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The Museum of Modern Art Archives, NY	Collection:	Series.Folder:
	PJ	VII.5

MIES VAN DER ROHE

230 EAST OHIO ST. CHICAGO 11, ILLINOIS

July 24, 1958

Mr. Philip Johnson  
Philip Johnson Associates  
375 Park Avenue  
New York 22, New York

July 28, 1958

Dear Philip:

Could you Mr. Gene R. Summers of the firm that made the Brno chairs for  
the Seagram Building?  
Mies Van Der Rohe  
230 East Ohio Street  
Chicago 11, Illinois  
Also if you would help me.

Sorry I Dear Gene: am you last week.

I have this puzzling letter from Mr. Heald. I  
hope that it is true that Mies will be consulting  
architect. What do you think?

Sincerely,

Gene R. Summers

Philip Johnson

GRS:hm

P.S. The Brno chairs while they are very pretty  
are made of too soft a steel and they sway  
slightly which does not impair their use-  
fulness however should you want them they  
are made by Treitel-Gratz . I am sorry I  
so not know the price.

JP:jp



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JUL 25 1958

MIES VAN DER ROHE

ARCHITECT F.A.I.A. • 230 EAST OHIO ST. • CHICAGO 11, ILLINOIS • PHONE WHITEHALL 3-0686

July 24, 1958

Mr. Philip Johnson  
Philip Johnson Associates  
375 Park Avenue  
New York 22, New York

Dear Philip:

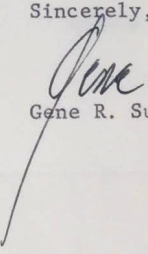
Could you tell me the name of the firm that made the Brno chairs for  
the Seagram's office?

Also if you know the price it would help me.

Sorry I missed seeing you last week.

Many thanks.

Sincerely,

  
Gene R. Summers

GRS:hm

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*right*  
~~DAY~~ LETTER

AUGUST 5, 1958

MR. JOHN T. RETTALIATA  
ILLINOIS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY  
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

DEAR MR RETTALIATA

WE ARE ALL SADDENED TO HEAR OF YOUR DESIRE TO CHANGE ARCHITECTS

Telefax		WESTERN UNION		EST Telefax	
SENDING BLANK					
CALL LETTERS	DL	CHARGE TO	MUSEUM MODERN ART		
JOHN T. RETTALIATA PRESIDENT ILLINOIS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY CHICAGO, ILLINOIS			8/5/58 AUG 6 1958		
HAVE HEARD WITH CONCERN OF POSSIBILITY OF REPLACING MIES VAN DER ROHE WITH OTHER ARCHITECTS FOR CONTINUATION OF YOUR CAMPUS. SINCERELY HOPE YOU CAN FIND SOME WAY TO ALLOW HIM TO COMPLETE THIS COMPLEX OF BUILDINGS WHICH HAVE BECOME A LANDMARK OF MODERN ARCHITECTURE FOR AMERICANS AND FOREIGNERS ALIKE.					
Dept. of Arch. & Design			RENE D'HARNONCOURT DIRECTOR MUSEUM OF MODERN ART NEW YORK		
Send the above message, subject to the terms on back hereof, which are hereby agreed to					
PLEASE TYPE OR WRITE PLAINLY WITHIN BORDER—DO NOT FOLD					
1269—(R 4-55)					



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The Museum of Modern Art Archives, NY	Collection:	Series.Folder:
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*right*  
~~DAY~~ LETTER

AUGUST 5, 1958

MR. JOHN T. RETTALIATA  
ILLINOIS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY  
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

DEAR MR RETTALIATA

WE ARE ALL SADDENED TO HEAR OF YOUR DESIRE TO CHANGE ARCHITECTS  
OF THE IIT CAMPUS. AS YOU MAY KNOW I HAVE BEEN INTERESTED IN  
MIES' CAREER FOR THIRTY YEARS AND I FEEL THAT WE CAN ALL AGREE  
TODAY THAT HE IS ONE OF THE THREE TOP LIVING ARCHITECTS IN THE  
WORLD. IIT HAS DESERVED THE GREATEST PRAISE FOR ITS CONSISTENT  
BACKING OF THIS GREAT ARCHITECT AND THE SHIFT IS NOW ALL THE  
MORE REGRETTABLE TO THOSE THAT WATCH THE STORY OF CONTEMPORARY  
ARCHITECTURE UNFOLD. MANY OF US STILL ~~HOPE THAT YOU CAN FIND~~ *ask isn't persuasive to*  
A SOLUTION THAT WILL KEEP MIES IN CHARGE OF YOUR NEW DEVELOPMENTS.

PHILIP JOHNSON



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THE FORD FOUNDATION  
477 MADISON AVENUE  
NEW YORK 22, N. Y.

JUL 28 1958

HENRY T. HEALD  
PRESIDENT

July 25, 1958

Mr. Philip Johnson  
375 Park Avenue  
New York 22, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Johnson:

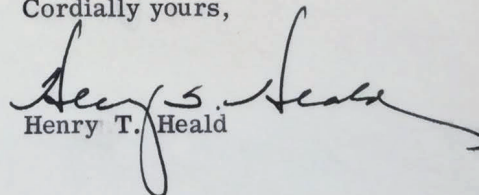
Yesterday I spoke to President Rettaliata of Illinois Institute of Technology about your report that Mies was not to be the architect of the new student center on the Illinois Tech campus.

Apparently there is substance to this report. It appears that after consultation with Mies the decision was made to have Skidmore, Owings & Merrill do the job. I am not entirely clear as to the reason for this. Apparently it has something to do with the difficulty of getting adequate personal attention from Mies, and perhaps some feeling on the part of some of the Trustees on the buildings and grounds committee that a Mies design would be too expensive. Rettaliata says he hopes that Mies will serve as consulting architect on the project.

