

**"JOSEF FRANK, ARCHITECT AND DESIGNER:
AN ALTERNATIVE VISION OF THE MODERN HOME"
AT THE BARD GRADUATE CENTER
FROM MAY 9 - JULY 21, 1996**

The first exhibition in the United States to examine the career of Josef Frank (1885-1967), a leading contributor to modern architecture and design in Vienna and a founder of Swedish Modern design. On view at the Center: approximately 150 examples of architectural drawings, models, drawings for applied arts, furniture, lighting, textiles, metalwork and glass.

Joseph Frank, Architect and Designer An Alternative Vision of the Modern Home, will examine the career of one of the most accomplished and prolific yet under-recognized architects and designers of the 20th century. The exhibition focuses on Frank's unique position within the modern movement in Austria and his unparalleled contribution to the creation of Swedish Modern design. It is the first examination of Frank's career to explore his architecture and design work in a cohesive display, and includes examples of newly discovered furnishings.

Organized by Nina Stritzler-Levine, Director of Exhibitions at The Bard Graduate Center for Studies in the Decorative Arts, the exhibition will run from May 9 through July 21. It is partially funded by the Kjell and Märta Beijers Foundation/Svenskt Tenn and the Consulate General of Sweden.

A participant in the Weissenhofsiedlung in 1927 and the Austrian representative to the first meeting of the CIAM (International Congress of Modern Architects), by the end of the 1920s Frank had become an outsider who ultimately developed his alternative vision of the modern home into a unique approach derived from the everyday life needs of his clients, fundamental concerns for comfort, utility and convenience, and the belief that tradition and history were imperative to the creation of a modern design idiom.

The exhibition begins with the formative years of Frank's career in Vienna from 1910-1934, where he received many commissions for single family homes and public housing projects and founded his design firm Haus & Garten in collaboration with Oskar Wlach. It continues with

an in-depth study of Frank's life following the rise of fascism in Austria.

From 1934 to 1941, Frank resided in Stockholm. There he emerged as a founder of Swedish Modern design and became the chief designer for Svenskt Tenn, the most important Swedish retail design firm.

From 1941 until 1946, he lived in New York City, where he lectured on his unique vision of modern architecture at the New School for Social Research. He returned to Sweden after the war and resumed work as a designer for Svenskt Tenn while also concentrating on a group of theoretical projects.

Loans for the exhibition have been assembled from public institutions in Austria, Sweden and the United States, among them the Graphische Sammlung Albertina, Vienna, Österreichisches Museum für Angewandte Kunst, Vienna; Archive of the Hochschule für Angewandte Kunst, Vienna, Technische Hochschule, Vienna, Arkitekturmuseet, Stockholm, the Nationalmuseum, Stockholm, Millesgården, the Archive of Svenskt Tenn, Stockholm, Fallingwater, Pa., and a select group of private collections in Sweden and Austria.

The exhibition will include an illustrated catalogue, the first complete English-language scholarly examination of Josef Frank's work. It will be published for the Bard Graduate Center by Yale University Press with partial funding from the Graham Foundation for Advanced Studies in the Fine Arts; from The Furthermore program of The J.M. Kaplan Fund, and from the Kjell and Märta Beijers Foundation/Svenskt Tenn. Consisting of nine scholarly essays tracing the development of Frank's career and placing his work within a broader socio-political context, and an annotated and illustrated catalogue section, the catalogue will make an important contribution to the study of 20th century architecture and design. The Bard Graduate Center also will present a variety of public programs relating to the exhibition, including a scholarly symposium, family days and an open house for senior citizens.

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