

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

11 WEST 53 STREET, NEW YORK 19, N. Y.

TELEPHONE: CIRCLE 5-8900

September 30, 1958

DESCRIPTION OF THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

11 West 53 Street, main building

21 West 53 Street, Grace Rainey Rogers Annex

23 - 25 West 53 Street, (former Theater Guild Building)

11 West 53 Street. Architects: Philip L. Goodwin, Edward D. Stone, Associate. 19

Plot has 129-foot frontage that extends 190 feet through to south side of 54th Street. Six-story building covers 90 feet of the depth of the area.

Construction

Reinforced concrete. Floors are divided into 25 foot square bays measured from centers of columns. All floors of poured concrete slab with different finishes or coverings applied directly to the concrete.

Facade

White Georgia marble and blue terra cotta tiles. Stainless steel and plate glass form ground floor front and garden facades.

Underground floors - three

Auditorium for film showings (twice daily), lectures, etc. Wide screen.

Stage footage 600 sq. ft. 496 seats.

Exhibition gallery. 2400 sq. ft.

Recording and packing area for receiving and shipping 3500 works of art annually.

Sculpture storeroom.

Photography studio.

Carpenters workshop - framing, matting, sculpture bases, etc.

Offices of production manager and engineers, employees lockers, mechanical equipment.

Ground floor - 11 West 53

Main lobby and public entrance to galleries.

Luminous ceiling - two large planes of light, 16 x 40' and 36 x 20'.

Wall covering - washable white plastic

Desk, book display and sales)

Desk, general information) designed by Philip C. Johnson in collaboration with Jens Risom

Desk, membership information)

Checkroom facilities, expanded

Furniture - couches designed by Charles Eames for Henry Miller

Signs - Elaine Lustig

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Exhibition galleries - 2000 sq. ft.

Partitions - movable steel studding and sheet rock sheathing, can be painted like plaster.

Lighting - adjustable troughs designed by Edison Price.

Floors - vinyl plastic tile

Ceilings - plaster

Second floor - 11 West 53**Exhibition galleries - 8700 sq. ft.**

Display of selections from the Museum Collections. Specifications same as first floor

Third floor - 11 West 53**Exhibition galleries - 10,500 sq. ft.**

Display of loan shows and sculpture from the Museum Collection. Specifications same as first floor.

West Stairway - (access to first, second and third floor exhibition galleries.)

Translucent fiberglass curtain designed by Marie Nichols

Lighting - Edison Price

Floor - terrazzo

East stairway - (access to all six floors of main building)

Recently constructed to handle increased traffic

Follows architectural characteristics of garden facade, faced with similar gray glazed brick. Projects into garden terrace 23 x 26'.

Windowless, lit by skylight; interior walls - white plaster.

Fourth floor - 11 West and 21 West

Library, photo archives, periodical room - 125,000 items

Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Print Room - more than 10,000 items

Conservation and Restoration Laboratory

Film Library: offices; projection room - 40 seats; storage - 500,000 stills

Membership office

Publicity office

Typography and poster production

Fifth floor - 11 West and 21 West**Offices**

Director

Exhibitions and Publications

Department of Painting and Sculpture Exhibitions

Department of Collections

Architecture and Design

Treasurer

more

Registrar

Publications production

Sixth floor - 11 West; and 21 West

Members Penthouse cafeteria

Committee Meeting Room

Assistant Secretary's office

Art Lending Service Gallery

Junior Council office

21 West 53 Street. Philip C. Johnson, Architect. 1951. Plot 20 x 118'.

Office entrance

21 Lobby - reception desk by Gerald Luss for Lehigh Furniture

S Floor (21 building only) - storage of paintings from Museum Collection

2nd & 3rd floors - People's Art Center classrooms and workshop - over 1800 students annually, including summer classes on Long Island

4th, 5th, and 6th floors connect with 11 West 53: are described above.

23 & 25 West 53 Street. Former Theater Guild building. Plot 25 x 93'. Acquired 1956; interior alterations, 1958. Entrance through 21 Building.

Underground -

Publication storage and mail order operations

Mail room for Museum offices

Storage - production department; sculpture

Ground floor

Poster Collection storage

Viewing room - works of art temporarily on premises

Second floor

Education Department offices

Photography Department: offices; storage collection - more than 3000 items

Third floor

International Program offices

International Council offices

Fourth floor

Storage rooms for Design Collection, Library and Film Library

Employee's Lounge

Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Sculpture Garden. Philip C. Johnson, Architect. 1953. South side of 54 Street. 110 x 202'.

Garden Restaurant. Philip C. Johnson, Architect. 1954.

Adjoins sculpture garden on west.

100 x 25' terrace

Seating capacity - indoors 78 seats, on terrace 80

Museum buildings are air conditioned throughout.

The latest smoke detection equipment is installed throughout.

Further information available from Elizabeth Shaw, Publicity Director, Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, New York 19. Circle 5-8900.

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October 6, 1958

GUIDE TO BUILDING AND EXHIBITIONS

Basement

Auditorium gallery - ARCHITECTURE WORTH SAVING

Auditorium - daily film showings, 3:00 and 5:30 p.m. (will resume Wednesday)

First Floor

Galleries - PHILIP L. GOODWIN COLLECTION

WORKS OF ART: GIVEN OR PROMISED

Publication sales desk

General information desk

Membership information desk

Checkroom facilities

Garden restaurant - Refreshments served during the evening.

Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Sculpture Garden

Sculpture from the Museum Collection

Newly constructed circulation stairway - access to all six floors of main building.

Second Floor

Galleries - PAINTINGS AND PRINTS FROM THE MUSEUM COLLECTION

Third Floor

Galleries - JEAN ARP: A RETROSPECTIVE

Fourth and Fifth Floors

Library, Print Room and Offices - not open this evening.

Sixth Floor

Members' Penthouse - Refreshments served during the evening.

[Art Lending Service - not open this evening]