

History of Architecture and Culture – 5

Lecture - 24

Suprematism

Suprematism was an art movement here in this art movement we focused on basic geometric forms like square, circles, rectangles, straight lines and they also had very limited range of colors that they would use they stuck primarily to the first primary colors plus the black and white and they occasional purple and the occasional other colors that the use very very sparingly. So suprematism geometric forms, basic shapes, and basic colors they create the art movement only with these things available to them. In 1913 right before the World War I this style was found by Kazimir Malevich in Russia. In 1915 Malevich conducted an exhibition in Saint Petersburg he exhibited 36 different works of similar style which he did in the suprematist style, if you this paintings are things that conceive on screen here the famous painting if you look at the painting on the left you can see that he used basic shapes such as rectangles, Trapezium, straight lines and look at the limited use of colors greens, blue, yellow, red just five six colors maximum, this is another art which he had done here because this is very important because we should not the fact that he has used only one shape in the entire painting is one white field with has brown circle there is all that he had done and that had clearly suprematism in an single painting for you

The term suprematism let's take a look at how we got into this idea of naming the style as suprematism. It is as you can see clearly abstract art form which clearly emphasized “ the Supremacy of pure artistic feeling” rather than on visual description of objects. Previously what artistic use to do is they see something they reproduce something, they see something which they like they represented on to a canvas in a way that can be easily understood but in this style he thought that instead of visual depiction or replication of things that artistic see or imagine suprematism should talk about the feeling of the artistic himself. So primarily deals with the pure artistic feeling of the artist when he working. The best example is we could see the picture on the screen right now on the left you can see an art of white square within a field of white you can see white color background with diagonal slightly tilt it square of again white on a thing. Why is the painting important because it is in this kind of painting were you can actually tilt the painting is as important as the painters artistic feel itself that is what the art symbolizes. So Kazimir Malevich developed the concept of suprematism when he was already an established painter. He already created a lot of paintings so which clearly meant that when he was going to propose something people are bound to like it so that is how he could take such a bold step of introducing suprematism to the crowd. The proliferation of new artistic forms in painting in poetry and theatre it was all interesting thing of as a revival of the traditional of the Russian folk culture, so that is something which they gotten it created a very

very fertile environment and west in that kind of culture Kazimir Malevich was able to put his suprematist thought which is kind of a modern thought into that fertile area because this people were already prolific in their artistic forms such as painting, art, poetry, theatre they were all doing really well in that scene Malevich introduces suprematism in Russia, Saint Petersburg

What he also did was instead of just merely creating the style, this is my style and this is what we do he created a set of syntax in Grammar based on fundamental geometric forms he said ok use fundamental geometric use in particular we use square, circle for most of the form. In the 0.10 Exhibition, in the exhibition he conducted in 1915 Malevich clearly exhibited all his early experimentation which he did as suprematist painting and since he had placed more than 30 office, paintings few of them were early experiments with suprematist

Malevich Suprematism is fundamentally opposed by to the post-revolutionary positions of constructivism and materialism. Here Constructivism primary cult with utilitarian objects were the constructivism people thought that the odd form should be put to some kind of a news, it should take some social message, it should spread awareness to people, it should sell something, it should create knowledge base to the people but under constructivism the traditional painter he became in to an artist come engineer who is in charge of organizing life spreading social messages of the government, propaganda's. So this was the post-revolutionary condition of art in that particular area whereas Malevich introduce suprematism is totally against it because he said art doesn't meant to spread social messages, Art need to spread in artist pure artistic feeling itself so that is where suprematism differ from existing context construct of constructivism

Here are two three pictures of art suprematist art which originated in those times here on the left hand side picture you can see a cube done primarily in black, white and grey you can see lines were of red and blue with the grid like floor pattern neutral background again circles, triangles, rectangles, straight lines very limited shapes very limited colors.

Malevich says that " Art no longer to serve the state and religion, it no longer wishes to illustrate the history of manners, it wants to have nothing further to do with the object, as such and believes that it can exist in and for itself, he says that art needs feeling of the artist it needs the mind of the artist it's a brain child of the artist and you don't have a thing to describe art whereas constructivism clearly wanted an object of painting, object of art, suprematism didn't deal with object with dealt with artists pure feeling.

