

For your information

N.S.I.D.'s distinguished decoration list . . . Furniture design panel . . . Awards . . . Contract news

N.S.I.D.

Today's tastemakers honored

That there is still validity in W. S. Gilbert's line from

Patience—"You can't get high aesthetic tastes, like trousers, ready made"—is suggested by the National Society of Interior Designers' first annual international Honor List for Disting-

uished Decoration. Only nine names appear this year instead of 10, explained N.S.I.D. president Pini di San Miniato, because Mrs. Jacqueline Kennedy was omitted in deference to her mourning. The nine, selected "because they have contributed to, and have inspired good design in their environment, influencing the public taste throughout the world," are: HRH The Duchess of Windsor, Paris, "whose concept of total design is evident in both her town and country houses. Hers is the ultimate example of perfection of taste, understanding of composition, and flair for contemporary living. . . . Her influence on taste and art is outstanding and none surpass her influence on fashion and design of interiors." Henry Francis Du Pont whose "unique contribution to interior decoration and design is the beautiful Winterthur Museum which reflects American taste and style exclusively. . . ." American born Madame Jacques Balsan, Palm Beach, the former Consuelo Vanderbilt, who "has refurbished the interiors of more great houses in her life than any designer in the world," including Marlborough House in Newport; Blenheim Palace, and Sunderland House in London, Eze on the Riviera, St. George in Normandy, and a house in Palm Beach. "Each is endowed with her superb knowledge of decoration, great furnishings in brilliant taste and famous collections from all over the world. . . ." Countess Laetizia Pecci-Blunt, Rome, "the aristocratic niece of Pope Leo XIII . . . has restored one of the most famous Italian villas, *La Marlia*, near Luca" (which formerly belonged to Elisa Bonaparte, Napoleon's sister). "In addition, the Countess has redone the interiors of her palace in Rome. . . . Thanks to her enthusiasm for interior design, she has inspired other Italian aristocracy to do the same with their own family estates." . . . Mrs. Wil-

liam S. Paley, Manhasset, Long Island, who "prefers no particular style or period of decoration, yet combines 18th century English and French antiques and contemporary furnishings with truly remarkable skill and charm. . . . Her penchant for neutral schemes focuses attention on the wonderful collection of impressionist paintings, *objets d'art*, and furniture. Her talented, tasteful coordination of furnishings make her home one of the most beautiful in America." Charles Beistegui, Paris, a Mexican who is "considered to be the greatest present day exponent of the 18th century period interior. The fabulous restoration of the Palazzo Labia in Venice is the finest example of his devotion to perfection. His Chateau of Groussay near Paris features a perfect example of a private 18th century theatre. . . . Most French and Italian designers have been inspired by Mr. Beistegui's great passion for this period of decoration and design. . . ." American-born Aileen Quintanilla, Madrid, wife of the Count of Quintanilla, whose "magnificent ranch is enhanced by a 18th century house built on the ruins of a 2nd century Roman building. . . . The beautiful house is filled with paintings by Goya, Tiepolo, and Velasquez, as well as contemporary canvases by some of the best young artists in Europe. . . . The Spanish people are inspired by her manner of living, perfection of taste and charm." Mrs. Charles S. Wrightsman, Palm Beach, through whose "efforts and inspiration the Metropolitan Museum has acquired great examples of French 18th century furniture, boiseries, parquet and bibelots. . . ." Baron Alexis de Redé, "the ingenious and versatile non-professional designer" whose home is in the Hotel Lambert in Ile St. Louis in Paris. "Among the magnificent period rooms he has recreated in this palace is the famous bedroom that Pierce and Fontaine designed at the end of the 18th century for the Count D'Arnois, brother of Louis XVI, in his Chateau of Bagatelle. He is also renowned for creating the interiors of the fabulous Givaudan yacht which is the only one in the world completely furnished in 18th century French period furnishings. . . ."



HRH the Duchess of Windsor



Countess Laetizia Pecci-Blunt before a Marie Laurencin in the hall of Pecci Palace



Henry Francis Du Pont



Mrs. William Paley



Above: Madame Jacques Balsan



Countess of Quintanilla

Right: Mrs. Charles Wrightsman



Baron Alexis de Redé



supported by an X-shaped frame of broad flat steel. Arms, seat, and back rest are upholstered in Cotton-Flote while spring steel supports give the back rest flexion for greater seating comfort. Caruso plans to establish his own industrial design firm in Brussels, Belgium, this May.

George Carroll, a partner in the year-old Los Angeles firm of Hicks-Carroll Designers, won his award for a wide-armed lounge chair supported by a bent tubular frame. Use of torsion bar suspension keeps the chair from being a rigid structure.

