

# THE MUSEUM OF MODERN<sup>2</sup> ART

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

TELEPHONE: CIRCLE 5-8900

## Architecture and Design Acquisitions - 1960

### Mies van der Rohe - project for a huge Convention Hall in Chicago

Important gifts to the Museum's architecture collection are the model and a large montage for a huge Convention Hall in Chicago, designed by Ludwig Mies van der Rohe in 1954. This unexecuted project equals in importance Mies' earlier studies for glass skyscrapers and freely planned interior spaces.

The model shows a building 750 feet square, its roof completely supported by columns along its perimeter. The roof is a steel truss of laterally braced coffer, 30 feet square and 30 feet deep. The building's exterior wall, itself a truss, is divided into triangular panels of contrasting colors. The roof spans a distance somewhat greater than that between Fifth Avenue and Seventh Avenue in New York, and the vast area beneath it, uninterrupted by columns, is equipped for mass meetings. The Convention Hall demonstrates perhaps even more dramatically than any of the architect's buildings executed in America, Mies van der Rohe's development of form from structure alone.

Accompanying the model is a montage showing a view of the interior as it would appear in use. The montage is composed of color pages from LIFE magazine showing the 1952 Republican Convention; black and white photo enlargements from a model, showing the roof truss; pieces of marbled paper and a cloth American flag.

Both the model and the montage are the gifts of the architect and were executed by graduate students of the Illinois Institute of Technology under his direction.

### Recent trends and a great Tiffany collection

The gift of almost 150 glass and other objects designed by Louis Comfort Tiffany, makes the Museum's Tiffany holdings one of the major museum collections of its kind in the world.

The newly acquired collection is the gift of Joseph H. Heil given in memory of his father Joseph S. Heil.

Outstanding among this group are about twenty vases shaped like fantastic flowers many of them indicative of the concepts and style of Art Nouveau, the movement which prepared the way for the art of the 20th century. Other pieces show Tiffany's free

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and personal interpretation of Japanese forms and techniques.

Metal objects include bronze candelsticks and a floor lamp in the shape of a lily pad sprouting twelve blossoms in gold iridescent glass on long slender stalks. A four panel window consists of seascapes in three-dimensional layers of multicolored glass.

Other objects in the exhibition represent currently significant trends of design here and abroad. Among these a cocktail shaker, an ashtray and two forks by the Austrian designer Carl Auböck directly continue the Bauhaus tradition of simple geometric design. The highest standards of current European industrial design are represented by three appliances made by Max Braun, Germany. These are a photo flash attachment, a juice press and a portable heater in each of which complex mechanical parts are housed in compact, clearly related shapes.

Three important additions made to the Design Collections' group of chairs are a large square armchair designed by Le Corbusier in 1927, a sofa that can be transformed into a bed, designed by the Finnish architect Alvar Aalto in 1930 (both given by Mrs. Phyllis B. Lambert) and Charles Eames' large lounge chair and ottoman of 1957, given by the Herman Miller Furniture Company. This is one of the very few modern designs intended specifically to give maximum comfort for people of all sizes and shapes.

A group of European desk accessories, vases, ashtrays, etc. is the gift of the Chase Manhattan Bank in appreciation for advice given by the Department of Architecture and Design of sources for such objects used in the furnishing of their new building.

This section of the Recent Acquisitions exhibition was selected by the Department of Architecture and Design of which Arthur Drexler is Director. Greta Daniel is Associate Curator with particular responsibility for the design collection.

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No. 146

## RECENT ACQUISITIONS: ARCHITECTURE AND DESIGN COLLECTION December 21, 1960 - February 12, 1961

### DESIGN:

ARM CHAIR. 1927. Chrome-plated tubular steel frame; leather and down seat and back and side cushions.  
Designer: LeCorbusier (Charles-Edouard Jeanneret), French, born Switzerland, 1888.  
In collaboration with Pierre Jeanneret and Charlotte Perriand.  
Mfr: Heidi Weber, Switzerland.  
Gift of Phyllis B. Lambert.

SOFA-BED. 1930. Chrome-plated tubular steel frame; handwoven white wool.  
Designer: Alvar Aalto, Finnish, born 1898.  
Mfr: Wohnbedarf, A. G., Switzerland.  
Phyllis B. Lambert Fund.

