

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

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

TELEPHONE: CIRCLE 5-8900

Basic List

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To: City Editors

Photo Editors

If you are interested in photographing the unpacking of some of the cases described below we will be glad to make arrangements for the Japanese architect and craftsmen to be available anytime Monday, March 15. Please call Elizabeth Shaw, Acting Publicity Director, Museum of Modern Art, Circle 5 - 8900.

Six hundred and thirty-six crates containing a full size Japanese house and garden have arrived from Japan and are now being unpacked in the outdoor exhibition area of the Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, where the house will be re-assembled and open to the public by the middle of June.

This will be the second time the house has been built. It was first erected in Japan this fall and its completion celebrated in a ceremony by a Shinto priest. It was then taken apart and packed for shipment to America. Although the materials of the building are new, its design is based on 16th and 17th century prototypes.

Junzo Yoshimura, well-known Japanese architect who designed the house, is in New York with three craftsmen to supervise the re-assembly of the thousands of pieces which must be fitted together. The stones which will be used in the garden around the house were specially selected from the mountains near Kyoto. Each piece of wood in the house was wrapped in paper and marked with a number before being crated in order to simplify re-assembly.

The exhibition is sponsored by the America-Japan Society in Tokyo and private citizens who are presenting the house to the Museum of Modern Art, which in turn arranged the transportation of the house on the Barber Steamship Company's SS Tungus to New York and its re-assembly here. Mr. Arthur Drexler, Curator of the Museum's Department of Architecture and director of this exhibition, is preparing a book, JAPANESE ARCHITECTURE, which will be published by the Museum when the exhibition opens. Natalie Hoyt is directing the re-assembly for the Museum.