

Le
Corbusier

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Principles of Furniture and Joinery Design

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Introduction

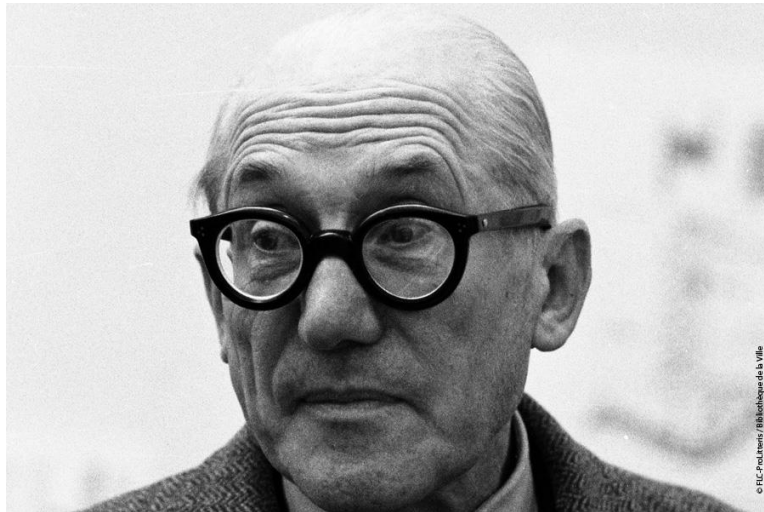
The designer allocated to me is a Swiss designer called Le Corbusier. I intend to research as much as I can about this designer through as many different sources as possible and make it easy to understand for the reader. I will form this project around certain topics such as the designers work history, their famous pieces or designs and my personal opinion on the designers work. I hope that these things will make the content of my project clear and easy to understand.



<http://static.guim.co.uk/sys-images/Arts/Arts/Pictures/2009/8/7/1249662727477/Le-Corbusier-001.jpg>

History of Le Corbusier

Le Corbusier was an architect and an artist. He was born on October 6, 1887 in La Chaux-de-Fonds, Switzerland. He was best known for being part of the first generation of the International school of architecture. His father was an artist called Edouard Jeanneret and his mother was a musician called Madame Jeanneret - Perret.



<http://www.neuchatel tourism.ch/en/decouvertes/guided-city-tours.4728/le-corbusierblla-chaux-de-fonds.5537.html>

His family's beliefs and their love of the arts were big influences on Le Corbusier's early teenage years. When he was 13 he left primary school to attend Arts Décoratifs at La Chaux-de-Fonds. Here he met Charles L'Épplatenier who taught him drawing, art history and the natural aesthetics of art Nouveau. Le Corbusier wanted to be a painter so he continued to study art and decoration but Charles L'Épplatenier insisted on Corbusier studying architecture also. After three years of study L'Épplatenier gave him his first practice on local projects.

After designing his first house in 1907, Corbusier decided to travel to Europe and the Mediterranean where he did apprenticeships with numerous architects. One of these architects was Auguste Perret, who was a pioneer of reinforced concrete construction. Le Corbusier learned a lot from his travels. He made three architectural discoveries that would change his career for the better.

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The first was the contrast between large collective spaces and small individual spaces.

The second was classical proportion via Renaissance architecture.

The third was geometric forms and the use of landscapes as an architectural tool.

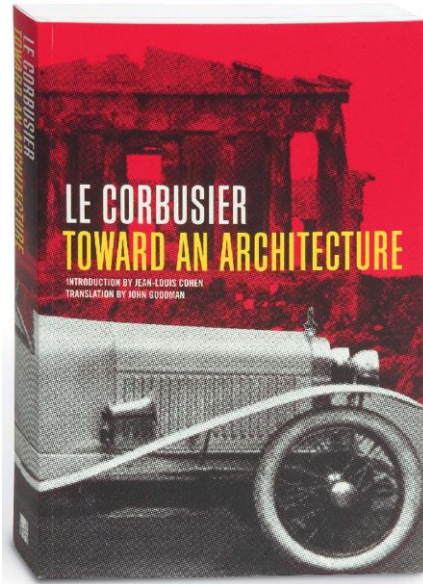
Le Corbusier wanted to open his own architectural practice, and in 1912 he did exactly that when he returned to Le Chaux-de-Fonds. He used all the knowledge he gained from his travels to get his practice up and running and then went on to design a series of villas in which he incorporated the use of reinforced concrete as a structural frame. This was a very modern technique at the time and one that he began to use in his other building designs. He believed this concept would help rebuild cities after World War 1 came to an end.

The floor plans of the proposed housing consisted of open space, no support poles and freeing exterior and interior walls from structural constraints. This design system became the backbone of Le Corbusier's architecture for the next 10 years.

Le Corbusier moved to Paris in 1917 to continue his work as an architect. Here he worked on concrete structures for the government. Although his main job was architecture he spent most of his time painting. In 1918 he met a Cubist painter called Amedee Ozenfant who encouraged him to paint. After much time working together they published a book called *Après le Cubisme* (after cubism) and created a new artistic movement called purism. Then in 1920 they met with poet Paul Dermée and together they all established the purist journal called 'The New Spirit'.

Following on from this, Le Corbusier went on to publish another book in 1923 called 'Toward a New Architecture'. This book contained his writing from 'The New Spirit' and some of his famous quotes such as 'a house is a machine for living in' and 'a curved street is a donkey track; a straight street, a road for men'.

Below is a picture of one of his most famous books; 'Toward an Architecture'.



http://www.architectmagazine.com/Images/tmp2DDD.tmp_tcm20-129717.jpg

Le Corbusier's articles proposed a new architecture that would meet the demands of industry. These proposals included his first city plan, the Contemporary City, and two housing types that were the basis for his architectural career; the Maison Monol and the Maison Citrohan.

