

FAQs

1. Explain the life and works of Erich Mendelsohn with sketches.

Erich Mendelsohn was a Jewish German architect, known for his expressionist architecture in the 1920s.

Mendelsohn is a pioneer of the Art Deco and Streamline Moderne architecture.

These early experiences generated a personal philosophy of "Dynamism" that demonstrated an attitude that was both expressionistic and personal.

Mendelsohn used no historical precedents in formulating his designs. As a result, his early buildings avoid the eclectic borrowing that mark so many of his contemporaries. Indeed, his architectural ideas were derived from expressionistic sketches and romantic symbolism.

In later designs, Mendelsohn moved away from his earlier expressionist architecture, designing a series of buildings in a more linear fashion.

In 1933, Mendelsohn fled from Nazi Germany to England where he gained citizenship.

In 1941 he moved to the U.S. where he established a successful general practice. While practicing, he lectured to students and wrote articles for newspapers and magazines.

2. Write a brief note on the Einstein tower

"Erich Mendelsohn's small, but powerfully modeled tower, built to symbolize the greatness of the Einsteinian concepts, was also a quite functional house.

It was designed to hold Einstein's own astronomical laboratory. Mendelsohn was after a completely plastic kind of building, moulded rather than built, without angles and with

smooth, rounded corners. He needed a malleable material like reinforced concrete, which could be made to curve and create its own surface plasticity, but due to post-war shortages, some parts had to be in brick and others in concrete.

The Einstein Tower (German: Einsteinturm) is an astrophysical observatory in the Albert Einstein Science Park in Potsdam, Germany built by Erich Mendelsohn.

The telescope supports experiments and observations to validate (or disprove) Albert Einstein's relativity theory. Light from the telescope is directed down through the shaft to the basement where the instruments and laboratory are located.

The exterior was originally conceived in concrete, but due to construction difficulties with the complex design and shortages from the war, much of the building was actually realized in brick, covered with stucco.

3. Write a brief note on Schocken Department Store.

Its most noteworthy characteristic is the extraordinary brevity of each piece. Dissonance also triumphs in this work of Mendelsohn's: there is the body of the store, proclaiming its horizontality in its solid and windowed bands.

In the entrance floor, and in the sign running along the lower cornice line of the facade; on the other hand, there are the two pivot points of the semi-cylinders. One reverberating and elongated along the sloping street to the left, and the other echoing it across the roof from the other side of the building.

Many critics have spoken of the musical quality of this building, of the play between 'inflection and counterpoint.' "