

# THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

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

TELEPHONE: CIRCLE 5-8900

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## FIRST SHOWING OF MUSEUM'S DESIGN COLLECTION IN NEW YORK

For the first time the entire range of the Museum of Modern Art's Design Collection will be shown in this country, when more than 300 examples of furniture, accessories and equipment from Europe and America go on view at the Museum, 11 West 53 Street, New York, on June 4. Unlike previous design shows, which generally have been confined to a particular phase of modern history, or to selections from current production, this exhibition will survey the past 60 years, up to and including the present. On view through August 17, it will afford the public its first opportunity to see the Museum's selection of the best and most significant design of the 20th century.

Included will be such famous works as the Thonet chairs of the late 19th century; Art Nouveau furniture by Hector Guimard (designer of the Paris Metro station entrances); objects that have had special significance in the history of design, such as Gerritt Rietveld's De Stijl chair; and many of the best mass-produced objects typical of the 20th century, among them plastic containers, machine tools and electronic equipment.

In size and value the objects will range from small inexpensive items to costly silver, glass and furniture. Some of the furniture and accessories are examples of excellent work currently sold in retail stores, some are specialized equipment seldom seen by the public, and some are turn-of-the-century predecessors of modern design. The criteria for their inclusion in the Museum Design Collection were quality and historical significance, regardless of price or current market availability.

The exhibition will be organized by Arthur Drexler, Director of the Department of Architecture and Design, and Greta Daniel, Associate Curator of Design. At the same time the Museum will publish a handbook illustrating the entire Design Collection, including objects not on view due to space limitations.

The only other extensive showing of the Museum's Design Collection was prepared by the Department of Architecture and Design for exhibition in Tokyo and other Japanese cities during 1957, under the auspices of the Museum's International Program.

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Additional information and photographs available from Elizabeth Shaw, Publicity Director, Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, New York. CI 5-8900