Here we can see the Maison Monol style:



http://media.tumblr.com/tumblr_lrrzmeji01qmh21o.jpg

Here we can see the Maison Citrohan style:



http://4.bp.blogspot.com/-e8K8A670emM/TpwjnQ249SI/AAAAAAAAA2A/79_N1agANfw/s1600/LaVillaSavoyeLeCorbusier+01.jpg

The Maison Citrohan contained support pillars that raise the house above the ground, a roof terrace, an open floor plan, and horizontal windows in strips to allow in maximum natural light. These characteristics would later define modern architecture. As part of the design, Le Corbusier drew up plans of the city where the Maison Citrohan would be placed. It had green parks and gardens at the feet of every skyscraper. This was another great idea from Corbusier that would come to define urban planning in the future.

Sure enough these great ideas and designs became a reality. In 1925 – 1926 he was asked to build 40 Citrohan style houses in Pessac, near Bordeaux. It was called the ‘workers city’.

In the 1930’s, Le Corbusier changed his ideas on urbanism, publishing them in his book ‘The Radiant City’ in 1935. The Radiant City was controversial, as most of Le Corbusier’s projects seemed to be. In the book he described Stockholm as a “classically rendered city”. This along with other lines such as “frightening chaos and saddening monotony” and “he dreamed of cleaning and purging the city with a calm and powerful architecture”, upset the people of Stockholm.

When World War II came to an end in the 1930's, le Corbusier kept himself busy by designing and creating projects such as the famous master plans for the cities of Algiers and Buenos Aires.

Although Le Corbusier is primarily an architect, he believed that the right application of modern materials and building materials could deliver better living conditions and a better quality of life for those living in crowded cities. This is one of the main reasons why he began designing furniture. He was very interested in proportional systems such as the golden ratio which he incorporated into his own system. He wanted to make furniture that just “feels right”.

When asked about his furniture, Corbusier described it as “extensions of our limbs and adapted to human functions”. All of his furniture is made for comfort and it is well known around the world for this exact fact. Below is a picture of one of his most famous pieces of furniture, the ‘Chaise Longue’.



<http://iconicinteriors.com/images/uploads/products/le-corbusier-chaise-longue.jpg>

My Opinion

From looking into the life of Le Corbusier and researching all of his work I have come across a number of designs and works of his that I like. His architecture is renowned all over the world for being different and unique. He was a man with great ideas and he had the ability to turn these ideas into reality. As you can see from my research above he has, on numerous occasions, started trends and laid the foundation for future architects to build upon. I admire him for his determination and passion in everything he did including his architecture, art and furniture design. Looking back now I feel his work does not have much of an influence on me or my work. Although his furniture is very attractive and unique and there are many things I can take from his designs. Out of all his work the thing I like the most would be his furniture because I can relate to it as my college course is based around furniture and furniture design. I like how he uses a variety of materials ranging from glass, timber and metal etc to make his furniture. He pushes the boundaries when designing his furniture and this is something I admire and something I can learn from when designing my own furniture in the future.

Researched Material

Here are some images of Le Corbusiers work, ranging from his architectural designs to his furniture and art.



[http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/en/archive/0/07/20110828010344!EgliseSaintPierreLeCorbusierFirminy.jp](http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/en/archive/0/07/20110828010344!EgliseSaintPierreLeCorbusierFirminy.jpg)
[g](#)



<http://beautyofconcrete.files.wordpress.com/2013/03/1311867522-tartu-23-lukas-schaller.jpg>



<http://atelierfunkarchitecture.files.wordpress.com/2012/10/le-corbusier.jpg>



http://iconicinteriors.com/images/uploads/products/le_grand_confort_chair_001.jpg

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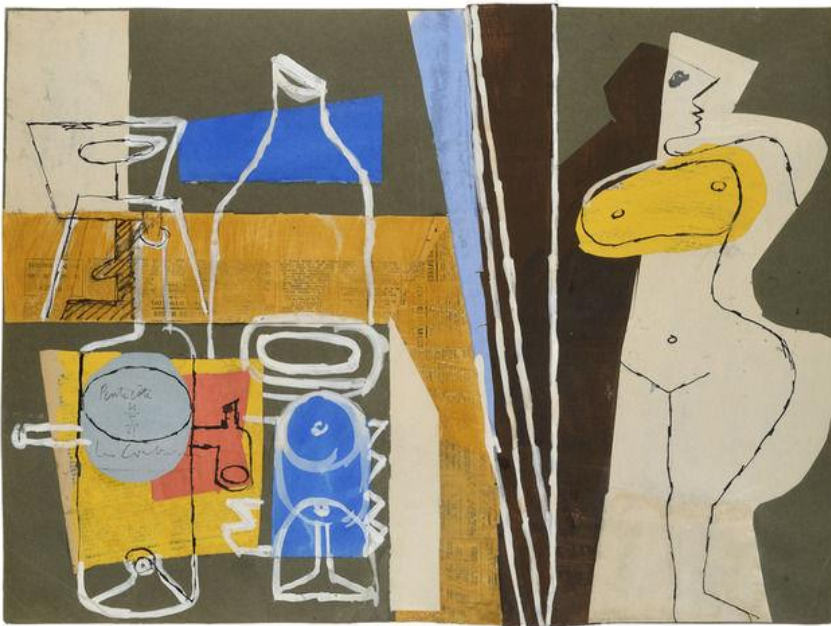
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<http://www.artvehicle.com/content/images/41/le-corbusier-design-for-tapestry-chandigarh.jpg>



http://www.editionedart.com/images/LeCorbusier_Portrait.jpg



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