

History of Architecture and Culture – 5

Lecture 23

Constructivism

Constructivism was an artistic and architectural philosophy that originated in Russia beginning in 1919 as a rejection of the idea of autonomous art. This movement was in favor of art as a for social purposes, we all know that after the Russian revolution there was a socialist scenario that was developing in the USSR. This socialist scenario was totally imbibed by the artistic movement, so the artist saw the art was no more autonomous, they saw that the art was a tool for social purposes.

In this art over here, we see that a person shouting out somethings to the public, probably alerting something or spreading awareness or spreading a message across.

We look at the beginnings of constructivism; the term construction art was first used as a delusive term by Kashimer Maluves to describe the work of Alexander Rodchenko 1917.

Constructivism first appears as a positive term Naum Gabo's realistic manifesto of 1920. Alexi Gam use the word as a title of his book constructivism printed in 1922. This was a post-world war I development of Russian futurism and particularly of the contour reliefs of Vladimir Tatlin which had been exhibited in 1915.

You remember the Tatling tower of by Radimer Tatling. The term itself could be invented by the sculptors Antonie Pevsner's and Naum gabo who developed an industrial angular style of work while it's geometric abstraction hold something to suprematism of kashimer Maluves.

If you look at all them act movements that had taken place constructivism had one of the greatest effects on modern movements at 20th century. It influenced a lot major Trans such as the Bauhaus movement and the De Stijl movement. Its influence was completely pervasive with major impacts on architecture, graphic design, industrial design, theatre, film, dance, fashion and to some extent also music.

According to constructivism the artist constructs a new symbol with his brush. This symbol is not a recognizable form of anything which is already finished , already made, already existing in the world but it is a symbol of new world, which is being built upon and which exists by way of the people. This clearly explains what their concept is. The artists don't do completed finished works but they symbolize the new world which is being built, now according to them the new world is being built by the people. As much as involving itself in designs for industry the constructivists work on the public festivals and street designs for the post October revolutions bosh wick government.

We all know what happened during October revolution right in. that time there was a huge revolution that broke the people and the Russia slowly became a socialist economy and the

bosh wick party took control. Most of the famous of these street designs or these works were in witips were malovists group painted propaganda plots and buildings. These were inspired by Gladimer Micost steves declaration the streets or bushes, the squares or pilots. Artists and designers participated in public life during civil war.

A striking instance was the proposed festival of common tern congress in 1921 by Alexander Westlin which resembled the constructions of exhibition. The OBMOK to exhibition and they work for theatre, there was a great deal of overlap in this period between the constructivism, the prolacuwait, the supreme artism ideas. There were lots of overlaps of different schools of thought.

Let's take a look at this picture here; this is one of the examples of constructivist architecture.

According to constructivism objects were to be created not in order to express beauty, or to express the artists outlook, or to represent the world previously in any architectural style or artistic movements that came earlier there was only these three things that happen. Some people expressed beauty for example in the paintings of vango and in landscape paintings, nold landscapes, people painted to express beauty. Sometimes people painted to tell about artists outlook. We just saw expressionism because expressionist architecture and art represents people's innermost feelings which they try to express out.

There are some other styles of architecture which they represents the present world future world just like the futurism which we saw earlier but constructivism rejects all these types of art movements. According to them art movements should be to carry out the fundamental analysis of materials and forms of art, one might lead to the design of functional objects is constructivism. You're proposed to replace art's traditional concern with composition a focus on construction. Art was all about composition of materials in light and shade. But according to constructivism the focus should be on the process of construction. They believe that the materials which they employed should be only employed in accordance with their capacities and capabilities and they should be expressed in such a way that they demonstrate the use in which they could be put. They should exploit the two nature of materials is what constructivists say.

Constructivist art often aims to demonstrate how a particular material behaved-to ask, for instance, what different properties had materials such as wood, glass, and metal. The form that an artwork should take would be clearly totally dictated by his materials not the other way around, in traditional art forms it is the form that would dictate what kind of materials that you need to use, the form was decided and then the material was chosen based on that.

Here the materials were there and according to the material the form would be chosen because to exemplify the use of that particular material to show a strew in their nature.

The seed of constructivism was a desire to express the experience of modern life-its dynamism, its new and disorientating qualities of space and time. But also crucial was the desire to develop a form of art which is more appropriate to the democratic and modernizing goals of the Russian Revolution.

