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**ARCHITECTS**  
**ENGINEERS**  
**PLANNERS**

1807 COMMERCE STREET  
DALLAS 1, TEXAS  
RIVERSIDE 1-4041  
MERCANTILE DALLAS BLDG.  
SUITE 1327

22 July 1958

The Board of Directors  
The American Institute of Architects  
1735 New York Avenue  
Washington 6, D.C.

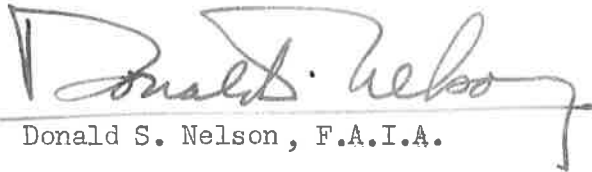
Gentlemen:

I was privileged to first meet Ludwig Mies van der Rohe when he was the guest of John Holabird arriving to head what was then the Armour Institute School of Architecture in Chicago. Since that time we have all watched the progress of his work and felt his impetus in the work of the architects of America.

After seeing the Seagram Building in various stages of construction and in its final form many times during the past week, at night, during the rain, I feel I must say that in my opinion it is the finest building I have ever seen.

I am sure Mies van der Rohe has been nominated for the Gold Medal by others. However, it is with pride that I propose he be the recipient of next year's Gold Medal of the American Institute of Architects.

Respectfully,



Donald S. Nelson, F.A.I.A.

DSN/lrs

*Annual Award*

*(P)*

*Mies*

*Gold M*

*Rewards & medals  
Gold medal  
Nominations 1959*

July 28, 1958

*Mies van der Rohe*

FILE COPY - PLEASE RETURN

Mr. Donald S. Nelson, F.A.I.A.  
1807 Commerce Street  
Dallas 1, Texas

Dear Mr. Nelson:

This will acknowledge your letter of July 22 supporting the nomination of Ludwig Mies van der Rohe for the Gold Medal of The Institute.

Your letter will be brought to the attention of The Board of Directors at its annual meeting next year when it considers the awarding of the Medal.

Yours very truly,

J. W. Rankin  
Administrative Secretary

JWR:hrs

CHICAGO CHAPTER



AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS  
221 North LaSalle, Chicago 1, Illinois DEarborn 2-7197-8-9

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NOVEMBER 23, 1959

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MR. J. W. RANKIN  
ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY  
AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS  
1735 NEW YORK AVENUE, N.W.  
WASHINGTON 6, D.C.

RE: MIES VAN DER ROHE, F.A.I.A.

DEAR MR. RANKIN:

WILL YOU ADVISE US IF ANY MATERIAL IS AT THE OCTAGON WITH REGARD TO THE WORK OF MIES VAN DER ROHE, THAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN SUBMITTED EARLIER FOR HIS CONSIDERATION OF AN HONOR AWARD BY THE A.I.A. I AM CURIOUS TO KNOW IF THE INFORMATION IS IN YOUR POSSESSION, AND ALSO IF IT IS OF SUFFICIENT MAGNITUDE FOR PROPER CONSIDERATION.

IF SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION WOULD BE DESIRABLE, WE WILL SEE THAT IT IS FURNISHED ... OR IF YOU DO NOT HAVE ANY, A COMPLETE BROCHURE WILL BE PREPARED AND SENT TO THE OCTAGON.

VERY TRULY YOURS,

WILLIAM J. BACHMAN  
PRESIDENT

WJB:FM

*Mies van der Rohe's  
Gold Medal  
Nominations 1959  
Mies van der Rohe*

November 30, 1959

FILE COPY - PLEASE RETURN

Mr. William J. Bachman, President  
Chicago Chapter, A.I.A.  
221 North LaSalle Street  
Chicago 1, Illinois

re: Mies van der Rohe, F.A.I.A.

Dear Mr. Bachman:

Your letter of November 23rd addressed to Mr. Rankin has been referred to my attention.

We wish to advise that we have two volumes of the work of Mies van der Rohe - one by Philip Johnston (Museum of Modern Art) and the other by L. Hilberseimer (Paul Theobald & Company).

