

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Museum of Modern Art, 14 West 49 Street, announces that on Wednesday, March 16, it will open to the public two new exhibitions: Furniture and Architecture by Alvar Aalto, and Drawings of the War in Spain by Luis Quintanilla. These exhibitions will be on view through Monday, April 18.

The Exhibition of Furniture and Architecture by Alvar Aalto presents the first American survey of the work of the Finnish architect, who is recognized as one of the most important and original modern architects and furniture designers of the past decade. The exhibition includes enlarged photographs, air views, drawings, and models of Aalto's architecture and a detailed study of four of his finest buildings: a sanatorium, a library, the architect's own house in Helsingfors, and the Finnish Pavilion which he designed for the Paris 1937 Exposition.

The other section of the exhibition is composed of 40 or 50 pieces of furniture, largely in plywood, designed by Aalto and manufactured under his supervision. It includes a variety of chairs designed to meet the specific characteristics of various "types" of sitting. Aalto has made a study of various sitting postures and has designed chairs at different angles and slopes to be particularly suitable for dining, reading, lounging, working and sitting in school, theatre, etc. In addition to chairs, tables, tea trolleys and desks, a complete set of nursery furniture will be shown. The furniture section also includes glassware and lighting fixtures which Aalto designed for the Paris 1937 Exposition and several of his abstract wood designs used as wall decorations.

In the catalog of the Aalto exhibition, published by the Museum of Modern Art, there is an article by Simon Breines on the architecture of Aalto which gives detailed descriptions and analyses of the architect's four most important buildings. Also included in the catalog is an article by A. Lawrence Kocher, Editor

of the Architectural Record, on Aalto's design, theory, and practice in the manufacture of modern wood furniture. The particular features of Aalto's work described and analyzed in the two articles are made visually clear by many illustrations.

The foreword of the catalog, by John McAndrew, the Museum's Curator of Architecture and Industrial Art, says in part:

"Aalto's designs are the result of the complete reconciliation of a relentless functionalist's conscience with a fresh and personal sensibility. This reconciliation demands tact, imagination and a sure knowledge of technical means; careful study of Aalto's buildings show all three in abundance.... In his furniture, the audacious manipulation of wood might be thought bravura were it not always justified by the physical properties of the material. As in his architecture, Aalto's designs are a result of the same combination of sound construction, suitability to use and sense of style.... A major distinction of the furniture is its cheapness. Low-cost housing of good modern design has been produced for the last fifteen years; now, probably for the first time, a whole line of good modern furniture is approaching an inexpensive price level."

Lenders to the exhibition include the following:

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