

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

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FOR WEDNESDAY RELEASE

MODERN WAR MEMORIAL TO BE EXHIBITED BY MUSEUM

A large model of an unusual type of war memorial will go on view at the Museum of Modern Art on January 18. Designed by Percival Goodman and proposed for a site on Riverside Drive which has already been dedicated to the six million Jews who were killed in Europe, the memorial is planned as a place for outdoor services as well as a permanent monument. The model is of wood and plaster, $41\frac{1}{2}$ inches wide, $60\frac{1}{2}$ inches long and $19\frac{1}{2}$ inches high.

The design of the memorial will make use of the same kind of granite already used in the paths on the site. Mr. Goodman has created a large flagstoned area ending at the south in a long wall which screens off the disturbing south view. This wall would serve as a background for memorial services. At a point on the site nearest the highway which can be seen by the 100,000 cars which pass in a day will be placed the highest and most clearly symbolic element of the design, the Menorah. This is a large sculpture of a seven branched candelabrum of bronze, mounted on a high pyramidal stone base.

Raised from the face of the south wall are the words:

THUS SAITH THE LORD GOD UNTO THESE BONES:
"O YE DRY BONES, HEAR THE WORD OF THE LORD
BEHOLD, I WILL CAUSE BREATH TO ENTER INTO
YOU, AND YE SHALL LIVE."

And on the back of the wall:

IN MEMORY OF SIX MILLION MEN, WOMEN AND CHILDREN KILLED
BECAUSE THEY WERE JEWS, 1939 - 1945. ERECTED BY 8,000,000
JEWS OF AMERICA, THEIR KIN.

To show the model in its proposed setting the Museum will also exhibit two photo-montages of the design placed on the site. A rendering will illustrate the monument as it would be used in a memorial service. A descriptive wall text by the poet Paul Goodman, brother of the architect, will introduce the visitor to the exhibition.

Philip C. Johnson, Director of the Museum's Department of Architecture and Design, has made the following statement:

"There are very few good modern war memorials. There were practically none after World War I, and judging by the latest crop of such designs World War II may not produce very many good ones either. The memorial designed by Percival Goodman and proposed for a site on Riverside Drive is probably one of the best monuments of this kind to have been developed in this country in recent years. It is dignified and in its simplicity extremely striking, and we hope that it represents a new trend in a field in which virtually no noticeable advances have been made for many years."

W. H. A. P. R. K. L.