While these books will be used in the material presented at the Board Meeting in January, we should point out that any other material which you might send would be helpful, particularly panels which could be viewed more feasibly by a group in a brief period of time. Also, a one-page biographical sketch in large type is generally very helpful.

Sincerely,

Marvin E. Mayeux  
Administrative Assistant

MEM:fd

THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS ARCHIVES

*Mies van der Rohe*  
*Mies van der Rohe, L.*

MIES VAN DER ROHE

BRIEF CHRONOLOGY

- 1886 Born March 27 in Aachen (Aix-la-Chapelle), Germany
- 1897-1900 Attended the Cathedral School in Aachen
- 1905-1907 Apprentice in office of Bruno Paul
- 1907 Built first house as independent architect
- 1908-1911 Employed in the office of Peter Behrens
- 1912 Worked on Kroller house, The Hague, Holland
- 1912-1914 Independent architect in Berlin
- 1914-1918 Served in army
- 1919-1937 Practiced architecture in Berlin
- 1921-1925 Director of architectural exhibits for the November-gruppe
- 1925 Founded the Zehner Ring
- 1926-1932 First Vice-President of Deutscher Werkbund
- 1927 Director of Werkbund Exposition, Weissenhofsiedlung, Stuttgart
- 1929 Director of German Section of the International Exposition, Barcelona, Spain
- 1930-1933 Director of the Bauhaus, Dessau and Berlin
- 1931 Director of Werkbund Section, The Dwelling, Berlin Building Exposition
- 1937 First trip to the United States
- 1938 Emigrated to the United States
- 1938-1958 Director of Architecture at Illinois Institute of Technology, Chicago
- 1938 to Present Independent architectural practice

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FILE COPY - PLEASE RETURN

*Rewards & medals  
Gold medal  
Mies Van der Rohe - 1960*

1735 New York Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC  
January 28, 1960

LUDWIG MIES VAN DER ROHE, FAIA  
230 E. OHIO STREET  
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

HAPPY TO INFORM YOU THAT AIA BOARD OF DIRECTORS HAS VOTED  
TO AWARD YOU THE 1960 GOLD MEDAL OF THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE  
OF ARCHITECTS. PRESENTATION WILL BE MADE AT OUR SAN  
FRANCISCO CONVENTION.

J. ROY CARROLL, JR., FAIA  
SECRETARY  
THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

JRC:EKB

MM Mies van der Rohe

February 1, 1960

Mr. J. Roy Carroll, Jr., F.A.I.A.  
The American Institute of Architects  
1735 New York Avenue, N. W.  
Washington, 6, D. C.

Dear Mr. Carroll:

I received your telegram in which you informed me that the A.I.A. Board of Directors has voted to award me the 1960 Gold Medal of The American Institute of Architects.

This is indeed a great honor, and I would like to express to the Board of Directors my sincere thanks for the award.

Sincerely yours,



Mies van der Rohe

THIS COPY - PLEASE RETURN

Awards & medals.  
Gold Medal  
Mies van der Rohe - 1960

February 8, 1960

Mr. Ludwig Mies van der Rohe, FAIA  
230 East Ohio Street  
Chicago 11, Illinois

Dear Mr. Mies van der Rohe:

I am simply delighted that our Board of Directors has elected you as the winner of the 1960 AIA Gold Medal for outstanding service to the profession.

My wholehearted congratulations!

I need not tell you how strongly all of us feel that you thoroughly deserve this, the greatest honor we are able to bestow upon a colleague. Your contributions to architecture, architectural education and a better environment are outstanding and unique.

With my very best wishes for many further years of continued productivity.

Cordially,

John Noble Richards, F.A.I.A.



*Members  
Miss Vander Rode, L.*

*file*

March 7, 1960

Dear Mr. Richards,

I deeply appreciate your warm message of  
congratulation, and thank you most sincerely.

Yours,

*Miss Vander Rode*

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*Awards & medals  
Gold medal  
Mies Van der Rohe - 1960*

January 28, 1960

Mr. Ludwig Mies van der Rohe, FAIA  
230 N. Ohio Street  
Chicago, Illinois

Dear Mr. Mies van der Rohe:

Congratulations on being awarded the Gold Medal of The American Institute of Architects for 1960. I am most happy and pleased with your selection.

