

**Media Preview**

20 July 2016

10 am - 12 pm

RSVP to

mcobb@fitzandco.com

**Auction / New York**

26 July 2016, 10 am

**Exhibition / New York**

20 – 26 July 2016

**Located at****The Four Seasons**

99 East 52 Street

New York, NY 10022

**Press inquiries:****FITZ & CO****Meg Blackburn**

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**Wright**

1440 W Hubbard St

Chicago, IL 60642

T 312 563 0020

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**wright20.com**

New York, July 11th, 2016—Wright presents *The Four Seasons*, a special auction featuring the furniture and designed tableware and objects from the iconic restaurant's historic interior. The event will take place at *The Four Seasons* in New York on July 26, 2016.



The Four Seasons auction will take place on-site at restaurant on July 26, 2016. In total, the sale will include approximately 600 lots with prices ranging from \$100 - \$15,000. A complete listing of lots will be available online at [www.wright20.com](http://www.wright20.com) by July 12th. The auction will include furniture designed by Mies van der Rohe, Hans Wegner, and Eero Saarinen as well as custom designs by Philip Johnson and tableware and objects by Garth and Ada Louise Huxtable. The sale includes the Grill Room's famed banquettes, the original suite of Barcelona seating from the travertine lobby, custom Tulip tables with polished bronze tops, and groups of custom Brno chairs, among other designs and tableware and objects such as custom wine coolers, serving carts and even the bespoke pots and pans among many other pieces designed especially for the remarkable restaurant. The furniture and tableware will be available in a variety of groupings.

A public preview of all available lots will be held on-site at *The Four Seasons* each day between July 20–25, 2016. Hours: July 20th 1 - 6 pm, July 21st - 24th 10 am - 6 pm, and July 25th 10 am - 2 pm. A media preview will be held on July 20th at *The Four Seasons* from 10 am - 12 pm. Media wishing to attend should RSVP to [mcobb@fitzandco.com](mailto:mcobb@fitzandco.com).

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*The Four Seasons will be on view in *The Four Seasons Restaurant* at 99 East 52 Street, opening July 20th through the 26th. The auction will occur on site on July 26th. Visit [wright20.com](http://wright20.com) for additional auction information and a complete listing of available lots.*

# WRIGHT

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The auction will be live and open to the public, and will take place on-site at The Four Seasons on July 26, 2016, beginning at 10 am edt. There are many ways to participate: participants may bid in person, by telephone, absentee, online, or with the Wright Auction iOS app. Visit [wright20.com](http://wright20.com) for additional auction information and a complete listing of available lots.

Wright has published a special catalog for The Four Seasons auction honoring the restaurant's history and legacy with essays by Paul Goldberger, Graydon Carter, and Alan Richman. The catalog is available for purchase for \$50 domestic / \$70 international at [wright20.com](http://wright20.com).

Designed in 1959 by Philip Johnson for Mies van der Rohe's landmark Seagram building on Park Avenue in Manhattan, The Four Seasons has become one of the most important and recognizable International Style interior spaces in the world. On July 16th, The Four Seasons is closing its present location in order to open in a newly designed location, thus beginning a new chapter for the legendary restaurant.

Since its establishment in 1959, The Four Seasons has garnered acclaim as much for its culinary innovations as its seminal interior design, and has been recognized as a unique global destination and quintessential example of Philip Johnson's aesthetic throughout its storied history. While the interior space is landmarked – the famous bar, the sculpture above it, and the iconic metal curtains will all remain intact – the designed furniture, tableware, and objects will be offered at auction in the one-day event to take place in the original interior.

Richard Wright, founder and President of Wright says, "I am truly honored to work with Alex von Bidder and Julian Niccolini, co-owners of The Four Seasons, to celebrate the historic legacy of this iconic American interior with this auction event. Wright has always held a particular focus on modern architecture and design, and this interior so perfectly captures the modern spirit in heroic and elegant fashion. Though The Four Seasons is an international landmark, I consider it an example of what can only be accomplished in New York City. Having expanded to New York with our Madison Avenue galleries and office in the last few years, we are excited to have the opportunity to tell this incredible New York story."

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Brent Lewis, Director of Wright's New York location notes, "For New York City, The Four Seasons is an institution. For the world it is a destination. It represents, with such grace, the very ideals of modern architecture and design. It has a subtle power that is resonant from far off. Yet for so many, its power is more intangible and very personal. There is a soulfulness to these rooms and these objects that must be celebrated for their simple beauty alongside their history."

A modern gesamtkunstwerk, The Four Seasons was designed as a balance between the rigorous design values of Mies and the textural luxury fundamental to an inspired dining experience. Designated with landmark status by the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission in 1989, and perhaps the most important International Style interior space in the world, the interior and décor of the restaurant has remained largely unchanged since its opening. Built without any expense spared, The Four Seasons became the costliest restaurant to have ever been built. Its final cost of \$4.5 million in 1959 was said to be greater than the entire cost of the Guggenheim Museum. Every detail was considered in order to remain true to the vision of the designers.

In its 1959 opening review in The New York Times, Craig Claiborne observed, "There has never been a restaurant better keyed to the tempo of Manhattan than The Four Seasons...perhaps the most exciting restaurant to open in New York within the last two decades." Since its opening, The Four Seasons has won countless culinary awards, including the James Beard Outstanding Restaurant Award as well as this year's inaugural James Beard Foundation Design Icon Award.

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Image by Jennifer Calais Smith

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The Four Seasons will reopen in 2017 in a new space located at 280 Park Avenue designed by the Brazilian architect Isay Weinfeld. Says Alex von Bidder, Co-Owner of The Four Seasons, "It's an extraordinary privilege to be planning the next chapter in The Four Seasons' colorful life. Every detail is so important and fascinating to explore because this restaurant is a true New York 'character' with all the swagger and understated bravado of the city's most vibrant personalities."

**About Wright:** Wright is the premier auction house specializing in modern and contemporary design. Since its founding in 2000, Wright has handled more than 40,000 lots across the spectrum of 20th century and contemporary design. Based in Chicago, with a gallery in New York in the historic Parke-Bernet building at 980 Madison, the company was founded and is run by Richard Wright along with a group of creative and innovative specialists who have pioneered whole fields of collection, championed architecture at auction and presented fine art with dependable results, cultivating an illustrious place within the auction industry. Wright is also a leading figure in direct and private sales of art and design with an online marketplace for furniture, decorative arts and design, Wright Now.

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