

Introduction the composition of this design you can

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Introduction “ A house is a machine for living in” 15. These are the words of an influential architect.

Le Corbusier was an architect, designer, painter, urban planner, writer and known as one of the pioneers of modern architecture, he is also part of the first generation of architects who were part of the International school of architecture, being their most able architect and because of his persuasive nature he became one of the most influential architects. Corbusier designs mainly where focused on the combination of functionalism of the modern movement with a bold, sculptural expressionism. 1 This essay will look into the argument of Le Corbusier's, that architects of the time should take more references from engineering and the factories of the industrial era. I will also talk about the detail and the emphases Le Corbusier goes into to display the importance of the use of simple geometric forms and relying on calculations to design buildings, with this I will look at his use of language and the way he writes to show this aspect. I will also look at the way he justifies this subjects through his drawings pictures and other forms of design. Geometric forms and simple Compositions The argument that Le Corbusier raises is that primary forms are beautiful because they can be clearly appreciated. This is shown in the first part of the author's writing “ primary forms are beautiful forms because they are clearly legible” 2 this is an example of Le Corbusier's main argument that architects of his time should design more simply as it is clearer.

He says the quote Figure 1 this is Villa La Roche-Jeanerette this is also supported by the book written by Le Corbusier Towards a New Architecture

this is a copy of 1927 version which is the original edition of the translated version, this book states a similar point " Primary forms are beautiful forms because they can be clearly appreciated" 3. This quote clearly indicates the argument Le Corbusier is raising, that if architecture is approached with a simple composition it is easier to understand. This also shows his thoughts behind how he wants to approach his designs at this point in his career, this is reflected in the design of a building such as The Villa La Roche-Jeanerette (Figure 1) The designed in 1923, now when looking at the composition of this design you can see that the simple forms are recurrent, in fact the whole design is composed of geometric forms such as the very cuboid like façade. Designs like Villa Savoy completed in 1931 (Figure 2) was very much designed with the same style so this ideal came up in many parts of his work so you can tell, he wants to turn that sense of geometric forms into a trend showing again trying to be very influential. Figure 2 Villa Savoy Le Corbusier, Adolf Meyer and Walter Gropius all studied under Figure 3 The Fagus Factory Peter Behrens and he is also the architect who influenced them with the idea of engineering forms. Now when looking at the Fagus Factory (Figure 3) designed by Adolf Meyer and Walter Gropius when looking at its features, you can really tell that the building was designed with a lot of geometrical features. Mainly Walter Gropius who very similar ideas well known for the founder of the German art school known as Bauhaus when looking at the school work in general you can tell that it has this simple and primary forms are used very frequently (figure 4). He also had similar ideas about engineers he liked to educate the artists about the

difference between architecture and engineering Walter Gropius famous quote was " Architecture begins where engineering ends.

" 13 What he means with this quote is Architecture is there to make the buildings look beautiful, this can only start when the engineering aspect starts, this is when you make sure the building is standing, ends, the idea of objects being aesthetically pleasing, can only start after they have been machine made. Industrialism Le Corbusier and the Bauhaus both were interested in mass production and industrialism. Bauhaus revolutionised the design and production of modern furniture by the use of steel as frames or supports for furniture and other appliances. The use of machine made and mass-produced steel created simple forms that required little handcrafting and it added to the streamlined, geometric modern look of Bauhaus furniture. When Le Corbusier spoke about mass production of housing " a state of mind for living in mass production " 14 which shows that he wants to convey the idea of the housing building being mass produced. Figure 4 Bauhaus Le Corbusier use of writing as a tool to influence architecture Le Corbusier's ideas have always been about simplicity. In the book, he uses the word " primitive " a lot to show how complicated architecture has become.

He even says this in his writing by claiming that " The architects of today no longer make simple forms " 5 the way he uses his language seems to be a tactic for architects to show them what architecture has become. Then he indirectly makes the audience (architects) think about how they approach their designs by saying " architects today are afraid of the geometric constituents of surfaces " 6 similarly in the book it says " architects today are

afraid of the geometric constituents of surfaces". 7 This makes the audience question themselves why are they afraid of using a geometric components in their designs?, Then encourages the architects by giving them a with positive aspect when using geometrical forms, saying that " The great problems of modern construction will be solved through geometry" 8 this will then encourage the reader to consider using simple forms. These quotes all show his persuasive nature by engaging the reader, he berets architects to think about the geometrical compositions in their designs and then encourages them by a positive aspect if they consider this style it's almost a propaganda style writing. From this I can see the way he is writing he was not only bringing his argument/idea across but at the same time he is very persuasive in the way he uses his language. This persuasive nature makes him like seem very obsessed with the simple and engineered architecture. Le Corbusier again uses the word " Primitive" 9 in a historical context.