Contestants in this annual competition, jointly sponsored by the National Cotton Batting Institute and the National Cotton Council, retain all design and sales rights to their furniture ideas.

Judges were; Jens Risom of Jens Risom Design, Inc.; Harold Eliot Leeds, chairman, Pratt Institute's department of interior design; and Jeanne Weeks, Associate Editor of INTERIORS, who substituted for Olga Gueft, Editor.

Outstanding interior of 1963

The S.M. Hexter Company's annual "Outstanding Interior of the Year" competition, in its half-dozen years of existence, has become an important talent scouting event in the interiors field. This year's is no exception. It is unusual, however, in that for the first time more of the entries were in the contract than in the residential field.

The top award for 1963 announced by the fabric firm last month (a three-week deluxe all-expense trip to Europe for two) went to Walter I. Farmer,



Walter Farmer, A.I.D.

A.I.D., president of Greenwich House Inc., Cincinnati. His living-dining room (see cut) skillfully integrates furniture with architecture of informal warmth and appeal and employs wood textures and colorful fabrics. Movable wood paneling conceals the kitchen, a bar, and music center. A graduate architect from Miami University, Oxford, Ohio, Farmer was in charge of the Robert's Commission for the Preservation of Art Objects in Wiesbaden, Germany.

Joseph M. Schuler, N.S.I.D., of Schuler-Pearce Design, Inc., Rochester, New York, won the second 1963 Hexter Award—a round trip to Paris—for a working office in a residence that combines a well-planned furniture arrangement with fresh contemporary colors, sculpture, and paintings.

Two entries were also selected for honorable mention: a family guest room by John Bachstein, A.I.D., New York; and a bank by Vern Currie, A.I.D., Richard Plumer Business Interiors, Miami, Florida.

The judges were Walter E. Bahno, Thomasville Furniture Industries, Inc.; Frances Taylor Heard, *House Beautiful*; Arthur Leaman, *House & Garden*; William Raiser, vice-president, Raymond Loewy/William Snaith, Inc.; and Norman Shepherd, A.I.D.

Lucile Stockwell Chatain award

Catherine Ezzo of Ozone Park, New York, was named winner of the second Lucile Stockwell Chatain Award presented annually to a second-year interiors student at Parsons School of Design. The \$500 award is to be used toward expenses of Parsons' European summer session. Second place among this year's 49 entries went to John A. Patton of Los Angeles, and third place to Mary Cheng, a student from Hong Kong. The competition problem consisted of a decorating scheme for a luxury guest house including floor plan for the entire house and perspective renderings of the main living area with emphasis upon the use of wallcoverings from current Stockwell collections. (Photographs of the winners and their solutions will appear in these pages next month).

(Continued on page 22)

U.S. will have exhibit at Triennale. Send your exhibit item before May 1.

The United States will have a government-sponsored exhibition at the 13th Triennale di Milano May 27th through September 27, 1964. United States participation—a great rarity at this world-famous international exhibition of architecture and the decorative arts—is the result of an energetic drive by a committee headed by Jack Lenor Larsen. Along with Edgar Kaufmann, Mildred Constantine of the Museum of Modern Art, Edward Wormley, A.I.D., Edward Larrabee Barnes, A.I.A., Harold Leeds of Pratt Institute's Interior Design Department, and others, Larsen decided to attempt, this year, to break the pattern of non-participation. The Committee, which is incorporated, voted to entrust architect Charles Forberg, industrial designer Michael Lax, and designer Jack Lenor Larsen with the design of an exhibition framework for space offered by the Triennale—2500 square feet. Possibility that the exhibition would materialize was not made certain, however, until funds were promised by a foundation won over by Evelyn Jablow, A.I.D.

This successful campaign, carried out in the face of repeated discouragement, represents a triumph for American designers, who have been mere spectators in most of the Triennales of the past, watching while other countries' designers won the many coveted medals awarded by an international jury.

Theme of this year's Triennale, *Leisure*, is a suggestion not a mandatory subject.

Selection committee for the American Exhibition (Jack Larsen, Edgar Kaufmann, Mildred Constantine and Olga Gueft) is now reviewing exhibit items. If you have furniture, an accessory, or other useful or decorative object—hand-crafted or machine made which you think advanced, original, beautiful and a useful adjunct to American living, send a sketch, photo, or other illustration and description to Jack Lenor Larsen, 126 East 19th St., N. Y. C. 10010.



View of living-dining room by Walter Farmer, A.I.D., judged Outstanding Interior of the Year in Hexter 1963 award.