He also says he has been receiving letters and calls about it but doubts that Mies knows anything of the campaign on his behalf.

I'll admit I don't quite understand the whole business, but these seem to be the facts.

Cordially yours,

  
Henry T. Heald

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THE FORD FOUNDATION  
477 MADISON AVENUE  
NEW YORK 22, N. Y.

JUL 21 1958

HENRY T. HEALD  
PRESIDENT

July 17, 1958

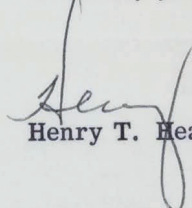
Mr. Philip Johnson  
375 Park Avenue  
New York 22, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Johnson:

Just before I received your letter, I had a call about the same subject from James Johnson Sweeney. I have heard nothing of this development and somehow it does not seem to make sense. I shall be in Chicago next week and will make some inquiries and let you and Sweeney know the result.

It was a great pleasure to visit with you and your sister and to see your wonderful house. We are most grateful to you both for making it possible.

Cordially yours,

  
Henry T. Heald



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STADT AACHEN



JAN 23 1985

DER OBERSTADTDIREKTOR

- Director of Cultural Affairs -  
Municipality of Aachen  
Postfach 1210

D-5100 Aachen  
West-Germany

Tel.: 49 - 241 - 432 7404

9 - 26 - 85

LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION

To Whom It May Concern

In commemoration of its renowned citizen MIES van der ROHE the City of Aachen is planning an exhibition in the Coronation Hall of the City Hall in Aachen in May or June 1986.

Professor Werner BLASER from Basle, Switzerland, has been entrusted with the organisation of this commemorative exhibition. We would very much appreciate any help you could give him in the preparation of this exhibition.



*Heim*  
(Malms)  
Town Clerk



The Museum of Modern Art Archives, NY	Collection:	Series.Folder:
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June 21, 1957

October 16, 1957

Mr. Ludwig Mies van der Rohe  
230 East Ohio Street  
Chicago 11, Illinois

Dear Mies:

I think you should know the results of a lecture trip that I made to Western Reserve's School of Architecture in Cleveland a few weeks ago.

I am very much impressed with the work that George Danforth is doing there and I know you would be pleased especially by two things. First, the manner in which he has kept the spirit of your teaching and direction of architecture in education. The boys are really concentrating on learning how to build correctly and working up from there to studies of proportion and design.

But secondly, and of equal importance, it seems to me that George has succeeded in an extraordinary way in putting across this new plan of architectural teaching in a very few years in very difficult academic surroundings. This requires, as you and I know, a great deal of tact, patience and determination. All of these George seems to possess in a high degree.

Next year he is very anxious to have you come and visit the school and I told him I thought you would accept.

Very respectfully yours,

Philip Johnson

PJ:mam



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The Museum of Modern Art Archives, NY	Collection:	Series.Folder:
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October 16, 1957

March 11, 1958

Mr. Ludwig Mies van der Rohe  
230 East Ohio Street  
Chicago 11, Illinois

Dear Mies: van der Rohe  
230 East Ohio Street  
Chicago 11, Illinois  
I wonder if you saw the enclosed? The last paragraph is the important one -- that they will probably change the design of the building. That can only mean that it will be larger and hence will have to cover the entire site. This, I think, will be much better for us, don't you think? It's the kind of detailing for which you are famous and, in addition, a unity which I believe. As ever, it one of your finest compositions. Many congratulations.

Philip Johnson

Enclosure: Astor Plaza Clipping

PJ:mam

Philip Johnson

PJ:mam



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The Museum of Modern Art Archives, NY	Collection:	Series.Folder:
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January 13, 1959

March 11, 1958

Mr. Ludwig Mies van der Rohe  
230 East Ohio Street  
Chicago 11, Illinois

Dear Mies:

I have just come back from Houston and have seen your beautiful facade. It has the largeness of concept, the dignity, the kind of detailing for which you are famous and, in addition, a unity which I believe makes it one of your finest compositions. Many congratulations.

Sincerely,

Mr. Ludwig Mies van der Rohe  
230 East Ohio Street  
Chicago 11, Illinois

Philip Johnson

PJ:mam



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The Museum of Modern Art Archives, NY	Collection:	Series.Folder:
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January 15, 1959

March 1, 1960

Dear Mies,

I want to congratulate you on the Gold Medal from the R.I.B.A. It is a wonderful indication of your life-long struggle for modern architecture. I am very proud to have been the biographer of the greatest architect of our time.

Now that you are at too long last getting recognition, the satisfaction must be all the greater.

Yours,

Philip Johnson

Mr. Ludwig Mies van der Rohe  
230 East Ohio Street  
Chicago 11, Illinois

PJ:mam

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The Museum of Modern Art Archives, NY	Collection:	Series.Folder:
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July 18, 1963

March 1, 1960

Dear Mies, Mr. van der Rohe

I suppose you saw this atticle, but maybe you  
can use an extra copy. I am delighted.

Yours,

I have just returned from Europe to find that you have  
been given the great honor of receiving the Medal of  
Freedom from President Kennedy. May I add my personal  
congratulations.

Philip Johnson

Mr. Ludwig Mies van der Rohe  
230 East Ohio Street  
Chicago 11, Illinois

PJ:mam

*Nation - on greenwald & Mies*

Philip Johnson



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The Museum of Modern Art Archives, NY	Collection:	Series.Folder:
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July 18, 1963

Mr. Ludwig Mies van der Rohe  
230 East Ohio Street  
Chicago, Illinois

Dear Mies:

I have just returned from Europe to find that you have been given the great honor of receiving the Medal of Freedom from President Kennedy. May I add my personal felicitations.