For publicity purposes, we would appreciate it if you could send us a recently taken black-and-white glossy photograph. We will be needing this for the purpose of sending a release and photograph to the architectural magazines and leading newspapers.

Thanking you in advance.

Cordially,

Wolf Von Eckardt  
Director for Public Information

WVE:ekb

MIES VAN DER ROHE

ARCHITECT F.A.I.A. • 230 EAST OHIO ST. • CHICAGO II, ILLINOIS • PHONE WHITEHALL 3-0686

February 2, 1960

Mr. Wolf Von Eckardt  
Director for Public Information  
The American Institute of Architects  
The Octagon, 1735 New York Avenue, N. W.  
Washington 6, D. C.

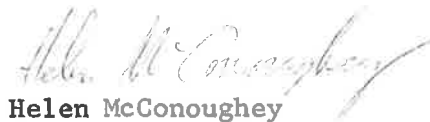
Dear Mr. Von Eckardt:

Mr. Mies van der Rohe asked that we write to thank you for your letter of January 28, and your congratulations.

As you requested, we're enclosing two recent photos of Mr. Mies van der Rohe.

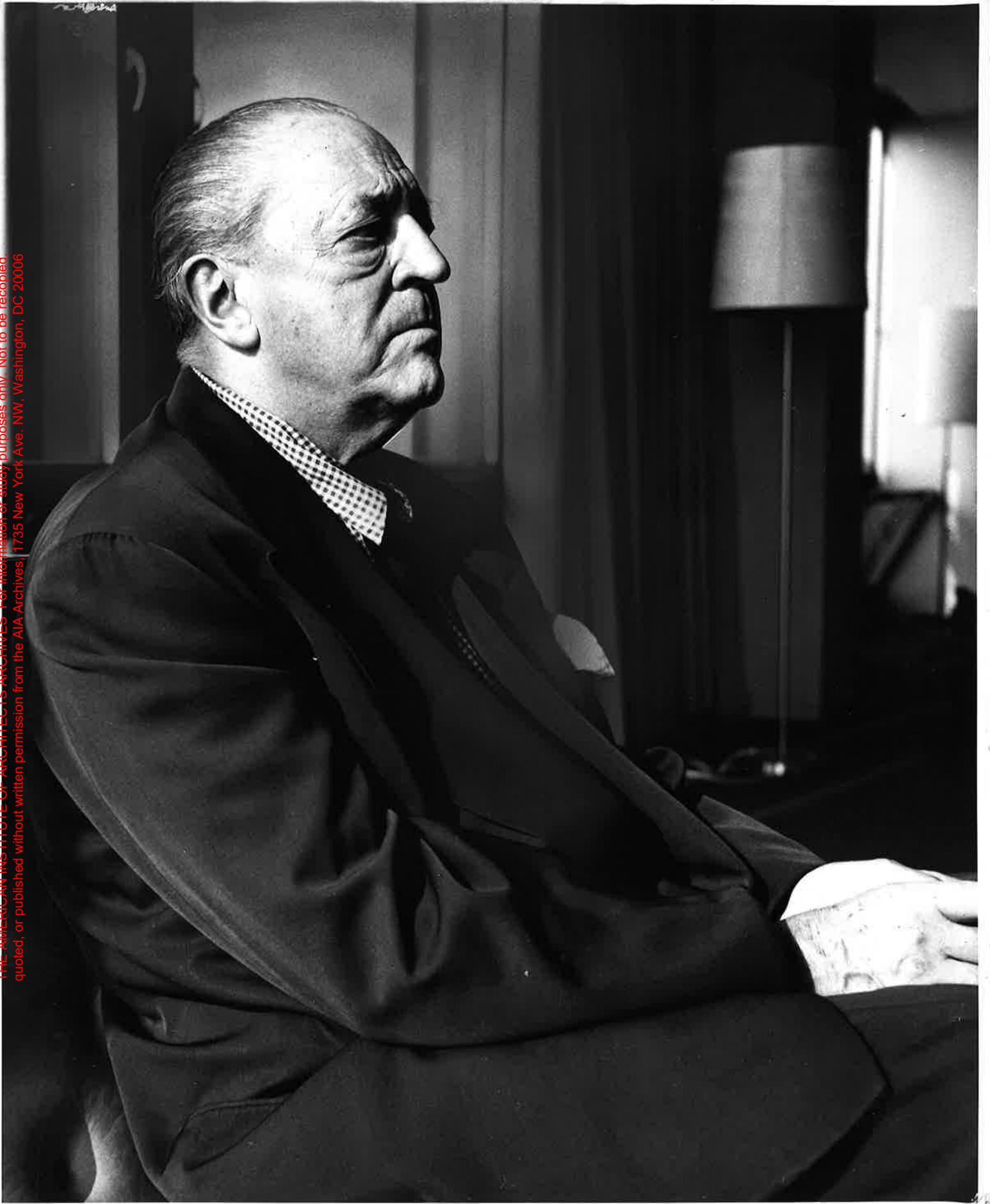
If we can help further, please let us know.

