MUSEUM TO PUBLISH MONOGRAPH ON BREUER'S FURNITURE AND INTERIORS
IN CONJUNCTION WITH EXHIBITION

Marcel Breuer: Furniture and Interiors, a monograph written by
Christopher Wilk, Guest Curator, with an introduction by J. Stewart Johnson,
Curator of Design at the Museum, will give a complete account of the seminal
contributions of one of the twentieth century's best-known and most influential
designers. It will be published in conjunction with the exhibition of the
same title, on view from July 25 through September 15, 1981. The 192-page
book will also contain 201 illustrations.

Breuer's architecture has already received much attention, but despite
the worldwide popularity of his tubular steel chairs, the full story of their
development and that of his long career as a designer have yet to be told. Wilk's
monograph examines how Breuer's Bauhaus training led to the breakthrough in
design which produced his revolutionary tubular steel furniture. The text
traces Breuer's work in Berlin in the late 1920s, in Zurich in the early 1930s,
his transplanting to England in 1935 where he experimented with molded plywood
furniture, and his move to the United States in 1937, where he taught at
Harvard and worked with Walter Gropius, his mentor and the first Director of
the Bauhaus. Throughout this entire period, Wilk demonstrates, Breuer was
not only designing furniture, but using it as an integral part of his
interiors.

"The extent of Breuer's achievement by the age of twenty-eight
was one of the most remarkable aspects of his career," writes Wilk.

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"For if we knew only what he accomplished up to 1930, it would still remain one of the most significant bodies of work in twentieth-century design.... Through his intuitive sense of design and his intimate knowledge of materials," adds Wilk, "he was able to create furniture and interiors that rose above the level of decoration or function and achieved a beauty and timelessness that put them among the significant accomplishments of twentieth-century art."

Marcel Breuer: Furniture and Interiors contains a bibliography and appendices, one of which is a translation of Breuer's important 1931 lecture "The House Interior." The volume is being published by The Museum of Modern Art in a clothbound edition at $22.50 and a paperbound edition at $12.50.

For further information, please contact Luisa Kreisberg, Director, (212) 956-2648, or Sharon Zane, Associate Director, 956-7295, Department of Public Information, The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, New York, NY 10019

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