I bathe somewhat in reflected glory since I flatter myself that I was perspicacious enough in 1929 to realize that you were destined to be the world's great architect. To have you chosen for this honor is also an honor to me.

Again, my congratulations.  
Yours,

Philip Johnson

Respectfully,

Philip Johnson



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The Museum of Modern Art Archives, NY	Collection:	Series.Folder:
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July 16, 1965

Mr. Mies van der Rohe  
230 East Ohio Street  
Chicago 11, Illinois

Dear Mies:

Mr. Julio Viale Sironi, the Dean of the College of Architects of Peru, came to call on me recently to present you with a citation and button from the architects of Lima, Peru. Since he, unfortunately, could not go to Chicago to give you this citation in person, he asked me to receive it in your name and send it on to you.

As you know, Peru is the only country in the world with an architect president, so I think it is especially fitting that you have received this honorary membership.

The button and citation will arrive under separate cover.

Respectfully,

Philip Johnson



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## PORTRAITS, INC.

PORTRAIT CENTER OF AMERICA

136 EAST 57th STREET

NEW YORK 22, N. Y.

PLAZA 8-2852-2623

LOIS SHAW  
President

CAROLINE GLEASON  
Executive Secretary

HELEN APPLETON READ  
Gallery Director

ANDREA ERICSON GEHRINGER  
Assistant Gallery Director

"PORTRAIT PAINTING IS A REASONABLE AND NATURAL CONSEQUENCE OF AFFECTION"—DR. SAMUEL JOHNSON

March 23, 1957

Mr. Philip C. Johnson  
219 East Forty-fourth Street  
New York 17, New York

MAR 25 1957

Dear Philip:

We have been told that a portrait of Mr. Bronfman is being considered for the Seagram Building, in fact Mr. Bronfman and a Mrs. Morrow came to the gallery to make a preliminary survey, although nothing definite has developed.

But, it seems to me that if a portrait is being considered that a bas-relief in bronze done by a really distinguished sculptor would be far more appropriate than a painting. Have you any suggestions about this - or how we could go about persuading Mr. Bronfman?

We have, also, heard that there is to be a gallery of portraits, which does not sound too good. So, let me know what you think about it or with whom we should discuss the matter. It seems to me that you or Mies should decide about the portraits, if any.

As always,

*Helen Appleton Read*

P. S. The photographs of Mies in last week's Life were very impressive. But, knowing Life, I imagine the article was not all it should be - although as an outsider, I thought it was excellent.

Seagram  
Bronfman  
Mies  
etc

in photo



The Museum of Modern Art Archives, NY	Collection:	Series.Folder:
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March 17, 1959

March 17, 1959

Mr. Gerd Hatje  
Alexanderviertel 21  
Stuttgart, Germany

Dear Phyllis,

This is the letter from Hatje that I misunderstood concerning the book, and my answer. You can see where I was misled. Is his proposition worth following up or shall we forget it? \$1000, but perhaps what you meant to say was: The Seagram people are to pay me \$1000. Unfortunately there is no such sum in view as far as I know, but I thought Seagrams perhaps had gotten in touch with you directly without talking to me.

Meanwhile, let us make your proposition more clear to Mrs. Lambert and see what we can do.

Mrs. Phyllis Lambert  
401 Humphrey Street  
New Haven, Connecticut

Sincerely,

enclosures

Philip Johnson

PJ:mam  
PJ:mam

in Peko

The Museum of Modern Art Archives, NY	Collection:	Series.Folder:
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Mr. Philip Johnson  
375 Park Avenue  
New York 22, N.Y.  
U.S.A.

March 17, 1959

Mr. Gerd Hatje  
Alexanderstrasse 21  
Stuttgart, Germany

Dear Gerd Hatje:

Apparently there has been a catastrophic misunderstanding due perhaps to a slight misinterpretation of English grammar. In your letter of February 5th you say: "The Seagram people are paying me \$1000", but perhaps what you meant to say was: The Seagram people are to pay me \$1000. Unfortunately there is no such sum in view as far as I know, but I thought Seagrams perhaps had gotten in touch with you directly without talking to me.

Meanwhile, let me make your proposition more clear to Mrs. Lambert and see what we can do.

Sincerely,

Philip Johnson

PJ:mam



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VERLAG GERD HATJE

STUTTGART ALEXANDERSTRASSE 21 TEL. 2412 79

MAR 11 1959

Mr. Philip Johnson  
375 Park Avenue  
New York 22, N.Y.  
U.S.A.

March 9, 1959 h-w  
March 9, 1959

Mr. Gerd Hatje  
Alexanderstrasse 21  
Stuttgart, Germany  
Dear Philip Johnson:

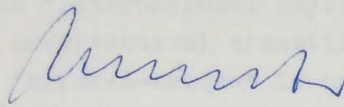
Many thanks for your letter of March 3rd with the good news.

Lovely that we can work together. I will try to arrive at some concept on the book. As to the technicalities: Will I hear from the Seagram people or should I write to them?

Always yours,  
I am so glad Seagram's has decided to go ahead with the book. We, of course, will give you all the help we can when you get here.

Yours,

for: (Gerd Hatje)



Philip Johnson

PJ:mam

in Poho

The Museum of Modern Art Archives, NY	Collection:	Series.Folder:
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VERLAG GERO HATJE

STUTTGART ALEXANDERSTRASSE 21 TEL. 341279

FEB 9 1959

Mr. Philip Johnson  
375 Park Avenue  
New York 22, N.Y.

