

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

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FOR RELEASE: WEDNESDAY
August 18, 1954

No. 71

PRESS PREVIEW: TUESDAY
August 17, 1954; 2 - 5 p.m.

THE MODERN MOVEMENT IN ITALY: ARCHITECTURE AND DESIGN NOW ON VIEW AT THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

The variety and vitality which have won worldwide recognition for contemporary Italian architects and designers are surveyed in THE MODERN MOVEMENT IN ITALY: ARCHITECTURE AND DESIGN, an exhibition on view at the Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, from August 18 through September 6. The exhibition, consisting of photographic enlargements and plans, was organized under the direction of the Museum's Department of Circulating Exhibitions by Ada Louise Huxtable. It contains much new material gathered by her expressly for this purpose while on a Fulbright Fellowship in Italy.

This is one of several architectural exhibitions prepared by the Museum under its International Program, made possible by a grant from the Rockefeller Brothers Fund to encourage the exchange of art exhibitions between the United States and other countries.

Following its New York showing, THE MODERN MOVEMENT IN ITALY will be on view at the University of Minnesota, the University of Illinois, the Portland (Oregon) Art Museum and the M. H. De Young Museum in San Francisco. It has already been seen in two leading Museums in Canada as well as in Massachusetts, New Jersey, and Kentucky.

Fine decorative sense, feeling for color, material and pattern, and willingness to experiment and invent have characterized the Italian contribution to postwar architecture and design. This exhibition demonstrates that these qualities stem from a logical and continuing growth during the past quarter century. The work of the 1920s and 30s is represented through examples by such pioneers of the modern movement as Giuseppe Terragni, Pietro Lingeri, Luigi Figini and Gino Pollini. The section entitled "Architecture and the State" shows the imaginative solutions achieved in government sponsored buildings and competitions during the 30s and 40s.

Italy's outstanding contribution in the field of reinforced concrete engineering is shown through the work of Pier Luigi Nervi. His ingenious constructions, including a salt warehouse, wool and tobacco factories, and the Turin Exposition Hall, are considered among the most significant new architectural forms of our day.

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Another section of the exhibition is devoted to the integrated design program of the Olivetti Company, manufacturers of typewriters and office machines. Their enlightened commercial sponsorship has resulted in distinguished designs for their products, advertising, shops, factories and buildings to house their employees. The special inventive ingenuity of the Italian talent for display is shown through examples of shops and expositions by such pace-setting designers as Franco Albini, Ignazio Gardella, Angelo Bianchetti and Paolo Chessa.

Houses, stations, markets and monuments are among the buildings included in the section devoted to postwar architecture. Since the Italian architect practices in all fields, he is responsible for interior and industrial design as well as for buildings. This phase of his work in the postwar period is illustrated in the exhibition through photographs of furniture, lamps, decorative objects, tableware and industrial products.