

Le Corbusier: And the Continual Revolution in Architecture

By Charles Jencks

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Swiss-French architect Le Corbusier dominated twentieth-century architecture much the way Picasso dominated painting. His outstanding achievements, his vision of a harmonious machine civilization, his paintings, drawings, sculpture, architecture, city planning, and writing together compose a portrait of the architect as "protean creator." *Le Corbusier and the Continual Revolution* in Architecture is a fascinating study of this genius.

Taking into account recent scholarship and new theories of architectural change, noted architectural historian Charles Jencks traces the personal and professional development of Le Corbusier. In association with the Purist painter Amédée Ozenfant, he gained fame in the 1920s, publishing the journal *L'Esprit Nouveau* and four seminal modernist tracts: *Towards a New Architecture, The City of Tomorrow, The Decorative Art of Today,* and *La Peinture Moderne (Modern Painting).* Jencks demonstrates the influence of these classic texts by way of the architect's major projects of the period: Villa La Roche, Workers' Housing at Pessac, the Plan Voisin for Paris, Villa Stein, Villa Savoye, and the steel furniture, including the famed *grand confort* and *chaise longue*. Through the 1930s and into the 1940s Le Corbusier embraced a new worldliness that included not only hand-built masonry but also an awakened sensuality and a shift in politics; after World War II, he embarked on yet another transformation, this time towards a new brutalist mode that saw the realization of the controversial Unité d'Habitation and the truly revolutionary chapel at Ronchamp.

Le Corbusier and the Continual Revolution in Architecture presents over two hundred illustrations including architectural drawings, plans, and photographs, as well as paintings, sketches, and publication facsimiles. With this illuminating collection of images and his revealing and provocative text, Charles Jencks has produced a compelling and comprehensive analysis of the twentieth-century master who stayed well ahead of his followers to reinvent the art of architecture over and over again.

Architectural writer and designer

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Le Corbusier: And the Continual Revolution in Architecture By Charles Jencks Bibliography

- Rank: #3247587 in Books
- Brand: Brand: The Monacelli Press
- Published on: 2000-12-18
- Released on: 2000-12-18
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 10.35" h x 1.65" w x 8.35" l, 4.35 pounds
- Binding: Hardcover
- 304 pages

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Editorial Review

From Library Journal
It could be said that Le Corbusier was to 20th-century architecture what James Joyce was to its literature: each represents for his discipline an inventively pure, Modernist approach. Postmodern theorist, historian, and architect Jencks presents a critical biography of Charles-Edouard Jeanneret, who took as a pseudonym a variation on his mother's ancestral name, Le Corbesier. Beginning with the architect's early regionalist work, Jencks examines Le Corbusier's growth into the role of master architect and innovator through detailed, original, and illuminating analyses not only of his building designs but also of his drawings and paintings, paying particular attention to his writings. Jencks argues for an appreciation of the deep sensuality in the architecture and its sources. The captions are lengthy and carefully descriptive, but a greater number of plans and color photographs of the higher-quality buildings as well as greater resolution would have enhanced this notable addition to our understanding of this ultimate architect as artist. For subject collections at all academic and larger public libraries.DPaul Glassman, New York Sch. of Interior Design Lib.
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About the Author
Charles Jencks is the author of, among many other titles, *Le Corbusier and the Tragic View of Architecture*, *The Language of Post-Modern Architecture*, and *The Architecture of the Jumping Universe*.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Paul Delatorre:

The feeling that you get from Le Corbusier: And the Continual Revolution in Architecture could be the more deep you searching the information that hide within the words the more you get thinking about reading it. It does not mean that this book is hard to be aware of but Le Corbusier: And the Continual Revolution in Architecture giving you excitement feeling of reading. The writer conveys their point in certain way that can be understood by simply anyone who read it because the author of this guide is well-known enough. That book also makes your current vocabulary increase well. So it is easy to understand then can go with you, both in printed or e-book style are available. We propose you for having this kind of Le Corbusier: And the Continual Revolution in Architecture instantly.

Charles Smith:

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Gilbert Pellerin:

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