

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

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

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MUSEUM EXHIBITS ARCHITECTURAL MODELS AND PLANS,

"FROM LE CORBUSIER TO NIEMEYER"

A small architectural exhibition, "From Le Corbusier to Niemeyer: Savoye House - Tremaine House 1949," will be on view in the north-west gallery on the first floor of the Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, from February 15 through April 17, 1949. This exhibition, assembled by the Museum's Department of Architecture and Industrial Design, will show the influence of the work of the pioneer Swiss architect, Le Corbusier, on that of the important Brazilian architect of the younger generation, Oscar Niemeyer.

The theme of this show is based on Henry-Russell Hitchcock's book on the Miller Collection of abstract art, "Painting Toward Architecture." Models and drawings of two homes, designed twenty years apart, will demonstrate one facet in the development of contemporary architecture. One of the classics of modern building, Le Corbusier's Savoye house, begun in 1929 in Poissy-sur-Seine, France, and completed in 1931, represented its architect's concept of the rectangular prism, raised above the ground, in its purest form. Oscar Niemeyer's project for the Burton Tremaine house, designed in 1948-49 and intended for a California location, is a brilliant reinterpretation of that concept. The other examples chosen for the exhibition will demonstrate the influence of the abstract movement in painting and sculpture on the forms of these houses. The 1920 still life painting by Le Corbusier, shown together with the model of the Savoye house, will illustrate the carry-over of the rigidly geometric rectangles and precisely controlled curves of purist painting to the plan of a building designed for use. This extreme formalism was, in turn, modified by the free form shapes to be seen in the 1938-39 relief by Jean Arp. These forms, originally conceived by Arp in 1934-35, found their way into architectural expression through the imaginative garden plans of Roberto Burle-Marx, the Brazilian landscape architect who, in turn, collaborated with Oscar Niemeyer on the Tremaine house. The Tremaine house itself represents today's architectural synthesis of these two important twentieth-century stylistic trends: the formalistic geometry of Le Corbusier and the free form anthropomorphic shapes of Arp.

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