"BUILT IN U.S.A.: POST-WAR ARCHITECTURE" TO BE SHOWN AT MUSEUM

Forty-three buildings selected by the Museum of Modern Art as the most significant examples of modern architecture built in this country since 1914 will be shown in models, photo-murals and 3-dimensional color slides in the exhibition BUILT IN U.S.A.: POST-WAR ARCHITECTURE, which will be on view in the third floor galleries of the Museum, 11 West 53 Street, from January 21 through March 15.

As a permanent record of the Museum's first report on American architecture since its exhibition "Built in U.S.A." held in 1914, a 128-page book with 190 photographs of the buildings in the show will be published at the same time. The book was edited by Henry-Russell Hitchcock of Smith College and Arthur Drexler, Curator of the Museum's Department of Architecture and Design. Philip C. Johnson, Director of the Department, has written a preface to the book.

The buildings, chosen for their importance in the story of American architecture and for their quality as individual works of art were designed by 32 architects and are located in 14 different states. Nineteen private houses are included along with 6 office buildings, 5 apartment houses and dormitories, 4 industrial plants, 4 school buildings, a stadium, a hospital, a music center, a retail store and a chapel (a complete checklist is attached).

The introductory text to the exhibition states that three factors are responsible for what the Museum characterizes as a great post-war flowering of architecture, and for the fact that the battle for modern architecture has long been won. First, a generation of architects trained in schools that no longer teach the traditional styles has now begun to practice. Second, architects like Frank Lloyd Wright and Mies van der Rohe, whose work was first exhibited by the Museum 20 years ago, have recently been finding commissions worthy of their talents. Third, government and industry - most notably America's giant corporations - have become patrons of modern architecture.
Many of the Museum's third floor galleries have been rearranged for the exhibition; all interior walls have been replaced with open partitions of 2x8" studs painted white. The entrance hall is dominated by a 20x14' photo-mural of Frank Lloyd Wright's Hello-Laboratory designed for the Johnson Wax Company in Racine, Wisconsin. Ten-foot-high photo-murals in this section show Mies van der Rohe's new apartment buildings at 860 Lake Shore Drive in Chicago; the United Nations Secretariat designed by Wallace K. Harrison with a board of foreign consultants; Lever House in New York City, designed by Skidmore, Owings and Merrill, and the General Motors Technical Center in Detroit, designed by Saarinen, Saarinen and Associates.

On two sides of this high central hall the ceiling of the galleries has been lowered and the space divided by the open stud partitions. Here each building is shown in a large photograph, in 3-dimensional color slides and in 11 instances by scale models. An explanatory wall label illustrated with small photographs and plans accompanies each photographic enlargement exhibited.

Mr. Johnson, Director of the Museum's Department of Architecture and Design, says in his preface to the book BUILT IN U.S.A. POST-WAR ARCHITECTURE:

...everyone cannot help but agree that the buildings included show a startling development compared with the material of the Museum's 1932 exhibition; and if we think back twenty years to the 1932 exhibition at the Museum the change is more striking. The International Style which Henry-Russell Hitchcock's book of 1932 heralded has ripened, spread and been absorbed by the wide stream of historical progress. Every building in this book would look different if it had not been for the International Style, yet few buildings today recall the rigorous patterns of those days--the cubic boxes with asymmetric window arrangements of the twenties.

The method of selecting the buildings to be included in the exhibition and book is new in the Department's work, as Mr. Johnson also points out in his preface:

In order to make the final selections as representative as possible of current expert opinion the Museum appointed an Advisory Committee...to sharpen the specific flavor of the selection, we felt that the final responsibility of choice should rest with one judge. For that judge we chose Professor Henry-Russell Hitchcock of Smith College, the leading historian of modern architecture in this country.
Checklist for exhibition and book,
BUILT IN USA: POSTWAR ARCHITECTURE

Aalto, Alvar & Co. - Senior dormitory, MIT, Cambridge, Mass., 1948
Acko, R.L., & Assoc. - Football stadium, Henry Grady High School, Atlanta, Ga., 1948
Ain, Gregory - Wilfong house, Los Angeles, Calif., 1952
Barnes, Edward L. - Weiner house, Fort Worth, Texas, 1952
Bartholome, Donald, & Assoc. - West Columbia Elementary School, West Columbia, Texas, 1952
Belluschi, Pietro - Equitable Building, Portland, Ore., 1948
Breuer, Marcel - Co-operative dormitory, Vassar College, Poughkeepsie, N.Y., 1951
Breuer, Marcel - Caesar house, Lakeville, Conn., 1952
Corbett, Mario - Thomas house, Vina, Calif., 1952
Daily, Gardner, A. & Assoc. - Red Cross building, San Francisco, Calif., 1948
Eames, Charles - Case study house, Santa Monica, Calif., 1949
Ferguson, H.K., Co. - Bluebonnet Plant, Corpus Christi, Texas, 1949
Harris, Harwell H. - Johnson house, Los Angeles, Calif., 1951
Harrison, Wallace K., etc. - Alcoa Building, Pittsburgh, Pa., 1952
Harrison, Wallace K., etc. - UN Secretariat, N.Y., 1950
Johanson, John MacL. - Own house, New Canaan, Conn., 1949
Johnson, Philip C. - Own house (glass house), New Canaan, Conn., 1949
Johnson, Philip C. - Hodgson house, New Canaan, Conn., 1952
Kennedy, Koch, DeMars, etc. - 100 Memorial Drive apartment house, Cambridge, Mass., 1950
Kump, Ernest J. - San Jose High School, San Jose, Calif., 1952
Lyndon, Maynard - Vista Elementary School, Vista, Calif., 1950
Mendelssohn, Eric - Maimonides Health Center, San Francisco, Calif., 1950
Mies van der Rohe, Ludwig - Farnsworth house, Plano, Ill., 1950
Mies van der Rohe, Ludwig - 860 Lake Shore Drive apartment house, Chicago, Ill., 1951
Mies van der Rohe, Ludwig - Boiler Plant, Illinois Institute of Technology, Chicago, Ill., 1950
Neutra, Richard & Tremaine house, Montecito, Calif., 1949
Polevitsky, Igor - Heller house, Miami, Fla., 1949
Saarinen, Saarinen & Assoc. - General Motors Technical Center, Detroit, Mich., 1951
Saarinen, Swanson & Saarinen - Berkshire Music Center opera shed, Stockbridge, Mass., 1947
Schweikher & Elting - Upton house, Paradise Valley, Ariz., 1950
Skidmore, Owings & Merrill - Lever House, N.Y. City, 1952
Skidmore, Owings & Merrill - Garden apartments, Oak Ridge, Tenn., 1950
Soleri P. & Mills M. - Desert house, Gavo Creek, Ariz., 1951
Soriano, Raphael - Case study house for "Arts & Architecture," Los Angeles, Calif., 1950
Twitchell R. & Rudolph P. - Siogrist house, Venice, Fla., 1949
Twitchell R. & Rudolph P. - Healy house, Sarasota, Fla., 1950
Wright, Frank Lloyd - Holio-Laboratory for Johnson Wax Co., Racine, Wis., 1949
Wright, Frank Lloyd - V.C. Morris store, San Francisco, Calif., 1949
Wright, Frank Lloyd - Jacobs house, Madison, Wis., 1948
Wright, Frank Lloyd - Friedman house, Pleasantville, N.Y., 1949
Wright, Lloyd - Wayfarers' Chapel, Palos Verdes, Calif., 1951
Yeon, John - Visitors' Information Center, Portland, Ore., 1949