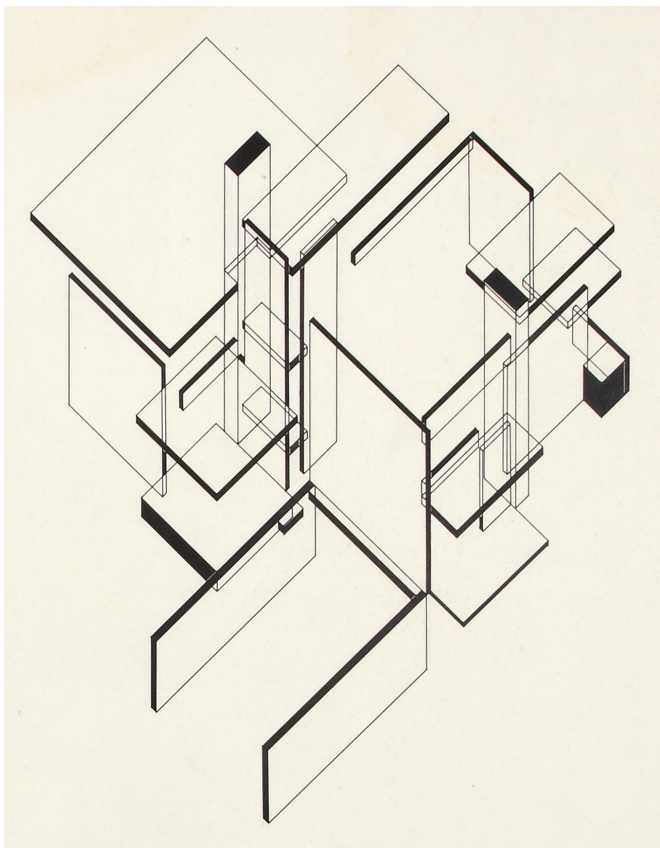


KNUD LONBERG-HOLM: THE INVISIBLE ARCHITECT

MAY 6–AUGUST 1, 2014



Axonometric drawing for MacBride Residence, 1926. Gouache & pencil, 18 3/4 x 24 3/4 inches



Modern Architecture at Fifth Avenue & 48th Street, ca. 1923-1924. Vintage gelatin silver print, 4 1/2 x 3 1/2 inches

Ubu Gallery is pleased to present *Knud Lonberg-Holm: The Invisible Architect*, a debut exhibition devoted to this overlooked, yet highly influential, 20th Century modernist. Never-before-seen photographs, architectural drawings, letters, graphic design, and ephemera from Lonberg-Holm's remarkably diverse career will be on view through August 1, 2014. The exhibition, which consists of selections from the extensive archive assembled by architectural historian Marc Dessauce, will solidify the importance of this emblematic figure in early 20th Century cultural and architectural history. *Metropolis Magazine*, the national publication of architecture and design, will publish an article on Knud Lonberg-Holm to coincide with this groundbreaking exhibition.

Born in Denmark, Knud Lonberg-Holm (January 15, 1895–January 2, 1972), was an architect, photographer, author, designer, researcher, and teacher. Lonberg-Holm's early work in Denmark and Germany initially associated him with the Berlin Constructivist and Dutch De Stijl groups. An émigré to America in 1923, Lonberg-Holm was a fundamental correspondent with prominent European architects and their modernist counterparts in the U.S. The exhibition will feature a selection of letters to Lonberg-Holm from a pantheon of the European avant-garde including László Moholy-Nagy, Walter Gropius, Theo Van Doesburg, Buckminster Fuller, Hannes Meyer, J.J.P. Oud, El Lissitzky, and Richard Neutra.

From 1924–1925, Lonberg-Holm was a colleague of Eliel Saarinen at the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, where he taught a course in basic design modeled on the famed Bauhaus Vorkurs, the first-ever introduced in U.S. design schools. An agent of inter-continental communication, his reports on the state of American architecture appeared abroad. Lonberg-Holm's 1928 article, *Amerika: Reflections*, featured buildings on the University of Michigan campus and appeared in the Dutch avant-garde publication *i10*, which employed Moholy-Nagy as its photo editor. The article not only contributed to international discourse on the building industry, but also touched on the "time-space convention," a subject Lonberg-Holm would explore throughout his career. This publication, among others, will be on display.

Lonberg-Holm's interest in American industry is best viewed in his collection of photographs taken between 1924–1926. These works document his pioneering views of industry and technology in burgeoning, jazz-age New York, Detroit, and Chicago; they would appear later, un-credited, in Erich Mendelsohn's seminal 1926 publication *Amerika*, the first book on the 'International Style' in American architecture. Thirteen vintage photographs reproduced in *Amerika* will be on exhibit, as well as additional early photographs depicting technological advancements, such as cable cars and radio antennae, American culture in mass crowds and billboards, and the commercial architecture of skyscrapers and factories. Backside-views of buildings and fire escapes, rather than historicist ornamental facades, are presented in their "unselfconscious beauty" in opposition to traditional, pictorialist architectural photography. The content of the works coupled with progressive view points, like worm's eye perspectives and extreme close-ups, align them squarely within the then emerging 'New Photography.' Mendelsohn's publication, featuring Lonberg-Holm's dynamic photography, received immediate acclaim, domestically and abroad.

At the research department of Sweet's Catalog Service, the bible for all building trades, Lonberg-Holm and the pioneering Czech graphic artist Ladislav Sutnar revolutionized catalog and design theory by standardizing information techniques. Together, they presented systemized communication through a simple, modern, and intelligible visual language that influenced all areas of architectural and graphic design. Examples of Lonberg-Holm's research into production and information flow will be on exhibit alongside works from his collaborations with Sutnar.

For visuals or further information, please contact Caitlin Suarez at Ubu Gallery—212 753 4444 or suarez@ubugallery.com