Sincerely,



Helen McConoughey  
Secretary to Mies van der Rohe

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Miss Van der Rohe  
The Gold Medal AIA

← 12 1/2 pieces →  
Not coated



-73 # 2105 AIA

725R  
6917-9

VI

*Rewards & medals  
Gold medal  
Mies van der Rohe - 1960* *M. Purvis*

FILE COPY - PLEASE RETURN



*The American Institute of Architects*

# AIA CONVENTION SAN FRANCISCO 1960

FOR RELEASE IMMEDIATELY

Washington, D. C. - February 1, 1960 --- Ludwig Mies van der Rohe, FAIA, world famous architect and the retired director of the Department of Architecture and City Planning of the Illinois Institute of Technology, has won the 1960 Gold Medal of The American Institute of Architects.

Mies van der Rohe was elected for this honor by the AIA Board of Directors meeting at Institute headquarters at the Octagon in Washington, D. C.

The famous architect will receive the coveted award at the annual dinner of the AIA convention in San Francisco on April 21, 1960.

Mies van der Rohe was born in 1886 in Aachen, Germany, and, like two other world famous architects, Walter Gropius and LeCorbusier, apprenticed in the office of Peter Behrens in Berlin. Mies' first building, the Kroeller house at The Hague, Holland, completed in 1912, caused a sensation in architectural circles for the classic simplicity which still denotes his most recent buildings such as the Seagram Building on New York's Park Avenue.

(MORE)

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A first vice president of the German Werkbund, which strove to bring artists and manufacturers together to improve industrial design, Mies became the director of the Bauhaus school of design in Dessau and later Berlin, Germany.

After the Nazis closed the Bauhaus, Mies, who had meanwhile built a reputation as the architect of some of Europe's most modern buildings, emigrated to the United States in 1938 and became the Director of Architecture at the Armour Institute, later the Illinois Institute of Technology, in Chicago.

In addition to the Seagram Building, on which he collaborated with Philip Johnson, he designed a great many of the buildings on the IIT campus, the glass-enclosed apartment houses at 860 Lake Shore Drive in Chicago, and Cullinan Hall, an addition to the Houston (Texas) Museum of Fine Arts.

Mies, who learned his first lessons of building from his father, a master mason and the proprietor of a small stone cutting shop, never received a formal architectural education. Nevertheless, his contributions to architectural thought and his influence on young architects quite possibly exceeds that of his building designs. An ardent advocate of simplicity and functional forms, Mies' pronouncement that "less is more" is widely quoted in architectural circles. "Architecture," Mies has said, "is the battleground of the spirit" and must be a true symbol of our time.

# # #



*Awards of Gold Medal  
Mies van der Rohe - 1960*

February 28, 1960

Mr. Ludwig Mies van der Rohe, FAIA  
230 East Ohio Street  
Chicago, Illinois

Dear Mr. Mies van der Rohe:

As you undoubtedly know, the presentation of your Gold Medal will be made at the Annual Dinner on April 21st, to be held in the Garden Court of the Palace Hotel.

I also assume you know that you are invited to make a ten-minute acceptance address on this occasion.

As you are given the Gold Medal, we plan to show several color slides of your work. This is, of course, in addition to the display of your work at the Convention Hall, the Masonic Temple.