March 3, 1959

February 5, 1959 back

Mr. Gerd Hatje  
Alexanderstrasse 21  
Stuttgart, Germany

Dear Gerd Hatje:

The beginning of May sounds fine and it will be good to see you then.

I am so glad Seagram's has decided to go ahead with the book. We, of course, will give you all the help we can when you get here.

I think it is a good idea to wait a little longer with a new edition of the "International Style", for I think we are living in a time of architectural transition, although I am dead sure that Stone's "brick-a-brague" is no Philip Johnson.

Here is my proposition for the book on the Seagram Building: the Seagram people are paying me 1000 \$, which would finance my air-line ticket and a decent two-weeks-stay in Manhattan. During this time I think I could easily build up the book. If we produce the book over here in Europe we could without any difficulties save these initial 1000 \$ by the difference in printing and stock prices in comparison with the United States. Would beginning of May be alright for my visit?

Best personal regards,

Philip Johnson

Philip Johnson

Philip Johnson



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VERLAG GERD HATJE

STUTTGART ALEXANDERSTRASSE 21 TEL. 241279

FEB 9 1959

Mr. Philip Johnson  
375 Park Avenue  
New York 22, N.Y.

February 5, 1959 ha:k

Dear Philip Johnson:

many thanks for your letter of January 15, which I can only answer today after my return to Stuttgart from a two-weeks-stay in Paris.

I think it is a good idea to wait a little longer with a new edition of the "International Style", for I think we are living in a time of architectural transition, although I am dead sure that Stone's "brick-à-braque" is not the solution.

Here is my proposition for the book on the Seagram Building: the Seagram people are paying me 1000 \$, which would finance my air-line ticket and a decent two-weeks-stay in Manhattan. During this time I think I could easily build up the book. If we produce the book over here in Europe we could without any difficulties save these initial 1000 \$ by the difference in printing and block prices in comparison with the United States. Would beginning of May be alright for my visit?

With best personal regards,

Sincerely yours,

*Gerd Hatje*

(Gerd Hatje)

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*Publicity ~~ASSOC~~* *Perp*  
*→ Park Assoc*

May 12, 1964

May 5, 1964

Mr. Whitney North Seymour, Jr.  
 Park Association of New York City, Inc.  
 15 Gramercy Park New York City, Inc.  
 New York 3, New York

Dear Mr. Seymour:

I wrote you on the 5th of May that I would be able to be present at the presentation of the awards for our open spaces. I regret more than I can say that circumstances compel me to be in Europe that week. Modern Art and the Seagram Building, and will plan to be in The firm of Philip Johnson Associates as well as the firm of Mies van der Rohe will be represented by my partner, Mr. Richard Foster.

Mies van der Rohe will be unable to come and has asked me to be his representative which Sincerely,

Sincerely,

Philip Johnson

Philip Johnson

bcc: Mr. Foster - Note: 4:00 p.m., Wednesday, June 10  
 The Museum of Modern Art garden

cc: Mies van der Rohe

*Rehe*

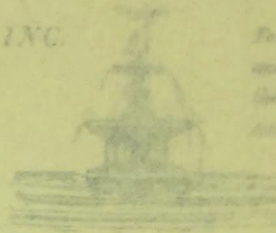


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# PARK ASSOCIATION OF NEW YORK CITY, INC.

15 GRAMERCY PARK, NEW YORK 3, N. Y.

TELEPHONE: ORGON 4-8221



For the Preservation  
and Extension of  
the City Parks  
and Playgrounds

May 5, 1964

APR 23 1964

April 24, 1964

Mr. Whitney North Seymour, Jr.  
Park Association of New York City, Inc.  
15 Gramercy Park  
New York 3, New York

Dear Mr. Seymour:

Thank you very much for your letter of April 24th. I am deeply flattered and pleased to learn of the awards for the creation of open space at the Museum of Modern Art and the Seagram Building, and will plan to be in the garden of the Museum at 4 P.M. on Wednesday, June 10th, to receive them.

Mies van der Rohe will be unable to come and has asked me to be his representative which I shall gladly do.

Sincerely,

We would appreciate it if you or some representative you may select could be present at our annual meeting to be held in the garden of the Museum of Modern Art at 4:00 P.M. on June Philip Johnson will give this award.

All of us who live and work in New York City share your contributions and we take this opportunity to express our appreciation.

Sincerely yours,

Whitney North Seymour, Jr.  
WHITNEY NORTH SEYMOUR, JR.  
President

President: Whitney North Seymour, Jr. Honorary Chairman of the Board: Mrs. Arthur (Clara) Schlesinger  
Vice-Presidents: Leonard L. Saxe, Mrs. Harold W. Jones, III  
Treasurer: Joseph L. Grotz Secretary: W. Hoffman Benjamin Executive Director: Rachel Clark  
Directors: Mrs. Samuel P. Bailey, W. Hoffman Benjamin, John A. H. Ryan, Walter O. Galt, Raymond C. Vaughn, Mrs. William J. Grotz, Brenda Galt, Mrs. Henry B. Galt, Arthur T. Bailey, Mrs. Warren F. Jones, III, Arnold D. Kahn, Mrs. Francis H. Lefkowitz, Mrs. Albert D. Loefer, Mrs. Malcolm W. Lewis, Mrs. John E. Lockwood, George F. May Jr., Leroy McMillen, Charles W. Moore, L. Porter Moore, Nathan Oleson, Mrs. Walter Oleson, Andrew Y. Ross, William C. Spencer, George W. Sullivan, Whitney North Seymour, Jr., Mrs. Donald E. Saxe, Mrs. Arthur (Clara) Schlesinger, Leonard L. Saxe, Mrs. David Saxe

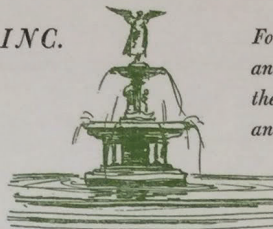


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# PARK ASSOCIATION OF NEW YORK CITY, INC.

