

NEWS FROM GOOD DESIGN

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART • THE MERCHANDISE MART

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"GOOD DESIGN 1953" EXHIBITION TO OPEN AT MERCHANDISE MART ON THURSDAY, JANUARY 8

DECEMBER 11, 1952 --- The new Selection Committee, appointed by the Museum of Modern Art in New York for "Good Design," has just finished making its choices from among the home furnishings items placed on the market since July 1, to be included in the January Good Design show at The Merchandise Mart. A record number of entries - more than 6,000 - generally of high quality, were presented to the Committee, which selected approximately 275 items to be exhibited, under the joint sponsorship of the Museum and The Mart, starting on Thursday, January 8, during the first week of the market.

The new items will replace those that have been on view at The Mart since last January. They will be installed along with last June's selections in a completely newly designed setting by Alexander Girard, American modern architect and designer well known for his industrial and residential architecture.

The Selection Committee was composed of the permanent Chairman, Edgar Kaufmann, Jr., Director of Good Design; D. J. DeFree, President of Herman Miller Furniture Co., and Russel Wright, noted home furnishings designer. The items they have picked will remain on view on the 11th floor of The Mart throughout 1953, and selections from these and next June's choices will be shown at the Museum in New York in the fall.

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Mr. Kaufmann stated that among the new selections there were about 25 pieces of furniture, only a few of which had black iron frames, a notable decline in the use of this material in furniture as compared with entries to recent Good Design shows.

He said that another apparent change in emphasis of materials was indicated in the more than usual number of items in wood - plates, bowls and the like - showing a tendency towards replacing with wood the previous interest in basketry.

For the first time, Good Design will display no lamps. Although quite a number, extremely varied in design, were presented, none was sufficiently satisfactory to be included.

Eighteen wallpapers are to be shown, the unusually large number being the result of an exceptional interest and co-operation on the part of the industry, an interest which it is hoped may point the way to other industries.

More dining room and kitchen cutlery than usual will be exhibited. Some of the kitchen tools are made with the Wedge-Lock handle, fitted to the hand, designed by Thomas Lamb. These handles were exhibited by the Museum of Modern Art in 1948, but this is the first time since then that they have been seen on consumer goods.