

# The Museum of Modern Art

11 West 53 Street, New York, N.Y. 10019 Tel. 956-6100 Cable: Modernart

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## ADVANCE FACT SHEET

EXHIBITION: RECENT ACQUISITIONS: ARCHITECTURE AND DESIGN

DATES: The Museum of Modern Art, August 4 - September 30, 1979

DIRECTOR: J. Stewart Johnson, Curator of Design

LOCATION: Goodwin Galleries, 2nd Floor

CONTENTS: This exhibition, which includes selected items acquired by the Museum's Department of Architecture and Design since 1976, presents a wide range of objects made in a variety of materials, both by craft and industrial processes, and spanning a hundred years of design history. The earliest pieces in the show are two works by the nineteenth-century English designer Christopher Dresser: a tall glass pitcher with silver and ebony mounts and a tureen and ladle also in silver and ebony. These very "forward-looking" (in Mr. Johnson's words) objects evidence the influence of Dresser's 1876 trip to Japan where he studied the various peasant arts. A parasol handle by the great French Art Nouveau designer and architect Hector Guimard was originally designed by him for his wife. Josef Hoffmann, one of the founders of the Wiener Werkstatte, is represented by a set of iridescent liqueur glasses and by an 8-piece silver place setting. An oval table in the exhibition by the famed Scots designer and architect Charles Rennie Mackintosh was designed by him for one of his most famous buildings, Hill House.

Otto Wagner designed the two pieces of bentwood furniture featured in the exhibition for his 1904 Postsparkasse (Postal Savings Bank) in Vienna. Also on view is the side board designed by Dutch architect Gerrit Rietveld in 1919, the year he became associated with de Stijl. The flat boards and sticks which form the unit make an abstract composition of lines and planes, like a three-dimensional Mondrian. Louis C. Tiffany's hanging lamp from his own dining room and furniture by Marcel Breuer and by Eileen Gray, the uncompromising modernist designer

who will be the subject of a major exhibition at the Museum in February 1980, may be seen as well. There is also an example of Russian Suprematist ceramics by Nikolai Suetin.

The exhibition features Richard Riemerschmid's 1899 armchair, long thought to have been destroyed and only recently discovered in Amsterdam by Mr. Johnson. It will be displayed together with Edward J. Wormley's 1951 version, recreated by Mr. Wormley from a photograph of the original.

Among the contemporary work in the exhibition is a wall hanging woven from strips of microfilm by Arturo Sandoval, a glass vase by the young designer Thomas J. Patti, chairs by Niels Bendtsen and Gaetano Pesce, lamps by Isamu Noguchi and Vico Magistretti, and strikingly different designs for hi-fi equipment by Jakob Jensen and Mario Bellini.

RECENT ACQUISITIONS: ARCHITECTURE AND DESIGN also includes Mies van der Rohe's structural model for his Chicago Convention Hall project of 1953 and a rare architectural drawing by Arturo Sant'Elia, the visionary Italian Futurist, which has been placed on extended loan in the Department.

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For further information, please contact Luisa Kreisberg, Director, (212) 956-2648, or Bruce Wolmer, (212) 956-7298, the Department of Public Information, The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, New York, New York 10019.