## TIGHT BINDING

# MARCEL BREUER

July 25-September 15, 1981 The Museum of Modern Art 11 West 53 Street New York, New York 10019 FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE NO. 41

## MUSEUM TO PUBLISH MONOGRAPH ON BREUER'S FURNITURE AND INTERIORS IN CONJUNCTION WITH EXHIBITION

<u>Marcel Breuer: Furniture and Interiors</u>, a monograph written by Christopher Wilk, Guest Curator, with an introduction by J. Stewart Johnson, Curator of Design at the Museum, will give a complete account of the seminal contributions of one of the twentieth century's best-known and most influential designers. It will be published in conjunction with the exhibition of the same title, on view from July 25 through September 15, 1981. The 192-page book will also contain 201 illustrations.

Breuer's architecture has already received much attention, but despite the worldwide popularity of his tubular steel chairs, the full story of their development and that of his long career as a designer have yet to be told. Wilk's monograph examines how Breuer's Bauhaus training led to the breakthrough in design which produced his revolutionary tubular steel furniture. The text traces Breuer's work in Berlin in the late 1920s, in Zurich in the early 1930s, his transplanting to England in 1935 where he experimented with molded plywood furniture, and his move to the United States in 1937, where he taught at Harvard and worked with Walter Gropius, his mentor and the first Director of the Bauhaus. Throughout this entire period, Wilk demonstrates, Breuer was not only designing furniture, but using it as an integral part of his

interiors.

"The extent of Breuer's achievement by the age of twenty-eight was one of the most remarkable aspects of his career," writes Wilk.

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### NO. 41

"For if we knew only what he accomplished up to 1930, it would still remain one of the most significant bodies of work in twentieth-century design.... Through his intuitive sense of design and his intimate knowledge of materials," adds Wilk, "he was able to create furniture and interiors that rose above the level of decoration or function and achieved a beauty and timelessness that put them among the significant accomplishments of twentieth-century art."

<u>Marcel Breuer: Furniture and Interiors</u> contains a bibliography and appendices, one of which is a translation of Breuer's important 1931 lecture "The House Interior." The volume is being published by The Museum of Modern Art in a clothbound edition at \$22.50 and a paperbound edition at \$12.50.

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For further information, please contact Luisa Kreisberg, Director, (212) 956-2648, or Sharon Zane, Associate Director, 956-7295, Department of Public Information, The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, New York, NY 10019

Page 2