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Spring 1984

## Foreward ; William Lescaze and the Rise of Modern Design in America

Chester Soling

*Syracuse University Library Associates*

Dennis P. Doordan

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SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY  
LIBRARY ASSOCIATES

C O U R I E R

WILLIAM LESCAZE

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THE RISE OF  
MODERN DESIGN IN AMERICA

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ARTHUR J. PULOS

---

LINDSAY STAMM SHAPIRO

---

CAROL WILLIS

---

DENNIS P. DOORDAN

---

ROBERT B. DEAN

---

STUART COHEN

---

WERNER SELIGMANN

---

ROBERT A. M. STERN

---

WILLIAM H. JORDY

---

A BRIEF SURVEY OF  
THE SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY  
ARCHITECTURAL HOLDINGS

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## Foreword

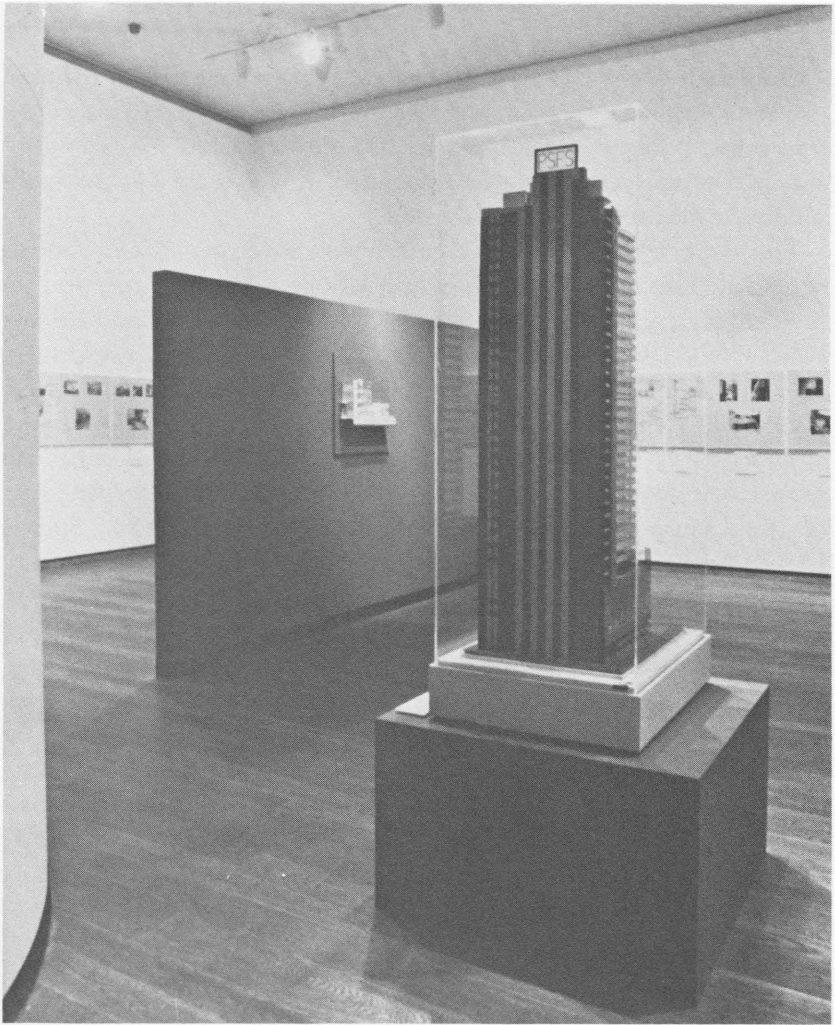
On behalf of the Syracuse University Library Associates, I should like to say what a very great pleasure it is to welcome the *Courier* back into print. It began publication in 1958 and appeared regularly until two and a half years ago. Henceforward, it will come out twice annually, in the spring and in the fall.

This issue, which comes to you in a new cover design and format, is unusual also in that it deals almost wholly with the career and influence of a single person, namely the architect William Lescaze (1896-1969), a major part of whose papers are held by Syracuse University. The articles have been written by the participants in the Lescaze Symposium, which took place in Syracuse in February 1984 under the auspices of Syracuse University. In future publications, the *Courier* will return to presenting articles related to diverse aspects of the broad range of the University's George Arents Research Library for Special Collections.

We are happy to announce, too, our expectation of producing within the pages of this and subsequent *Couriers* a description by subject of rare books and manuscripts held by the Syracuse University Libraries. The present issue begins this program appropriately with an essay by Werner Seligmann, Dean of the School of Architecture at Syracuse University, about the more important of our twentieth-century architectural holdings. These include, besides the Lescaze collection, the papers of Marcel Breuer, Pietro Belluschi, Harley J. McKee, Archimedes Russell, and Ralph Walker. Dean Seligmann also identifies the more notable architectural research materials which are available here to the working scholar.

The exhibition of William Lescaze models, drawings, and photographs, which was held concurrently with the symposium at the Everson Museum in Syracuse during February and March and at the National Academy of Design in New York in June and July, will go on tour at a later stage this year. Future venues will include Philadelphia, Washington, D.C., and thereafter, cities in the Midwest and West of the United States. As plans now stand, the exhibition will then be moved to Europe.

Chester Soling, Chairman  
Syracuse University Library Associates



Model of the Philadelphia Saving Fund Society building, from the exhibition  
"William Lescaze and the Rise of Modern Design in America",  
Everson Museum, Syracuse, February 1984 (Photo: Christopher Gray).

# *William Lescaze and the Rise of Modern Design in America*

## Preface

This issue of the *Courier* presents the proceedings of the symposium "William Lescaze and the Rise of Modern Design in America", held at the Everson Museum, Syracuse, New York, on February 15th and 16th, 1984. Sponsored by the Syracuse University School of Architecture, the symposium was organized in conjunction with an exhibition of the work of the architect and designer William Lescaze. The purpose of the symposium was to place the career of William Lescaze into the varied contexts of the American cultural milieu and contemporary worldwide architectural movements. The symposium's agenda included two featured lectures by recognized scholars in the field of Modern Architecture and Design, prepared presentations by four young scholars, and an informal panel discussion with invited respondents.

This two-day event was the result of the combined efforts of a number of individuals and institutions. On behalf of the School of Architecture I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge with gratitude those responsible for its success. Robert Bruce Dean served as curator of the exhibition and played an active role in organizing the symposium. Werner Seligmann, Dean of the School of Architecture, deserves particular mention for his continued support of this project. Ronald A. Kuchta, Director of the Everson Museum, very kindly provided a setting for the symposium. Financial support for the symposium was provided by the New York State Council for the Humanities; the Skidmore, Owings and Merrill Foundation; and the National Endowment for the Arts.

The opportunity to publish the proceedings of the symposium is due entirely to the generous support of the Syracuse University Library Associates. Mrs. Gwen G. Robinson, editor of the Library Associates *Courier*, has directed this effort and I wish to express my deepest gratitude for her invaluable assistance. Barbara Opar, Architecture Bibliographer, also deserves special mention for her assistance in preparing materials for inclusion in this issue. I would also like to thank Christopher Gray of the School of Architecture for his work throughout this entire project. He designed the exhibition installation

and the accompanying posters. He also served as the design consultant for this issue of the *Courier*.

Finally, a very special thanks is due to the staff of the George Arents Research Library for Special Collections. Throughout every phase of this project—the exhibition, symposium, and now this publication—their cooperation has been crucial and unfailing.

Dennis P. Doordan  
Guest Editor and Associate Curator