Here again art that spreads message across to the people, people rallying people, and people rallying towards peace over here gondsone roses.

Constructivists were to be constructors of new society-cultural workers at par with scientists in their search for solutions to modern problems.

Let's take a quick look at constructivist architecture. Constructivist architecture emerged from the constructivist art movement which is the wider movement. After the Russian Revolution of 1917 it turned its attentions to the new social demands of the public and to the industrial tasks that was required of the new regime.

Constructivist architecture primarily emerged from wider constructivist art movement. After the Russian Revolution of 1917 it turned its attention to new social demands and industrial tasks required of the new regime.

Two distinct threads emerged as usual.

The first was encapsulated with in Antoine Pevsner's and Naum Gabo's Realist manifesto on those times which were concerned with space and rhythm.

There is the second represented a struggle within the commissariat for Enlightenment between those who argued for pure art and the productivists such as Alexander Rodchenko, Vladimir Tatlin etc, for more socially oriented group who wanted to be an art oriented and who wanted art way absorb industrial production. The split occurred finally in 1922 when personal and Gabo emigrated. The movement then developed along socially utilitarian lines, the productivists majority gained the support of the government and there was the magazines which support them and then it was they became dominant influents by the architecture gabbayas so there by constructivist architecture was been anything in early 1920s Russia. Vladimir Tatlin designed this famous tower in 1919 and it's called Tatlin tower and this is Sukhov tower in Moscow it is designed in 1922 this building now faces threat of been pulled down being destroyed there are many artistic movement and there are many people activist who are trying to keeping this building style and there are lot of buildings and lot of constructive building in Russia which are getting ready to be pull down and because there are very dangerous picariustate this needs to be given to be extra attention.

This is a building for a print shop for the Oganyok print shop which was designed by El Lissitzky. El Lissitzky was a Russian constructivist who eventually moved to Germany and joins the Bauhaus school of architecture.

Noi Trotsky designed this town hall in Leningrad in Saint Petersburg according to Trotsky this clearly talks about the people and their struggle emphasis is important on people and this is also for the new regime so they also had symbolism in that was relating to the new regime that formed after 1917 October revolution.

This was another famous Intourist Garage which was designed by Konstantin Melnikov take a look the sharp angular forms in contrast with the huge circular form over here

Another building by Konstantin Melnikov is called the Svoboda Club but the stilt stair case is quarter revolution in itself.

This is one of the spots in Moscow Planetarium was designed by Barsch and Sanyavsky brilliantly designed shading device of people to sit and wait.

This is the picture that we saw sometime earlier this is the Zuev workers club this marked the appearance of a large number of new types of structures such as the workers club, such as the Peoples Pavilion such as public buildings that had large amount of people of all classes that they come and join the buildings. So this created a generation of new types of typologies of architecture that generated in Russia almost of this buildings where constructive buildings because they supported the cause for which the whole revolution took place.

This is Konstantin Melnikov's own house which he designed himself take a look at the brilliant composition of forms and take a look at the play of solid and voids in his buildings beautiful head signal windows on his circular field very interesting building one of the high point Russian constructively.

Cubism

Next of you will see another interesting style called cubism on the outside cubism was one of the most influential visual arts style of the early 20th centuries is created by none other than the most famous artists Pablo Picasso and Georges Braque in Paris between 1907 and 1914. Picasso along with Paul Cézanne is one of the very very famous painters of all time. He was one of the people who invented, started this type of movement which is called cubism an example of cubism would be this painting over here.

Whereas in both these paintings there are certain things that are being described here the man on the horse the people here the whole scenery is broken down into lines, planes, rectangles and patterns. So how did cubism the word cubism come into existence there was a French art critic Louis Vauxcelles. He coined the term cubism after seeing the landscapes that Braque had painted in 1908. Braque emulated Cézanne in his paintings but Vauxcelles called the geometric forms in the highly abstracted works as little cubes. Other influences on early cubism have been linked to Primitivism and non-Western sources but as such Vauxcelles' writing was the one which was confirmed that this style was called cubism.

Cubism:

A primary influence that led to cubism was the representation of the 3d forms in the late works of Paul Cezanne. Paul Cezanne used to add 3D forms to the building creates the depth and light and shade in his paintings.

