

# NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

NEWS RELEASE

SIXTH STREET AT CONSTITUTION AVENUE NW WASHINGTON DC 20565 • 737-4215 extension 224

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NATIONAL GALLERY MARKS 50TH  
ANNIVERSARY OF BARCELONA PAVILION

WASHINGTON, D. C. September 26, 1979. Mies van der Rohe: The Barcelona Pavilion, an exhibit marking the fiftieth anniversary of one of the most influential buildings of the twentieth century, will go on view October 14 in the National Gallery of Art's East Building.

The Barcelona Pavilion was designed by Mies for the International Exposition at Barcelona, Spain, held in the summer and fall of 1929. Although lasting just seven months, the pavilion has been recognized by critics and architects as a landmark example of architecture in the International Style.

The exhibition, which will be on view through December 2, will include a scale model of the pavilion and 22 original drawings for it by the architect, illustrating concepts synthesized and applied in his design for the pavilion and in subsequent buildings. The drawings, approximately fifteen photographs of the pavilion, an official catalogue of the exposition and other documents have been lent from the Mies van der Rohe Archive of the Museum of Modern Art in New York. Ludwig Glaeser, curator of the Mies van der Rohe Archive, organized the exhibition, which is being supported by a grant from Knoll International, Inc.

(more)



The famous Barcelona chair and ottoman will also be on view. The frames for the chair and ottoman, lent by Mies' colleague, Philip Johnson, were manufactured in Berlin in 1930. Their cushions were recently restored in white kid leather similar to the original covering.

The International Style, which appeared in Europe in the 1920s, has had a profound effect on our built environment. It eliminated all applied ornamentation, emphasized skeletal structure as the primary organizational element and treated exteriors as "skins" that enclose a building's space but do not bear its weight.

END

---

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION or photographs contact Katherine Warwick, Assistant to the Director (Information Officer), or Mary Dyer, Information Office, National Gallery of Art, Washington, D. C. 20565, area code 202, 737-4215, ext. 511.