He believes that going backwards is the way forwards. Before certain tools were made Le Corbusier believed that man used measurements as a way of understanding what they were making; using arms, feet and fingers as units. An example of this is in the book when he states " imposed order by means of measurements. In order to get his measurements, he has taken his pace, his foot, his elbow or his finger. By imposing the order of his foot or his arm, he has created a unit which regulates the whole work; and this work is on his own scale, to his own proportion, comfortable for him, to his measure. It is on the human scale" 10.

This quote is from the book which is an example of him embracing the fact that backwards was the way forward. The most important part of this quote is "It is on the human scale" 11 as it really makes the reader think about the human scale and how this is how it's supposed to be. Modular Le Corbusier was also interested in the human scale he made his own scale called the Modular (figure 5)

The Modular is a geometrical grid based on the human form. This indicates again that he wants to go backwards rather than forwards also showing that he more cares about the human interaction with the buildings hence he created an entirely new scale that relates to human scale. This shows that he uses the word "Primitive" in two different contexts one in which he is used it historically and secondly to emphasize the complexity of architecture in his time. Figure 5 : geometrical grid of the modular Le Corbusier's interest in Machines From his writing, you can tell that he was inspired by the machine age (this is the development of new technology and industrial processes).

In the book, he praised the beauty of the ship engines, the turbine engine, the automobile and even the bridge construction. An example of this is when he says, "The air plane is a product of high selection" 12. That shows he likes All design of the engineer, whose products had to reflect function and could not be filled up with unessential decoration.

He then talks about how the airplane teaches a lesson about solving problems "the lesson of the air plane is in the logic that governed the statement of the problem and its realization" 16 showing again that he is telling other architects to think like an engineer to see a problem and then fix

it or to think about a design logically rather creatively now engages the audience by stating that the "problem of the house has not been posed" 17 meaning that architects haven't thought about the house as problem to be thought out properly rather than just designed. Then he explains that because designs haven't been thought about properly they don't meet our needs but people still live in them "current architectural things do not answer to our needs" then saying "yet there are standards for living" 18 showing that he cares very much about functionalism and about humane ergonomics referring back to the modular backs up the fact that he cares about living standards as the measurements he uses were all humane scale rather than any other scale. It was also very interesting how he used the word "standards" saying it in argumentative way as if architects of his time violated a certain standard of architecture as if there are certain rules that architects have to follow to design a house that someone can dwell in.

LeCorbusier finally sums that inter paragraph with one of the most famous saying in the world of architecture "the house is a machine for living in" 19 showing his inspiration from machines. Figure 6 He again wants to change the way architects design, by attempting to make architects think about setting a new standard of architecture through certain rules that will inevitably solve problems "we must see to the establishment of standards so we can face up to the problem of perfection" 20 this shows his why of trying to set rules and regulations to start tackling the issues and the problems that occur when designing a building. He uses old architecture as an example to show that there were certain rules followed to or standard that he believes were used to create a building "the Parthenon is a product

of selection applied to a standard” 21 he used this example of the patheron (figure 6) to show that you can create any kind of architecture using certain rules or standards again referring back to the past showing how even in ancient times they used certain rules in their buildings. One of its rules was that a space is classified by structure and (pillars) and a roof .

When looking at the way he talks about engines or machines where there it is air planes or cars he still has the sense of interest and passion for functionalism the quote “ A house is a machine for living in” 22 really emphasises this aspect of functionalism as machines are only made for function.

Conclusion To conclude, it can be seen that he would use these ideas to see the buildings as an object in which his eyes had to be satisfied by what he had created. This is one of the main points of the entire argument whether it's in the book or in the writing. His persuasive language and the way he indirectly makes the audience participate with his ideas and thoughts seems to me like it is almost a propaganda to recruit architects to follow a modernist and functionalist ideal.

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