

Our new efforts will not be reformative - we are after creating new things.
Zdeněk Rossmann, 1927

The Guide to the Exhibition of Zdeněk Rossmann

The *Horizons of Modernism* exhibition is divided into six basic sections mapping out Rossmann's stages in the geographical centres where he created his cardinal works. His stage designs have been singled out as an independent theme, and the wartime and post-war stages have been summed up under the title Epilogues.

The creative output of the architect Zdeněk Rossmann is typified by his penchant for technology in his solutions. Examples are shown throughout the whole scope of the design areas in which he worked: architectural plans, stage design drawings, maps, graphs and guidebooks.

To navigate through the *Horizons of Modernism* exhibition you have available the *Guide to the Exhibition of Zdeněk Rossmann* that will take you through six exhibition units:

- 1. Rossmann and Interwar Brno**
- 2. Rossmann at the Bauhaus and in Paris**
- 3. Rossmann and Zlín**
- 4. Stage Design**
- 5. Rossmann and Slovakia**
- 6. Epilogues**

The primary inspiration for creating the guide to the showcase in a "Rossmann" spirit was provided to the exhibition's graphic designer Robert Vojtěch Novák through a photograph from the installation of the exhibition of *László Moholy-Nagy* at the Brno Künstlerhaus (today the Brno House of Arts) from 1935 (in Bratislava it was installed by Zdeněk Rossmann), which he found in a book by Oliver A. Botar *Sensing the Future: Moholy-Nagy, Media and the Arts*. The Brno reprise of the exhibition of László Moholy-Nagy was installed by Rossmann's friend and another figurehead of the Brno avant-garde, František Kalivoda, who made the arrangements for Zdeněk Rossmann to bring the exhibition to Bratislava. The photographs from the exhibition (stored in the architectural collection of the Brno City Museum) clearly show that the exhibits were displayed without captions, instead being marked with a numbered disc only referring to the title or a more detailed description. The graphic design for the *Guide to the Exhibition of Zdeněk Rossmann* reflects a similar approach and at the same time accommodates practical requirements: many of the Czech-English descriptions would exceed or equal in format the dimensions of Rossmann's subtle exhibits.

Zdeněk Rossmann was a member of the University Sports Club Brno. Have a go at gymnastics on the rings in the courtyard of the Museum of Applied Arts in Brno together with Zdeněk Rossmann. Send your sporting photos to da@moravska-galerie.cz.