15 GRAMERCY PARK, NEW YORK 3, N. Y.

TELEPHONE: OREGON 4-8822



For the Preservation  
and Extension of  
the City Parks  
and Playgrounds

APR 29 1964

April 24, 1964

Mr. Philip Johnson  
Philip Johnson Associates  
375 Park Avenue  
New York, New York 10022

Dear Mr. Johnson:

The Board of Directors of the Park Association of New York City has instructed me to advise you that you have been voted a Special Certificate of Commendation for your contributions to civic beauty in the creation of the open space in the Museum of Modern Art and the Seagrams Building.

We would appreciate it if you or some representative you may select could be present at our annual meeting to be held in the garden of the Museum of Modern Art at 4:00 P.M. on June 10th to receive this award.

All of us who live and work in New York City share the benefit of your contributions and we take this opportunity to express our appreciation.

Sincerely yours,

*Whitney North Seymour, Jr.*  
WHITNEY NORTH SEYMOUR, JR.  
President

PRESIDENT: Whitney North Seymour, Jr.; HONORARY CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD: Mrs. Arthur Hays Sulzberger  
VICE-PRESIDENTS: Leonard L. Sutter, Mrs. Darwin R. James, III

TREASURER: Jerrold E. Gertz; SECRETARY: W. Hoffman Benjamin; EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: Daniel Chase

DIRECTORS: Mrs. Samuel P. Bailey, W. Hoffman Benjamin, John R. H. Blum, Walker O. Cain, Raymond C. Fingado, Ira H. Genet, Jerrold E. Gertz, Brendan Gill, Mrs. Henry B. Guthrie, Arthur T. Hadley, Mrs. Darwin R. James, III, Arnold D. Kates, Mrs. Fiorello H. LaGuardia, Mrs. Albert D. Lasker, Mrs. Madison H. Lewis, Mrs. John E. Lockwood, George F. Mand, Loring McMillen, Charles G. Meyer, L. Porter Moore, Sheldon Oliensis, Miss Mabel Parsons, Andrew Y. Rogers, William L. Savacool, George H. Schroder, Whitney North Seymour, Jr., Mrs. Donald B. Straus, Mrs. Arthur Hays Sulzberger, Leonard L. Sutter, Mrs. Byard Williams



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ARCHITECT F.A.I.A. • 230 EAST OHIO ST. • CHICAGO 11, ILLINOIS • PHONE WHITEHALL 3-0686

EHALL 3-0686

April 30, 1964

MAY 1 1964

Mr. Whitney North Seymour, Jr.  
President  
Park Association of New York City, Inc.  
15 Gramercy Park, Mies van der Rohe  
New York 3, New York Street  
Chicago 11, Illinois

Dear Mr. Seymour:

Dear Mr. van der Rohe:

Thank you for your kind letter of April 24. I am highly honored that the Board of Directors of the Park Association of New York City has voted a Special Certificate of Commendation for the Seagram Building.

Unfortunately, previous commitments in Chicago prevent my coming to New York City on June 10. I would like to suggest that Philip Johnson attend the annual meeting in my place.

Sincerely yours,

Mies van der Rohe

cc: Mr. Philip Johnson

MvdR: cm

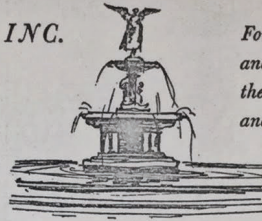


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PARK ASSOCIATION OF NEW YORK CITY, INC.

15 GRAMERCY PARK, NEW YORK 3, N. Y.

TELEPHONE: OREGON 4-8822



For the Preservation  
and Extension of  
the City Parks  
and Playgrounds

RECEIVED

APR 30 1964

MIES VAN DER ROHE

April 24, 1964

Mr. Ludwig Mies van der Rohe  
230 East Ohio Street  
Chicago 11, Illinois

Dear Mr. van der Rohe:

The Board of Directors of the Park Association of New York City has instructed me to advise you that you have been voted a Special Certificate of Commendation for your contribution to civic beauty in the creation of the open space in the Seagrams Building plaza.

We would appreciate it if you or some representative you may select could be present at our annual meeting to be held in the garden of the Museum of Modern Art at 4:00 P.M. on June 10th to receive this award.

All of us who live and work in New York City share the benefit of your contribution and we take this opportunity to express our appreciation.

Sincerely yours,

*Whitney North Seymour, Jr.*  
WHITNEY NORTH SEYMOUR, JR.  
President

PRESIDENT: Whitney North Seymour, Jr.; HONORARY CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD: Mrs. Arthur Hays Sulzberger

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XERO COPY

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Mies v. der Rohe



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# THE ART INSTITUTE OF CHICAGO

August 2, 1963

Mr. Marcel Breuer  
201 East 57th Street  
New York 22, New York

Dear Lajko:

I have cabled Baroness Minda de Gunzburg that you are looking her up in Paris on your next trip and I know she will be delighted. She is, as I explained over the phone the other day, Phyllis Lambert's sister and a fine woman. Her name and address and telephone number are as follows:

Baroness de Gunzburg  
25 Avenue Bugeaud  
Paris 16, France

Trocadero 31-50

Sincerely,

Philip Johnson

Dictated by Mr. Johnson  
but signed in his absence

Phyllis Lambert's  
Sister

Mies V. du Rhee



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## THE ART INSTITUTE OF CHICAGO

MICHIGAN AVENUE AT ADAMS STREET/CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60603/TELEPHONE: (312) 443-3600/CABLE: ARTI

May 12, 1986

original

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WRITE "W. U. CABLES" HERE

July 30, 1969

Via

Breuer HAS AGREED <sup>TO</sup> CONTACT YOU PARIS ~~7~~ SEPTEMBER.