I would be most grateful if you could send me some 35mm color transparencies of your own choosing. You may be sure that we will take good care of them and return them to you after the Convention.

With many thanks for your troubles,

Cordially,

Wolf Von Eckardt  
Head, Public Information

WVE:fwv  
cc:Mr. Emmons

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INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION

*Rewards & medals  
Gold Medal  
Mies van der Rohe - 1960*

*F*

THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS



*The Octagon · 1735 New York Avenue · Washington 6, D. C.*

March 9 1960

NOTE FOR M. S. D.

RE: Mies van der Rohe, FAIA

Mies van der Rohe will be awarded the 1960 AIA Gold Medal - in San Francisco. He will be accompanied by ~~Mr.~~ Mrs. Lora Marx. Mrs. Marx should be included in any invitations that go to Mr. Mies van der Rohe.

msd

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Rewards & medals  
Gold medal  
Mies Van der Rohe - 1960

March 24, 1960

Mr. Ludwig Mies Van Der Rohe, F.A.I.A.  
230 East Ohio Street  
Chicago 11, Illinois

Dear Mies:

It is very good of you to send in your check for pre-registration of yourself and Mrs. Marx for the 1960 Convention. However, as you are the Gold Medalist this year, it gives me pleasure to return your check as your registration will be complimentary. Mrs. Marx will also receive complimentary registration in San Francisco.

With my best to you and looking forward to seeing you in California, I am

Sincerely yours,

Edmund R. Purves, F.A.I.A.

cc: Mr. Wolverton

1960



ANNO DOMINI MCMLX

THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS  
IN BESTOWING THE HIGHEST ACCOLADE  
WITHIN ITS GIFT  
THE GOLD MEDAL OF HONOR

RECOGNIZES

LUDWIG MIES VAN DER ROHE, FAIA  
ARCHITECT · PIONEER

SON OF A MASTER MASON; WORKING FOR A TIME WITH AN ARCHITECT WHO BUILT OF WOOD; LATER ASSOCIATED WITH BRUNO PAUL AND HIS DESIGN OF FURNITURE; THEN ATTRACTED BY THE BRICKWORK OF HOLLAND. YOU HAVE BUILT KNOWINGLY IN STONE, WOOD AND BRICK. AND HAVE A DEEP RESPECT FOR THE INDIVIDUALITY OF MATERIALS

IN STEEL AND GLASS YOU HAVE DESIGNED WITH MORE JOY. MORE CONVICTION. BUT THROUGHOUT A BUSY LIFE YOU HAVE PERSEVERED IN A QUEST FOR A TECHNIQUE OF STRUCTURE THAT WOULD OBTAIN THE NEED OF EMBELLISHING ARCHITECTURE · THAT WOULD IN ITSELF BE ARCHITECTURE.

EXEMPLIFYING THE WORDS OF ST. AUGUSTINE.

“BEAUTY IS THE SPLENDOR OF TRUTH”

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*Awards & Medals  
Gold Medal  
Mies van der Rohe 1960*

April 27, 1960

Mr. Ludwig Mies van der Rohe, FAIA  
230 East Ohio Street  
Chicago 11, Illinois

Dear Mr. Mies van der Rohe:

Herewith, as you requested, the original of your very moving and inspiring acceptance speech at San Francisco.

Your presence and your talk was the highlight of the entire convention for most of us.

I was terribly sorry that time did not permit talking with you a little more than ~~just~~ on the run. May I call on you when I next come to Chicago?

Cordially,

Wolf Von Eckardt  
Head, Public Information

WVE:mn  
Enclosure

1.

Mr. President

Fellows and members of the A. I. A.,

Honored guests

To receive the Gold Medal of the American Institute of Architects is indeed a great honor. It is a sign that my work has been understood & appreciated by my colleagues.

I am very grateful & very thankful for this distinguished token of esteem.

May I also express, on this occasion, the deep gratitude I have always felt, and shall always feel, that I could come to this country & have the opportunity to teach & to work here.

- The teaching forced me to clarify my architectural ideas.
- The work made it possible to test their validity.
- Teaching & working have convinced me, above all, of the need for clarity in thought and action.
- Without clarity, there can be no understanding.
- And without understanding, there can be no direction - only confusion.



