

The Museum of Modern Art

50th Anniversary



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EXHIBITION: EILEEN GRAY: DESIGNER

DATES: The Museum of Modern Art, February 7 through April 1, 1980

SPONSOR: The exhibition has been made possible through generous grants from the Helena Rubinstein Foundation and The British Council, and was prepared under the auspices of the International Council of The Museum of Modern Art.

DIRECTOR: J. Stewart Johnson, Curator of Design, Department of Architecture and Design, The Museum of Modern Art.

CONTENTS: This exhibition is devoted to the extraordinarily original work--both in furniture and objects and in architecture--produced by the British designer Eileen Gray, in the course of a career that spanned more than seventy years. Working in France from the turn of the century until her death in 1976 at age 97, she developed multi-purpose and built-furniture made of metal, plywood, cork, plastics and industrial materials, and thus anticipated many of today's design trends. Although early on in her career she gained the respect and admiration of such major architects as Le Corbusier and Oud, she is still virtually unknown to the American public.

A wide variety of Gray's work will be shown, ranging from the elegant Art Deco furniture and lacquered screens of her early period to her daring design and industrial experiments of the 1920s and 30s. Her architecture will be portrayed in drawings and photo blow-ups of executed works and by the rough models she constructed of projects. In addition, there will be a selection of early publications featuring her work, as well as her notebooks setting forth instructions for lacquer techniques and her daybooks documenting her output and the clients for whom she made objects.

The exhibition will contain material lent by the Victoria and Albert Museum and the Royal Institute of British Architects in London, the Musee des Arts Decoratifs in Paris, and a number of private English collectors as well as objects in the collection of The Museum of Modern Art.

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