BESOLATED I CAN'T ACCEPT MYSELF.

Love

PHILIP

Sender's address  
for reference

Sender's telephone  
number

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## THE ART INSTITUTE OF CHICAGO

MICHIGAN AVENUE AT ADAMS STREET/CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60603/TELEPHONE: (312) 443-3600/CABLE: ARTI

May 12, 1986

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RDF624

PARIS 27 30 1544

PHILIP JOHNSON 375 PARK AVENUE NEWYORK

PLEASE CABLE ALMINDA PARIS PRESENT WHEREABOUTS AND  
ADDRESS OF MARCEL BREUER STOP WISH YOU WOULD AGREE  
BUILD MEGEVE REGARDS

MINDA DE GUNZBURG

COL  
375

STANDARD TIME  
Jul 30 10 52 AM '63

PL 8-1766

**RCA COMMUNICATIONS, INC.**  
A SERVICE OF RADIO CORPORATION OF AMERICA  
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*Mies v. der Rohe*



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## THE ART INSTITUTE OF CHICAGO

MICHIGAN AVENUE AT ADAMS STREET/CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60603/TELEPHONE: (312) 443-3600/CABLE: ARTI

May 12, 1986

Mr. Philip Johnson  
885 Third Avenue  
New York, New York 10022

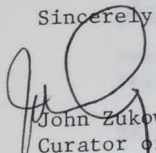
MAY 16 1986

Dear Mr. Johnson:

You may recall that I spoke to you briefly about our exhibit Mies van der Rohe and His Disciples of Modernism which will be shown at our museum from August 22 through October 5, and then it will travel to the Deutsches Architekturmuseum in Frankfurt. We plan to exhibit the models for the Mansion House Project in Chicago (photoblowups will be substituted for Frankfurt), as well as show a photopanel of letters for and against the recent controversial scheme. These include your two letters (see enclosed) both of which were published and cited previously.

Unless we hear otherwise from you before June 17, we will assume that you have no objection to this being done. We hope that you will agree that this will help both the American and German (in translation) public understand the project better by seeing the various opinions about the project, and I thank you in advance for your cooperation with us in this.

Sincerely,

  
John Zukowsky  
Curator of Architecture

JZ/aml  
encls: a/s

original

Mies V. der Rohe



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## The Architectural League

APR 28 1986

22 April 1986

Mr. Philip Johnson  
John Burgee Architects with Philip Johnson  
885 Third Avenue  
New York, New York 10022

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Frances Halsband

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*Executive Director*  
Rosalie Genevro

*Program Coordinator*  
Elizabeth Feeley

Dear Philip:

Thanks again for providing the focus, and the precarious high point, of our one hundredth birthday for Mies.

We were overwhelmed by the response to our invitations, and can only imagine that all seven hundred people who came did so as a tribute to Mies, and to you.

We do hope to see you again soon at another magnificent League occasion.

Sincerely,

*Frances*

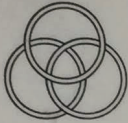
Frances Halsband  
President

FH:tc

Mies V. der Rolle



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Dr. W. Becker in Firma

**FRIED. KRUPP INDUSTRIEBAU**

JUN 27 1960

Mr. Philipp Johnson

375 Park Avenue

New York 22 N.Y.  
U.S.A.

IHRE ZEICHEN

IHRE NACHRICHT VOM

UNSERE ZEICHEN  
B5/WB-R1/1622

HAUSRUF  
2419

ESSEN, POSTFACH 975  
24. Juni 1960

Sehr verehrter Mr. Johnson,

haben Sie vielen Dank für Ihre freundlichen Zeilen. Ihre Entscheidung habe ich nicht anders erwartet und ich freue mich um so mehr, weil ich mich nicht getäuscht habe. Die europäischen Architekten hätten sich zweifellos anders verhalten.

Auf Ihren Besuch freue ich mich aufrichtig und hoffe, daß ich Ihnen dann einige nette Dinge über den vorhergehenden Besuch von Mies van der Rohe erzählen kann. Bis dahin empfangen Sie bitte meine besten Grüße

Ihr

*Walter Becker*

Mies v. der Rohe



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Dr. W. Becker 18-04-1960

FRIED. KRUPP INDUSTRIEBAU

Essen

Germany

JUN 10 1960

Mr. Philipp Johnson

375 Park Avenue

New York N.Y. / USA

June 15, 1960

Dr. W. Becker  
Fried. Krupp Industriebau  
Essen  
Germany

INRE ZEICHEN

MIT NACHRICHT VOM

UNTERE ZEICHEN  
B5/WB-R1/1338

HAUSRUH

ESSEN, POSTFACH 773  
27. Mai 1960

Dear Dr. Becker:

Sehr verehrte  
nach meiner Rückkehr aus Amerika möchte ich mich noch einmal ganz herzlich bei Ihnen bedanken  
Ihre Hausen  
Eindrücken ist  
formen Mies  
Sinne des Wortes  
äußerstes Ziel  
Art, wie z.B.  
konsequente

It was certainly flattering to get such a glowing letter from you. I assure you the feeling is mutual. I hope some day we can continue our long discussion.

