

# **History of Architecture and Culture – 5**

## **Lecture - 22**

### **Works of Bruno Taut**

He was German born in Königsberg. He trained in the same city and also in Berlin before he went to Stuttgart to join Theodor Fischer's office. After that he opened his own office in Berlin. In 1910 he maintained very busy practice until the advent of the First world war. After the war Bruno Taut's theory and designs marked him as leader and pioneer in architectural innovation. In 1920 Bruno Taut issued his expressionist architecture supplement which is called *Frühlicht* as a part of a Berlin planning magazine. In the next year he accepted the position after city architect of Berlin he produced publication which is titled *Das Gläserne Reich*, he also produced book of modern architecture in 1930 for the studio press. Around the same time in late 1920's Taut new gained recognition as the leader of the 'New Objective Architecture'.

### **GLASS PAVILION**

One of the most famous structure that ever built was the glass pavilion which built in 1914 before the world war. It was a prismatic glass dome which was designed by Bruno Taut it was a part of an exhibit which is to be presented at Deutscher Werkbund Exhibition at Cologne. The structure was a brightly colored landmark exhibition and it was constructed completely using concrete and steel. The whole concrete structure had inlaid colored glass mirror plates on the façade which look like complete mirrors. Taut's glass pavilion is the best known single building achievement by Bruno Taut but who did it build for there was a German association for all the glass industries and the approach Bruno Taut to design a pavilion or an exhibition which will show off all the height and might of the glass industry which they been producing.

Taut himself said the reflections of light whose colors began at the base with a dark blue and rose up through the Moss green and golden yellow to culminate at the top in a luminous pale yellow". He describes the glass pavilion in this manner take look at the picture we can clearly see what he was talking about, the dark blue rose up through the moss green and to the golden yellow to culminate at the top in a luminous pale yellow.

The Glass association finances the structure and they consider the whole structure as a house of art. The only purpose of the building was to demonstrate the huge potential of different types of glass that the companies manufacture especially the glass in architecture. Bruno Taut use different types of glass plates, glass blocks and different types of elements which he try to incorporate in design. Take a look at all the glass block that he has try to arrange and if we clearly see that the different types sizes in variants of glass which he has used completely this building.

It also indicated how the material might be used to orchestrate human emotions and assist in the construction of a spiritual utopia which he claimed it to be, The Structure was made at the time when that particular part of time the most fashionable thing in Germany was expressionism. So lot of people consider this building to be one of the high points of this expressionist architecture again you can see different forms of usage of the glass blocks, the glazed elements over here, the glass blocks in the background this is the plan sections and the elevation of the building this are the main building looks like staircase which takes the mob and if you see through the section there is slow gradual staircase here the entire structure is covered at the top with the glass dome which is visible even from the front, this how you see from the front, this is the side elevation. Take an another look at the intricate work which pronotautworked on this project, the base is actually a sixteen side polygon.

The next building or group of building that will be looking at is the Onkel Tomshutte

### **ONKEL TOMSHUTTE**

Onkel Tomshutte was financed by the housing cooperative for savings and constructions by Germany and it was heavily influenced by Taut's previous partnership with Wagner. Here Taut like a mention once a twice before he was a utopian. So he tried in visualize in utopian society. A society which doesn't have any class or divisions of people and they are all at want with nature. So this entire housing estate was designed on a twelve hector site

There are 1100 multi-family homes divided up into three storeys and detached into two types. Rationalist in influence but human in style the accommodations are somehow conformist but not monotonous, conformist in the sense it belonged to the particular period of time, it belong to the particular typology but it was not monotonous there was lot of differences in style, color and size in all the buildings.

