

# The Museum of Modern Art

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## EXHIBITIONS AT THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART HONOR FOUNDING OF THE UNITED NATIONS

This summer, The Museum of Modern Art joins in a worldwide series of cultural and educational events to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations, which was founded June 26, 1945. **THE UNITED NATIONS IN PERSPECTIVE**, an exhibition tracing the planning and design of the U.N.'s historic New York headquarters, and **UN50: FROM THE UNITED NATIONS FILM ARCHIVES**, a film program featuring works produced by U.N. agencies, together honor the foremost organization dedicated to promoting and establishing world peace, democracy, and human rights.

### THE UNITED NATIONS IN PERSPECTIVE

June 15 - September 26, 1995

This exhibition explores the architectural development of one of the most important symbolic structures built after World War II. The four buildings (constructed 1947-52) that make up the United Nations headquarters complex also constitute the architectural apotheosis of modernism's functionalist aesthetic, which attempted to prevail over established national traditions and prejudices. The exhibition includes approximately thirty-five original drawings (many displayed for the first time), fifteen contemporary color photographs by Adam Bartos, and a model, as well as several books and pamphlets.

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An international board of design -- ten architects, including renowned modernists Le Corbusier (France), Oscar Niemeyer (Brazil), and Sven Markelius (Sweden), directed by Wallace K. Harrison (American) -- developed the concept for the United Nations headquarters. Hugh Ferriss, one of America's most gifted architectural draftsmen, translated the architects' sketches and ideas into beautifully rendered perspectives. Twenty-five of these idiosyncratic and dazzling pencil and charcoal drawings, including the final scheme endorsed by the board of design, form the centerpiece of the exhibition.

Organized by Peter Reed, Associate Curator, Department of Architecture and Design, The Museum of Modern Art, with the assistance of George A. Dudley, architect, planner, educator, and author of *A Workshop for Peace: Designing the United Nations Headquarters*, **THE UNITED NATIONS IN PERSPECTIVE** is made possible by a grant from the New York City Host Committee for the United Nations Fiftieth Anniversary. Lenders to the exhibition include the Avery Architectural and Fine Arts Library at Columbia University, the Swedish Museum of Architecture, the United Nations, and private collections.

**UN50: FROM THE UNITED NATIONS FILM ARCHIVES**

**June 26 - July 4, 1995**

Since its inception, the United Nations has employed film to broadcast information about its activities around the world. The exhibition presents a sampling of documentaries and newsreel footage, video news magazines, animated and concert films, and public service announcements produced by the United Nations Development Programme, UNESCO, UNICEF, the World Health Organization, and other U.N. agencies. Highlights include Leo Seltzer's Academy Award-winning short *First Steps* (1946); Thorold Dickinson's *Power Among Men* (1959), with original music by Virgil Thomson and narration by Laurence Harvey; *Out*

(1957), a film on Hungarian refugees directed by Lionel Rogosin and written by John Hersey; animated films by John and Faith Hubley and Bretislav Pojar; documentaries by Jean Epstein, Helen van Dongen, Henri Storck, Safi Faye, and Marta Meszaros; concerts with Pablo Casals, Yehudi Menuhin, and Ravi Shankar; and a movie by Roberto Rossellini filmed in the Amazon and Africa shortly before his death.

Screenings include rare footage of U.N. appearances by some of the most compelling world leaders of the last half-century: Eisenhower and Khrushchev, Castro and Tito, Nehru and Meir. Also appearing are entertainers who have participated in U.N. activities, including Julie Christie, Irene Dunne, Audrey Hepburn, and Danny Kaye. More recent films about the U.N.'s peacekeeping missions and developmental efforts are offered as well, documenting its role in combating human rights violations, overpopulation and pollution, the spread of AIDS and other infectious diseases, and the exploitation of women and children.

**UN50: FROM THE UNITED NATIONS FILM ARCHIVES** is organized by Joshua Siegel, Curatorial Assistant, Department of Film and Video, The Museum of Modern Art.

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For further information or photographic materials contact the Department of Public Information, 212/708-9750.