I am delighted you got along with Mies so well, it is just what I would have anticipated. And, it is fitting indeed that the world's greatest architect should finish his career in his home country.

My interest in your project will, of course, continue since I find the project so very exciting. At this time, however, I think it would be only right for me to make no drawings until we see how you make out with Mies. I could not do my best work so long as I realized that Mies was working on it. It would not be fair to either of us.

Hope to see you in any case, which will be in October. If I don't see you, when will you be here again?

Sincerely,

Philip Johnson

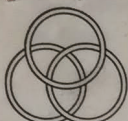
PJ:en

In diesem Sinne steht er sicherlich nicht weit entfernt von dem, was uns erwartet und insofern kann ich die Überschrift in "Form" "Minimaler Johnson" als nicht korrekt an. Vielleicht habe ich den Eindruck, daß Sie sein Werk über dem hinaus

Mies v. der Höhe



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Dr. W. Becker in ~~Essen~~

## FRIED. KRUPP INDUSTRIEBAU

*Essen*

*Germany*

JUN 10 1960

Mr. Philipp Johnson

375 Park Avenue

New York N.Y. / USA

IHRE ZEICHEN

IHRE NACHRICHT VOM

UNSERE ZEICHEN  
B5/WB-R1/1338

HAUSRUF

ESSEN, POSTFACH 975  
27. Mai 1960

Sehr verehrter Mr. Johnson,

nach meiner Rückkehr aus Amerika möchte ich mich noch einmal ganz herzlich bei Ihnen bedanken. Die Besichtigungen und Diskussionen mit Ihnen, das Erlebnis Ihres Hauses sind ohne Frage die stärksten Eindrücke meiner Reise. Mit diesen Eindrücken ist mir ganz besonders bewußt geworden, wie sehr die Gestaltungsformen Mies van der Rohes durch ihn selber und durch Ihre Arbeit im wahrsten Sinne des Wortes jeweils "heraus kristallisiert" worden sind und dabei ihr äußerstes Ziel erreicht haben. Ich glaube weiterhin, daß Ihre Schöpfungen neuester Art, wie z.B. die Versuchskonstruktion im Gästehaus unbedingt auf die vorhergehende konsequente Erfüllung des Geistes Mies van der Rohes mit basieren.

Auch dann, wenn wir manchmal unterschiedlicher Auffassung waren, bewunderte ich Ihre Arbeit, die Konsequenz, mit der Sie Ihre Aufgabe lösen und ich achte Ihre Experimente, denn ich bin überzeugt, daß Sie letztlich richtig gehen. Ich glaube weiterhin, daß Sie heute zu den wenigen Architekten gehören, die wirklich gestalten im Sinne von "formen" und nicht arrangieren. (Mies van der Rohe würde nach Ihren Worten "bauen" sagen.) Insofern habe ich auch mein Bild von Mies van der Rohe korrigieren müssen. Er ist gewiß nicht der funktionsbesessene Gestalter, sondern ein Architekt, dem die gestaltete Form "das Anliegen" ist.

In diesem Sinne steht er sicherlich nicht weit entfernt von dem, was uns erwartet und insofern sehe ich die Überschrift im "Forum" "Miesless Johnson" als nicht korrekt an. Vielmehr habe ich den Eindruck, daß Sie sein Werk über das hinaus



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Zum Schreiben B5/WB-Ri/1338

Blatt: 2

an Firma Mr. Philipp Johnson, 375 Park Avenue,  
New York N.Y. / USA

Tag: 27. Mai 1960

weiterführen, was er selber zu gestalten bereit ist.

Bitte korrigieren Sie mich, wenn ich wrong bin.

Das schließt natürlich ein, daß dieses weitergeführte Werk Ihr ureigenstes Werk ist. Ich muß wiederholen, daß ich niemals so stark den Eindruck des Gestalteten im Sinne einer geistig durchdrungenen Gestaltung hatte, wie bei der Betrachtung des Seagram Buildings nach unserer Diskussion und bei der Betrachtung einiger Ihrer Arbeiten und Ihrer Studien.

Was Sie nun mehr interessieren wird, ist die Unterhaltung, die wir mit Mies van der Rohe geführt haben. Leider hatte er nur sehr wenig Zeit, weil er am selben Abend nach Chicago zurückfliegen mußte. Vom ersten Augenblick an, hat - so glaube ich - ein sehr offenes und herzliches Verhältnis zwischen ihm und uns geherrscht. Ich fand, daß er sehr aufgeschlossen war und daß er sich darüber freuen würde, in Deutschland ein Gebäude errichten zu können. Wir haben ihn nach Essen eingeladen und hoffen, ihn im späten Sommer in Deutschland begrüßen zu dürfen. Wie wir dann mit der Bearbeitung des Projektes verfahren werden, wird sich bei diesem Besuch entscheiden. Vorab möchte ich Sie aber ganz unverbindlich fragen, ob Sie evtl. bereit wären, Ihre Gedanken zu dem Projekt skizzenhaft zu Papier zu bringen, ohne daß uns daraus irgendwelche Verbindlichkeiten entstehen würden. Es wäre dadurch eine Möglichkeit gegeben, Sie auch dann noch in der Diskussion zu behalten, wenn wir Mies van der Rohe den Vorauftrag gegeben haben sollten. Ich bitte Sie aber, diese Frage vertraulich zu behandeln und nur an mich persönlich zu beantworten.

Ich hoffe, Sie bestimmt in Deutschland zu sehen, wenn Sie Ihre Reise durchführen sollten. Bitte, unterrichten Sie mich, wann Sie in Europa sein werden.

