. Johnson
Director, Exhibition of War Memorials

October 16, 1945

Mr. Ludwig Mies van der Rohe
Department of Architecture
Illinois Institute of Technology
Chicago, Illinois

PCJ:JK

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THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART NEW YORK

DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DESIGN

PERSONAL

11 WEST 53rd STREET
TELEPHONE: CIRCLE 5-8900
CABLES: MODERNART, NEW-YORK

OCT 18 1945

Dear Mies:

Since my very delightful visit with you I have been trying strenuously to put across the idea that you should build in our garden a pavilion to house "Guernica". Unfortunately I can not get any money, which is perhaps not an unusual thing these days. We shall therefore have to think of something else to do.

My hope is this, that you can design a pavilion for, let us say, Lincoln Park or some appropriate site in Chicago to contain "Guernica". In this way there would be no limits of money to stop us and you could let your fancy free rein.

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October 16, 1945

Mr. Ludwig Mies van der Rohe
Department of Architecture
Illinois Institute of Technology
Chicago, Illinois

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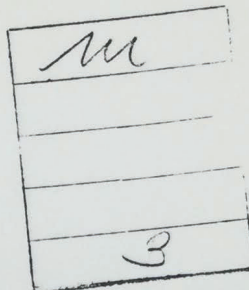
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THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART
NEW YORK

DEPARTMENT OF ARCHITECTURE

11 WEST 53rd STREET
TELEPHONE: CIRCLE 5-8900
CABLES: MODERNART, NEW-YORK



4. 1945

Nov. 1945

Dear Mies:

I imagine that since I have had no answer to my letter of October 16, that you have been very busy on your buildings for the University and that you would not have time to think out a new design just for my book on War Memorials. This seems to be the case with most architects these days. Everyone is too busy on actual work to be willing to take time for an abstract project. As a result we have concluded not to publish a book of commissioned works but to do the best with already existing ones and great historical examples.

I hear from Mierendorf that you will be here some time before Christmas. I indeed hope so, so that we can have another good talk about the world and our problems.

Very sincerely yours,

Philip C. Johnson

November 7, 1945

Mr. Ludwig Mies van der Rohe
Department of Architecture
Illinois Institute of Technology
Chicago, Illinois

PCJ:JK

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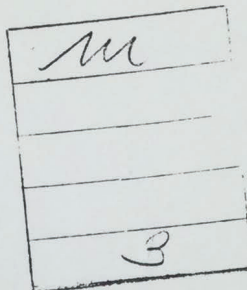
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THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART NEW YORK

DEPARTMENT OF ARCHITECTURE

11 WEST 53rd STREET
TELEPHONE: CIRCLE 5-8900
CABLES: MODERNART, NEW-YORK



4. 1943

Nov. 1945

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November 7, 1945

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Department of Architecture
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Chicago, Illinois

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