Back in the twenties, taut anticipated his buildings degradation which would eventually happen over time and even allowed that for that in design. He even took that into consideration, see if there are lot of buildings that have been designed an some of the buildings well most of the buildings will get dilapidated or degraded over time and all architects know this, Bruno taut also knew this but he did something which not an usual architect does he allowed for degradation in building. So which meant that he lead to build the structure which was time less even after the building is kind of degrading the building should still work. So he design the buildings to be practical and modernist. He avoided monotony by putting in bringing in the diversity within their homogeneity. Various parts of the sprawling estate look different to each other in terms of color shape and size. Each and every pocket was different from each other we can find a lot of similar buildings inside the estates. These are the different types of buildings that he designed in the estate you can say that they all have a similar character they have a

homogeneity of sorts but still they are clear differences between one building in an another building and which you don't see lot of buildings is common to each other.

### **Works of Hans Poeizig**

Next up we goanna see an another important architect of the similar time period also an expressionist architect he was Hans Poeizig. Hans Poeizig was a German architect, painter and a set designer. He designs sets for theater for photography mostly for operas and other even that sort. He graduated from the architecture program from Berlin where the same city he also taught the professor in the same university later. In 1899 Poelzig move to press law where he taught at the caramy until he became the direct of same academy.

A very distinctive architect designed in several projects in an unique, expressionistic mode, Take a look at some of the buildings these are the photographs of sulphuric acid factory that he designed, this are the old photographs and this are relatively new photographs compare to this, the other buildings designed by Hans Poelzig, one of the most famous building that Hans Peolzig designs was the grand theater we ever saw this as the expressionist architecture earlier in the episode. Some of the picture of the Grant Theater and its interiors. The typical stalactite columns which taught designs as some of the sketches that Poelzig made there after he designed another important building called the House of Broadcasting where in the entrance was simple flat arch entrance but the interiors of the building were very very dynamic and brilliant. Along with Eric Mendelsohn, Bruno taut and Hans Poelzig were equal important expressionist architect in the own time and these three people leading up the front expressionist t architecture flourished greatly.

### **Futurism**

We were looking next style that emerged in Italy with the early twentieth century is called futurism. It is artistic and social moments it started in Italy it was almost entirely Italian phenomenon although there were parallel movements which were very similar to what future is here thinking they had some parallel moments in Russia and England but they are not called by the same name, they had different names and other countries. Futurism emphasized on glorified the then contemporary concepts of future including speed, technology, youth and violence and objects such as car, plane and even the industrial city

The Futurists practiced in every medium of art, they took to painting, sculpture, ceramic design, graphic design, industrial design, interior design, urban design, theatre, film, fashion, textiles, literature, music, architecture and even gastronomy. Gastronomy by the way is the study of food and food products. Now let's take a look at futuristic architecture. Famous futuristic

Antonio Sant'Elia expressed his ideas of modernity what he thought was Modernity and his drawings titled *La Citta Nuova*. *La Citta Nuova* means the new city while he envisioned his imagination of new city what he thought a city must look like so he imagined all those cities and he started sketching in manifesto just called the futuristic manifesto. This project was also never built and Sant'Elia was killed in the First World War but his ideas greatly influenced generations after generations of architecture because after futurism they were so many other styles which started after futurism. Even today we always think about the future what future architecture look like what space architecture look like what underwater architecture look like we have visions and themes and schemes and designs what the future architecture look like. Similarly this is exactly what Antonio Sant'Elia did but in that particular point of time. His city for himself it was a backdrop onto which the complete Futurist dynamism will take place. So he thought that it will transform the lives of people and the lives of people will become Futuristic in itself. Sant'Elia to create the city as fast paced efficient machine he thought city was machine for her, he would manipulate the light and shaped emphasize the sculptural quality of the project. The Sculptural quality here means the building would like plastic and sculptural in effect to make it look little more futuristic.

Baroque curves and encrustations had been stripped away to reveal the essential lines of forms unprecedented from their simplicity. If you take look at this buildings these buildings actually look like this buildings later emerged in 1960's and 1970's but Antonio Sant'Elia find it 40 years earlier in 1910 even before the first world war. This is the society of the industrial city some of the other sketches that he made while today we have buildings that totally emulate sketches according to him in new city every aspect of life itself is to be rationalized and centralized in to one great power house of fascism which will control and which will link all the other people and particular city. Also according to him the city was not maintained forever he never designs the city that states okay this is the city for future and the entirety of the future all the future generations have to be living in the city he never said that he also mention that manifesto to that, each subsequent generation is expected to design and built their own city rather than inherit the architecture of the past and in his case the present. He wants the future generations not to incorporate his own ideas but to think of ideas which their generations would think will have to think.

