THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART
11 WEST 53RD STREET, NEW YORK 19, N. Y.

TELEPHONE: CIRCLE 5-8900

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MUSEUM OF MODERN ART OPENS EXHIBITION "IF YOU WANT TO BUILD A HOUSE" BASED ON FORTHCOMING PUBLICATION

An exhibition which attempts to prove to the prospective home-builder that a new house need be neither an imitative "architectural portrait" nor an over-specialized, unfriendly laboratory, will open at the Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, on Wednesday, January 9. If You Want to Build a House is based on the forthcoming publication of the same name to be published by the Museum in February, and consists of explanatory panels of photographs and text, photographic enlargements, and cartoons by Robert C. Osborn.

The photographs and enlargements which have been taken from the book indicate the variety of form possible, as well as the flexibility and adaptability to the individual which is the funda-mental advantage of modern architecture. The exhibition labels, based on the book written by Elizabeth Mock of the Museum's Depart-ment of Architecture, present a simple, informal analysis of problems in home planning, designing and construction, and discuss the ad-vantages--and disadvantages--of modern design. Like the book, the exhibition is undogmatic and does not attempt to be a technical treatise but suggests the answers to many of the questions home-builders must face.

Specific panels deal with such problems--and their solutions--as Choosing the Architect--Choosing the Land, How Big is a House?, Small Houses Can Seem Large, Division of Space, Living-Play-Study, Outdoor Living, The Possibilities of Maximum Light, How Much Light and Openness Do You Want? etc. The cartoons point up these problems and particularly emphasize false and outmoded solutions and psycho-logical hazards.

The exhibition, designed by Janet Henrich O'Connell, has been prepared by the Museum's Department of Circulating Exhibitions which will send it on tour after it closes at the Museum, Sunday, February 3.