3.

Sometimes it is even a confusion of great men, like the time around 1900. When Wright, Bealage, Behrens, Olbrich, Loos and Van de Velde were all at work, each taking a different direction.

I have been asked many times by students, architects, & interested laymen:

"Where do we go from here?"

Certainly it is not necessary nor possible to invent a new kind of architecture every Monday morning.

4.

- We are not at the end, but at the beginning  
of an Epoch;

An Epoch which will be guided by a new Spirit,  
which will be driven by new forces, new

Technological, sociological + economic forces,

And which will have new tools + new materials.

For this reason, we will have a new architecture.

But the future comes not by itself.

Only if we do our work in the right way  
will it make a good foundation  
for the future.

5.

- In all these years I have learned more & more that architecture is not a play with forms.
- I have come to understand the close relationship between architecture and civilization.
- I have learned that architecture must stem from the sustaining & driving forces of civilization
- And that it can be, at its best, an expression of the innermost structure of its time.
- The structure of civilization is not simple
  - Being in part the past
  - in part the present
  - and in part the future.

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- It is difficult to define & to understand.
- Nothing of the past can be changed, by its very nature.
- The present has to be accepted, & should be mastered.
- But the future is open - open for creative thought and action.
- This is the structure from which architecture emerges.
- It follows, then, that architecture should be related to only the most significant forces in the civilization.

7.

- Only a relationship which touches the essence of the time can be real.
- This relation I like to call a truth relation.
- Truth in the sense of Thomas Aquinas: as the adequatio intellectus et rei.
- Or, as a modern philosopher expresses it, in the language of today:  
Truth is the significance of facts.
- Only such a relation is able to embrace the complex nature of civilization.
- Only so, will architecture be involved in the evolution of civilization.



- And only so, will it express the slow  
unfolding of its form.

- This has been, and will be, the task of  
architecture. A difficult task, to be sure.

- But Spinoza has taught us that  
great things are never easy.

- They are as difficult as they are rare.

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Awards & medals J  
Gold Medals  
Mies van der Rohe - 1960

June 3, 1960

Mr. Ludwig Mies van der Rohe, FAIA  
230 E. Ohio Street  
Chicago 11, Illinois

Dear Mr. Mies van der Rohe:

The twenty-one mounted photographs of your work shown at the convention in San Francisco have now been returned to this office. We are very happy to have them here and are planning to exhibit the group with other Honor Awards in September in the Octagon Gallery.

I understand that you have been kind enough to give these photographs to the Institute. I wanted to tell you of our plan to make them into a small traveling exhibition which we hope will be circulated by the Smithsonian Traveling Exhibition Service after the showing here in the autumn. We felt that many schools of architecture, libraries and small museums would be eager to show such an exhibition. It is, of course, particularly appropriate this year of 1960 because of the award of the Gold Medal. Through a traveling show it will be possible for many more persons to see and enjoy the fine photographs of your work. I hope you will like the plan which we have made.

Very sincerely,

Alice G. Korff, Head  
Exhibition Service

AGK;ekb

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*Awards & medals  
Gold medal  
Mies van der Rohe* F 1960

MIES VAN DER ROHE

ARCHITECT F.A.I.A. • 230 EAST OHIO ST. • CHICAGO II, ILLINOIS • PHONE WHITEHALL 3-0686

March 23, 1960

Mr. Marvin E. Mayeux  
Administrative Assistant  
The American Institute of Architects  
The Octagon - 1735 New York Avenue, N.W.  
Washington 6, D. C.

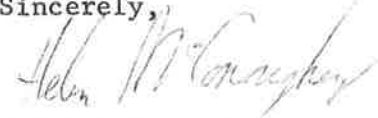
Dear Mr. Mayeux:

Mr. Mies van der Rohe asked that we let you know that it is perfectly all right with him to lend the panels you have of his work to the Smithsonian Institution.

Again, we want to thank you for your extra kindness in getting space in the Fairmont for Mies and Mrs. Marx.

If we can help any way from here, please let us know.

Sincerely,



Helen McConoughey  
Secretary to Mies van der Rohe