

The Corcoran Gallery of Art
Washington, D.C.

Hermann Warner Williams, Jr.
Director and Secretary

Metropolitan 8-3211

November 12, 1958

Mr. Ludwig Mies van der Rohe
Dean, Department of Architecture
Illinois Institute of Technology
3300 South Federal Street
Chicago 16, Illinois

Dear Mr. van der Rohe:

The Corcoran School of Art may soon have an opening for an Instructor in basic design who would also be the School's administrative officer, possibly with the title of Dean.

He would be responsible to Mr. Richard Lahey, for many years the School's Principal. His duties would include devoting about half his time to the administration of the School: interviewing prospective students, keeping students' records, and handling the correspondence. He would have the assistance of a secretary. In a way his duties would resemble those of a dean. Mr. Lahey is usually present at the School two days a week; which will make the responsibilities of his chief assistant all the more important.

The other half of his duties would be devoted to teaching courses in basic design. These would be given to a student body consisting of the Corcoran's own students and those of George Washington University. The courses would be required for Freshmen of the University. There is a chance that sooner or later more advanced courses will be given, including some for a Master's Degree.

The incumbent would have considerable freedom in choosing teaching methods and devising courses. His chief objective should be to give the students a very broad understanding of design principles and subject them to a fairly strict intellectual discipline. This would to some extent offset the freedom which is necessarily associated with creative art courses.

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We realize the importance of securing the services of a very able man with a few years of teaching experience, possibly one of your most promising instructors or an outstanding graduate. In view of the fact that the incumbent would have considerable responsibility we propose to offer him a starting salary of \$5,800 to \$6,500 a year according to qualifications, with every possibility of subsequent raises. He would have a month's vacation, and would be expected to teach one or more summer courses. He should be prepared to start work in the fall of 1959. I would appreciate your letting me know of any possible candidates as soon as possible.

We would arrange to have the most promising candidates come to Washington for an interview, or else a member of our staff could arrange to go to Chicago (unless there is a convention of designers at which we can send a representative of the Gallery to meet candidates).

Sincerely yours,

Director

To Mies' office 11-20-58