LOUNGE CHAIR and OTTOMAN. c. 1957. Molded plywood shells of rosewood; aluminum swivel bases; leather and down seat and back cushions.  
Designer: Charles Eames, American, born 1907.  
Mfr: The Herman Miller Furniture Co., U. S. A.  
Gift of the manufacturer.

TAPESTRY. 1959. Wool, handwoven.  
Designer-craftsman: Sheila Hicks, American.  
Philip C. Johnson Fund.

TWO SAUCERS. 1914. White porcelain painted with designs after Suprematist compositions by Kasimir Malevich, Russian, born 1878. Porcelain from the former Imperial Porcelain Factory, Russia.  
Anonymous gift and Extended Loan.

BOWL. 1938. Basse-taille enamel on copper.  
Designer-craftsman: Hortense B. Isenberg, American.  
Purchase.

BOWL. 1953. Handformed Majolica, glazed.  
Designer-craftsman: Fausto Melotti, Italian.  
Phyllis B. Lambert Fund.

CIGARETTE CONTAINER. Cherry bark-covered wood.  
Contemporary Japanese craft from Craft Center, Kamakura, Japan.  
Gift of Bonniers, Inc., New York.

VASE. c. 1958. Handthrown pottery.  
Designer-craftsman: Hans Coper, English.  
Philip C. Johnson Fund.

VASE. 1960. Translucent crystal.  
Designer: Ward Bennett, American.  
Mfr: Salviati & Co., Italy.  
Gift of Chase Manhattan Bank, New York.

VASE. 1960. Polished crystal.  
Designer: Ward Bennett, American.  
Mfr: Salviati & Co., Italy.  
Gift of Chase Manhattan Bank, New York.

PAPER WEIGHT. 1955. Polished lens glass; nickel.  
Designer: Robert Dumas, French (adapted by Ward Bennett, American, 1960).  
Mfr: Hermès, France.  
Gift of Chase Manhattan Bank, New York.

PAPER WEIGHT. 1959. Smoke-colored plastic; iron ball.  
Designer: Enzo Mari, Italian.  
Mfr: Danese, Italy.  
Gift of Chase Manhattan Bank, New York.

PAPER WEIGHT. 1959. Clear and opaque plastic.  
Designer: Enzo Mari, Italian.  
Mfr: Danese, Italy.  
Gift of Chase Manhattan Bank, New York.

WATCH FACE (patented design). 1947. Applied to conventional wrist watch.  
Designer: Nathan George Horwitt, American.  
Gift of the designer.  
Numerals eliminated. Single dot indicates position of number 12.

STEM GLASSES. 1955-58. Hand-blown crystal.  
Designer: Claus Joseph Riedel, Austrian.  
Mfr: Tiroler Glashütte-C. J. Riedel K. G., Austria.  
Philip C. Johnson Fund.

COCKTAIL GLASS. 1957. Crystal.  
Designer: Timo Sarpaneva, Finnish.  
Mfr: Karhula-Tittala, Finland.  
Phyllis B. Lambert Fund.

COVERED SERVING DISH. 1957. Stainless steel, palisander wood.  
Designer: Magnus Stephensen, Danish.  
Mfr: Georg Jensen Ltd., Denmark.  
Phyllis B. Lambert Fund.

WINE BOTTLE STAND. Silver-plated metal, raffia.  
Manufactured in Germany.  
Gift of Mark Cross Co., New York.

BOTTLE OPENER FOR CHAMPAGNE. Stainless steel.  
Mfr: J. A. Henkels, Germany.  
Phyllis B. Lambert Fund.

NUTCRACKER. 1959. Stainless steel.  
Designer: Robert Welch, English  
Mfr: J. & J. Wiggin Ltd., England.  
Gift of the manufacturer.

COCKTAIL SHAKER. 1959. Chrome-plated metal.  
Designer: Carl Auböck, Austria.  
Mfr: Werkstätte Carl Auböck, Austria.  
Philip C. Johnson Fund.

STEAK FORK. 1959. Chrome-plated wire, rattan.  
Designer: Carl Auböck, Austrian.  
Mfr: Werkstätte Carl Auböck, Austria.  
Philip C. Johnson Fund.

