

GALERIE PATRICK SEGUIN
20TH CENTURY FURNITURE & ARCHITECTURE
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GALERIE PATRICK SEGUIN DEBUTS LONDON LOCATION

Inaugural Exhibition of Jean Prouvé Architecture Opens October 11, 2015

LONDON, UK (July, 2015) Galerie Patrick Seguin, the premier gallery of 20th century French furniture and design, expands beyond its Parisian flagship for the first time and debuts a London location in the heart of the exclusive Mayfair district.

Located at 45-47 Brook Street, steps from landmark London hotel Claridge's, the 65 square meter gallery will feature an alternating program of architecture, design and art exhibitions. Programming will reflect the gallery's core business of architecture and design while continuing its tradition of collaboration with contemporary art galleries.

"Our prime location in Mayfair engages the Gallery directly with London's dynamic art scene," explains gallery founder, Patrick Seguin. "We are excited to showcase the Gallery's particular genius of putting architecture and design in conversation with contemporary art."

The inaugural exhibition opens October 11 and features two important architectural works by Mid-century Modern architect and designer Jean Prouvé including: "Temporary School of Villejuif" (1956) and an adaptation of "6x6 Demountable House" (1944) by London-based architecture practice Rogers Stirk Harbour + Partners (RSHP). The gallery has assembled the most significant collection of Prouvé's demountable architecture, 20 houses to date, most of which are either unique works or limited examples.

Temporary School of Villejuif (1956)

The asymmetrical Villejuif Demountable House is a lightweight project whose sheet-steel props support a cantilevered wooden roof. It was Prouvé's response to a 1956 commission for a schoolhouse that could be easily dismantled and relocated. The school was later disassembled and its components used in other buildings. Prouvé's design and engineering of these versatile structures and their components is now considered to be a milestone in 20th century architecture. The work was exhibited in New York earlier this year in a collaborative exhibition between Galerie Patrick Seguin and Gagosian Gallery entitled "Chamberlain I Prouvé".

Adaptation of Prouvé's 6x6 Demountable House by Rogers Stirk Harbour +Partners (1944-2014)

The "6x6 Demountable House" was originally designed by Prouvé in 1944 to rehouse war victims in Lorraine, France. Built entirely from wood and metal, the houses were easily transported and quickly assembled. The adaption of "6x6 Demountable House" led by RSHP's Ivan Harbour is based on the original plans with the addition of modern living facilities including a satellite bathroom and kitchen as well as a series of service trolleys providing hot water and solar powered electricity. In doing so, RSHP was able to "preserve the integrity of the original as a single living space." The adaptation was exhibited this past June at Design Miami/Basel.

Galerie Patrick Seguin has also developed an editorial line of comprehensive publications and has released a set of five monographs dedicated to Jean Prouvé's demountable architecture, illustrated with archival and contemporary photographs. These five volumes are the first of 15 that will be released in three separate boxed sets over the course of 2015 and 2016.

JEAN PROUVÉ

Jean Prouvé (1901–1984) was a twentieth-century pioneer in the innovative production of furniture and architecture. Determined to be a man of his time, Prouvé explored all the current technical resources in metalworking, soon abandoning wrought iron for bent sheet steel: in the thirties he produced metal joinery, his early furniture, architectural components and knockdown buildings, all in small series.

The same principles were applied to the making of furniture – often intended for the public sector – and to the architecture of the postwar boom. Astute assembly systems for hardware structures meant that furniture and buildings alike could be readily dismantled, moved about and modified.

The Prouvé blend of avant-garde spirit and humanist concerns has lost none of its relevance. The originality of his different periods is repeatedly rediscovered, from the first items for the University dormitory in Nancy in 1932 through those for a similar facility in Antony in 1954; the furniture for Africa; and the knockdown postwar schools and «little architecture machines» of the sixties. Working with the best architects, Jean Prouvé left his stamp on many famous examples of twentieth-century building, most of which are now classified historic monuments.

GALERIE PATRICK SEGUIN

Established in 1989 in a 300sqm space designed by the architect Jean Nouvel, the gallery showcases the talent of French designers of the 20th century such as Jean Prouvé, Charlotte Perriand, Pierre Jeanneret, Le Corbusier and Jean Royère. Today, their creations are recognized as major contributions to the history of design. For more than 20 years, Galerie Patrick Seguin has been working strenuously to internationally promote and showcase the demountable houses of Jean Prouvé; the gallery committed itself to present the largest collection of Prouvé's demountable houses in the world and has developed an editorial line of monographic books to accompany the exhibitions.

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