Sometimes Futurist artistic where at odds with the Fascist state's tendency towards Roman imperial-classical aesthetic patterns. So they why didn't very favorite people for the fascist government even then they were lot of futuristic building that were built between the 1920 – 1940 including public buildings such as railway stations, resorts, maritime resorts and post offices and other office buildings in his manifesto of futuristic architecture. Antonio Sant'Elia says that

The new beauty of cement and iron are profaned by the superimposition of motley decorative incrustations that cannot be justified. He openly criticizes the neo classical idea where he thought the neo classis actually had access to modern materials but they still have to clean to old classical past. They did not do justice they particular time period or they particular technology or their particular age according to the Sant'Elia, he openly criticizes the neo classical architecture and he says that architecture of this time must totally completely emulate the building materials in the technology that present in his period and there is exactly what he is done is designs. He says as if we who are the generators of the movement with all are added mechanical limbs with all the noise and the speed of their life could live in street build for the need of men four, five or six centuries ago. So let's take a look at certain things which look at

### **FUTURIST ARCHITECTURE DESPISED**

They didn't want they hated all this things,

- The first thing they hated was the Pseudo architecture of the avant-garde, Austrian, Hungarian, German and American architecture which they called themselves the Avant garde or the in things style, current style or I am going to be a ground breaker style, so this people called themselves the Avant garde but Antonio Sant'Elia fellow future is totally despise them because they had no intention of what is the future is going to be about according to them at least.
- They despise all classical architecture, solemn, hieratic, scenography, decorative, monumental, pretty and pleasing things of the past. So they like told earlier they totally despise the neo classical architecture and along with that they also despise all the other classical architecture including all the styles that proceeded and so proceeded them
- They also despise the embalming, reconstruction and reproduction of ancient monuments and palaces
- So according to them you given commission for a building, you should not go back to an ancient monuments building look like that monument, you must not make this building to a palace that was built a centuries ago. So they totally despise the architects who did that, they also despise the perpendicular and horizontal lines cubical and pyramidal forms that are static instead they want forms that were completely dynamic, they hated the solemn, aggressive and absolutely excluded from our new sensibility which they saw, they totally excluded the horizontal lines, cubical lines, perpendicular lines and which they thought were solemn and static so they completely thought that their new kind of sensibility should not include all those things and they also despise the use of massive, voluminous, durable, antiquated and costly materials. They thought that it is an industrial city and it must be useful for the people, it must be practical. It must be futuristic so they Condon the volume of massive voluminous costly materials because

their ideas of costly different, there idea of richness is totally different. So if they hated all this things what did the y actually propagate? Futuristic architecture is the architecture of calculation of audacious timidity and simplicity. The architecture of reinforce concrete of steel of glass of cardboard of textile fiber and of all those substitutes for wood, stone and brick that makes as obtain maximum elasticity and lightness. This is how the define the futuristic architecture, they say it is an architecture of calculation we do things what is necessary and what is projected the use materials like reinforce concrete, steel cardboard textile and instead of wood stone and brick were the primary building materials earlier to as so by replacing the material and by designing with architecture of calculation of audacious temerity , the designed buildings of light weight elasticity that they also mention that futuristic architecture is not because of this is added combination of practicality and usefulness but innocence the futuristic architecture must remain an art in form of synthesis and an expression, it not only works well but it also looks well. They also said that the things will endure less than as every generation must built its own city while one generation is only about thirty years approximately human life is close to 60 to 70 years of an average. So according to them things or let's say buildings where endure less than as according to them every generation must built their own city which means every thirty years or so we will be looking at completely new type of architecture which happening around if futurism where to be followed.