Noch einmal also herzlichen Dank und viele viele Grüße,

*Hr*  
*Walter Bender*



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MIES VAN DER ROHE CENTENNIAL PROJECT

CROWN HALL · ILLINOIS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY · CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60616 · PHONE (312) 567-3955

E X

Lily Harmon Hirshhorn

151 Central Park West, New York 23, N. Y.

December 3, 1956

Lily Harmon Hirshhorn

151 Central Park West, New York-23, -N.Y.

Bear Phil --

I have been well -- the show has been quite well-received and some red stars bloom on them!

The artists seem to like the paintings and drawings, and some return -- that's always goo, I think.

For me, it is really pleasant, but gruesome because I have a wonderful new idea to work on and want to get to it, full steam.

Joe tells me that your friend and associate, Mr. Wiley, died. I was amazed to hear it and terribly shocked. I do hope that all goes well with you.

I see your building rising and its lines (as far as my opinion is concerned) already make the other skyscrapers on Park Ave. look like work horses trying to step high -- (But yours is a race horse). At has the "beauty of the bone" already -- the extras I can't imagine yet -- but the play of water would be wonderful.

I can hardly wait! Thanks for your kind wishes.

Lily

and

Arthur Drexler  
S. Paul Fung



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MIES VAN DER ROHE CENTENNIAL PROJECT

CROWN HALL • ILLINOIS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY • CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60616 • PHONE (312) 567-3955

Lily Harmon Hirshhorn

151 Central Park West, New York 23, N. Y.

Dear Phil -

NOV 30 1956

I have been well -  
the show has been quite  
well - received and some  
red stars bloom on them!

The artists seem to like  
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Joe tells me that your  
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MIES VAN DER ROHE CENTENNIAL PROJECT

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E X

Lily Harmon Hirshhorn

151 Central Park West, New York 23, N. Y.

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is a race horse). It has  
the "beauty of the bone"  
already - the extras I can't  
imagine yet - but the play  
of water would be wonderful.  
I can hardly wait!  
Thanks for your kind wishes  
Lily

ms



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## MIES VAN DER ROHE CENTENNIAL PROJECT

CROWN HALL • ILLINOIS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY • CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60616 • PHONE (312) 567-3955

### EXHIBITION SUMMARY

The major function of the Centennial at I.I.T. will be the staging of a comprehensive exhibit in June, 1986. This exhibit will focus on Mies' role as educator. It will demonstrate Mies' teaching, directing of student work and development of curricula for architecture from 1930, Bauhaus, Dessau, through 1958, I.I.T., Chicago and will present students' work in the form of drawings, models and photographs, as well as Mies' sketch critiques and drawings.

The exhibit will be installed throughout the main floor of S. R. Crown Hall, internationally acclaimed as one of Mies' finest structures. The exhibit will focus on:

- The formulation of Mies' ideas about architecture through his interpretation of specific historical, philosophical and architectural concepts;
- The teaching of the role and responsibility of an architect as seen through the curriculum, faculty and student work at the Bauhaus and the Illinois Institute of Technology; and
- The impact and continuing influence of Mies' teaching through the expression of his principles in works of his students' buildings from the 1930s to the present.

The exhibit, "Mies van der Rohe: Architect as Educator," will travel to museums and institutions in both North America and abroad. This wide public exposure will hopefully promote a better understanding of the concepts and principles which underly Mies van der Rohe's approach to the training of architects. In turn, this will promote an understanding of the architecture we live with and that which is built today. A major catalog will accompany the exhibit and greatly enhance the existing reference material.



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MIES VAN DER ROHE CENTENNIAL PROJECT

CROWN HALL • ILLINOIS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY • CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60616 • PHONE (312) 567-3955

STRUCTURE

PROJECT DIRECTOR: George Schipporeit  
CURATOR: T. Paul Young  
ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTOR: Rolf Achilles  
PROJECT ASSISTANT: Billie McGrew

UNIVERSITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

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George Danforth

Members: Rolf Achilles  
Peter Beltemacchi  
Harold Bergen  
Heather Bilandic  
Myron Goldsmith  
Archibald McClure  
Nancy Moss  
David Sharpe  
George Schipporeit  
Arthur Takeuchi  
Robert Taylor  
James Vice  
Willard White  
T. Paul Young

CENTENNIAL PLANNING COMMITTEE:

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Members: Rolf Achilles  
George Danforth  
Myron Goldsmith  
David Sharpe  
Arthur Takeuchi  
T. Paul Young



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Page Two

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Roundtable	George Danforth
ACSA Symposium	Rolf Achilles George Schipporeit
Tours	John Vinci, Coordinator Rolf Achilles Kevin Harrington Robert Irving T. Paul Young
MvdR Educator Seminar	To be arranged
International Symposium	ex-officio -- Dirk Lohan, Coordinator
Faculty Advisory	David Sharpe, Chairman College of Architecture, Planning, and Design All Faculty



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**The Architectural League of New York**

invites you to a party and lecture celebrating  
the 100th birthday of

**Ludwig Mies van der Rohe**

**A Champagne Toast by Philip Johnson**

Birthday cake by Eli Zabar of E.A.T.

**Lecture by Franz Schulze**

Mies and the Zeitgeist Question

Franz Schulze is the author of *Mies van der Rohe: A Critical Biography*  
published by The University of Chicago Press

27 March 1986

Party 5:30 pm  
**Seagram Building**  
375 Park Avenue

Lecture 7:00 pm  
**The Urban Center**  
457 Madison Avenue

RSVP 212/980-3767