In cubist artwork, what typically happens is you take an object which you want to paint. You take an object or a scenery or particular element which you want to paint. They are totally analyzed to broken up completely path by path, then they are re-assembled in a very abstract form. Instead of depicting the objects from one single viewpoint the artists make the person view from a multitude of viewpoints. So that the subject will be represented in a deeper conatation.

What we see as a painting will be one particular stand point of view and one particular view point. And there won't be a lot of things that will be seen from the other sides but cubism includes all those things seen breaks down the entire scenery and then reassembles in an abstract manner in such a way that there are multiple viewpoints which can parallely take place in the same 2d frame.

Cubist painters rejected the inherited concept that art should copy nature, or they should adopt the traditional techniques of perspective modelling, and foreshortening.

So what they did was they reduced and fractured the objects into geometric forms and then realigned these within a shallow, relief like space. They used multiple contrasting vantage points for different parts of the same painting. They didn't paint from one particular view point so they used multi cure of vantage points in which the whole would be fragmentally looking at.

Cubist Sculpture:

Was another famous and interesting movement that we should study about just as in painting; cubist sculpture also was rooted in Paul Cezanne's work which reduced painted objects into component planes and geometric solids such as cube, sphere, cylinders and cones. Also it became a very pervasive influence in contributed fundamentally to constructivism and futurism which happened in Russia and Italy.

Take a look at cubist sculpture these was designed by Picasso. Again it shows multiple realities in the same sculpture just like in painting. We knew how cubism had originated by 1911 Picasso was recognised as the invent of the cubism while Brahats importance and precedence where are you later with respective his treatment of space, volume and mass in less that landscapes but this view of cubism associated with a distinctly restrictive definitions of which artists are properly to be called cubist. Road Norkistoyin Christopher Green and this history has divided history of cubism into phases.

Monochrome the first phase of cubism which is also known as the analytical cubism a phase that was coined by Zuvangri which is both the ridiculer and influential as a short but highly significant art movement between 1910 and 1912 in France.

The second phase of cubism which is called as synthetic cubism remind vital on to era 1919 when Serialist Movement began to popularity. English art historian Dugless Copper proposed another scheme describing three phases of cubism in his book.

According to his book the cubist Hipok there was early cubism and the movement was initially developed in the studios of Picasso and Brach. The second phase which is called the high cubism getting which the time Juvangrew emerged as important exponent. And finally copper effort to a late cubism from the period 1914 to 1921 as the last phase of cubism as ridicule haunt cart movement. Coppers restrictive use of these terms to distinguish works of Brach, Picasso, Greek and leisure implode an international value judgement.

Cubist Architecture:

Cubism formed an important link between early 20th century art and architecture.

The historical, theoretical, and socio-political relationships between the then Avant garde practices which were happening in paintings, sculpture and architecture had early ramifications in France, Germany, the Netherlands and Czechoslovakia.

Though there were lot of points intersection between cubism and architecture, there were only very very few direct links that can be established parallelly.

This is the Chandigarh Assembly complex design by Le Corbusier in Chandigarh. This is the one of the examples of cubist architecture.

The influential De Stijl movement embraced the aesthetic principles of Neo-plasticism developed by Piet Mondrian. Again even then that comes under influence of cubism generated in Paris. The Cuba futurist ideas of Filippo Tommaso Marinetti influenced attitudes in avant garde architecture Bikethen. So of the leading cubist architects were Pavel Janak, Josef Gocar, Vlastislav Hofman, Emil Kralicek and Josef Chochol.

This is one of the first cubist buildings that by raber built that was designed by Raymond Duchamp, La Maison Cibiste.

This is an another interesting building designed Josef Gocar. This is the House of the Black Madonna in Praag.

In their theoretical rules, the cubist architects expressed the requirement of dynamism, which would surmount the matter and calm contained in it, though a creative idea, so that the result would evoke feelings and dynamism and expressive plasticity in the viewer.

How would one go about achieving this, according to cubist its simple it take shapes which are derived from pyramids, cubes, prisms, etc. They make by arrangements in compositions when oblique surfaces mainly triangular surfaces.

So thus, new forms of windows and doors were created. New forms architecture created hexagonal windows were one of the famous things about cubist architecture. The Czech Cubist architects also designed cubist furniture.

This is Villa Kovarovic in Prague designed by Josef Chochol. Here again you can see the cubist influence on the top of his building over here and even then this part.