SERVING FORK. 1959. Steel, wood.  
Designer: Carl Auböck, Austrian  
Mfr: Neuzenghammer Ambosswerk, Austria.  
Gift of the designer.

ASHTRAY. 1958. Metal, finished in black and chrome-plated.  
Designer: Carl Auböck, Austrian.  
Mfr: Werkstätte Carl Auböck, Austria.  
Philip C. Johnson Fund.

ASHTRAY. 1960. Cast aluminum.  
Designer: Robert J. Gargiule, American.  
Mfr: San Castings Corp., U. S. A.  
Gift of Bonniers, Inc., New York.

ASHTRAY. Porcelain.  
Mfr: Wärtsilä-konsernen AB, Finland.  
Gift of Chase Manhattan Bank, New York.

CIGARETTE BOX. 1960. Wood, leather.  
Designer: Javier Carvajal, Spanish.  
Mfr: Loewe S. A., Spain.  
Gift of Mark Cross Co., New York.

MEMO PAD CONTAINER. 1958. Polished aluminum.  
Designer: Skidmore, Owings & Merrill, architects, American, in collaboration  
with the manufacturer.  
Mfr: Smith Metal Arts, U.S.A.  
Gift of Mark Cross Co., New York.

SALT SHAKERS. Plastic.  
Designer: Kristian Vedel, Danish.  
Mfr: Torben Ørskov & Co., Denmark.  
Gift of Chase Manhattan Bank, New York.

BARBECUE KNIFE. 1956. Steel blade; plastic.  
Designer: Jerry Moberg, American.  
Mfr: Robeson Cutlery Co., Inc. U. S. A.  
Gift of the manufacturer.

HAM FORK. Stainless steel; wood.  
Mfr: Jernbolaget, Sweden.  
Phyllis B. Lambert Fund.

MEAT CHOPPER. Stainless steel; wood.  
Mfr: Jernbolaget, Sweden.  
Phyllis B. Lambert Fund.

JUICE PRESS. 1958. Plastic housing.  
Manufacturer: Max Braun, Germany.  
Gift of the manufacturer.

SPACE HEATER. 1959. Plastic housing.  
Designer: Dieter Rams, German, in collaboration with Braun Design Department.  
Mfr: Max Braun, Germany.  
Gift of the manufacturer.

PHOTO FLASH. 1959. Plastic housing.  
Designer: Dieter Rams, German, in collaboration with Braun Design Department.  
Mfr: Max Braun, Germany.  
Gift of the manufacturer.

POCKET FLASHLIGHT (rechargeable). 1956. Plastic housing.  
Designer and mfr: Allgemeine Elektrizitaetsgesellschaft (A.E.G.), Germany.  
Gift of the manufacturer.

STAPLER. c.1954. Metal, chrome-plated and black enameled.  
Designer and mfr: Romeo Maestri, Italy.  
Gift of the manufacturer.

HOT WATER BOTTLE. c.1957. Rubber.  
Designer and mfr: Baldioli Eustasio "Figli, Italy.  
Gift of the manufacturer.

ACID CONTAINER. 1958. Molded plastic.  
Designer: Roberto Menghi, Italian.  
Mfr: Pirelli, Italy.  
Gift of the manufacturer.

INDUSTRIAL STORAGE DRUM. 1949. Glass and aluminum.  
Designer and mfr: Van Leer's Vatenfabrieken, N.V., Holland.  
Gift of the manufacturer.

10" CLAMP FOR FACTORY USES. 1955. Steel.  
Mfr: The Cushmanite Corp., U.S.A.  
Gift of the manufacturer.

ARCHITECTURE:

HANS POELZIG. German. 1869-1936.

STUDY FOR THE INTERIOR OF A CONCERT HALL. 1918.  
Colored pencil.

Gift of Henry G. Proskauer, New York.

LUDWIG MIES VAN DER ROHE. American, born Germany 1886.

MODEL. PROJECT FOR A CONVENTION HALL. Chicago. 1954.

Gift of the architect.

PROJECT FOR A CONVENTION HALL. Chicago. 1954. INTERIOR.

Montage made of marbled paper; cloth flag; photograph of model  
of roof truss system; clippings from LIFE magazine showing  
1952 Republican Convention.

Gift of the architect.

The model and montage were executed by graduate students of the  
Illinois Institute of Technology under the direction of the  
architect.