Art Deco

Next we move onto another important style in that particular period the Art Deco. Why Art Deco is important we will learn in the upcoming slides but you should also note here that Art

Deco is not in the prescribe syllabus. In the prescribe syllabus in the particular time period is clearly just skipped and we always move to the next time period which is the desalt movement but I personally feel that this particular movement is very essential because this is one of those styles which is clearly transform the cubism, constructivism, suprematist art to distill and further to modernism. So Art Deco clearly a transformation style you will be seeing a lot of those upcoming slides here. First on the outside to tell you what Art Deco is it's a style of which allows architecture, design that appear in France just before WWI just went suprematism was getting started in Russia, Art Deco was surfacing in France. It's started around 1939 in 14 with in the early world war period. It became really popular in the 1920's and 30's it influenced a variety of buildings, furniture's, jewelry, it influenced fashion, cars movie theatres, train stations, trains, ocean liners everyday object such as tape recorders, radio sets and vacuum cleaners and stuff like that again just like what we did with suprematism we will see how Art Deco got its name its short for Arts Decorates from the international exhibition of modern decorative and industrial arts held in Paris in 1925. This combines modernist styles with the fine craftsmanship and rich materials. In its peak Art Deco was something that expressed complete luxury, glamour, glim, exhiburence and it also had faith in the technological and social progress it was for the rich and it was for the upper cream of the society. Here is the Art Deco sculpture you can see here and on the left hand side picture consume the famous REX theatre which is done in an Art Deco style. Art Deco also had furnishing and furniture you can see the form you can see the low height of the chair and you can clearly see the poles tree and the fabric that can be used for Art Deco which is very very rich and very very decorative here again you can see the different type history and poles tree design here and the form of recliner.

Art Deco was associated with both luxury and modernity and one hand it had very expensive material and on other hand it had exclusive craftsmanship they put these two together two create modernistic form and that is when the Art Deco style came about. In Art Deco nothing was cheap pieces of furniture included ivory and silver inlays that pieces of Art Deco jewelry combined diamonds with platinum, jade and other precious materials and stones.

The style was used to decorate the first class salons of ocean liners, deluxe trains, and skyscrapers, lifts this style was flamions all the time, although after the great depression the style became a little more sober because there wasn't much money to be spent on decorative lavishness. So this is the International Exhibition of Decorative and Industrial Arts which was held in Paris in 1925 you can take a look at the structures which a look a lot like Art Deco buildings early Art Deco and here is look at Art Deco paintings where you can clearly see from the finish of the clothing you can see the sheen and pure glim that Art Deco stands for here is an another painting is done in Art Deco, Art Deco sculpture were really famous because they exhibited dynamism movement, speed, technology and luxury at the same time.

The theatre des Champs – Elysees by Auguste Perret was the first landmark Art Deco building which was completed in Paris. Previous to this building RCC which is only used for Industrial and apartment buildings but Perret has built the modern reinforced concrete apartment building in Paris which he also used for theatre the Champs-Elysees. Here in this theatre he use the Art Deco style you can see the rounded corners over here you can see the decorative element in the top freeze and this is how the theatre looked from inside.

The decor of the theatre was completely revolutionary; the façade was decorated with plaques of Art Deco sculpture, it had a huge dome paintings and an Art Deco curtain. The theater became famous as the venue for many Ballet performances. The dome was looking like this from the interiors. Let's take a look at Art Deco Architecture this is the departmental store by Henri Sauvy in Paris designed in Art Deco. This is the national parliament building for Japan it's called the diet's building this is in Tokyo designed again Art Deco. Art Deco architecture at that particular point of time became the style of Cathedrals of Commerce were means is this are the buildings that became offices and commercial sect buildings but this was the style that used for a all the leading offices and in the cities of that particular period of time and Art Deco was then the official architecture of Cathedrals of Commerce back then, Here in the picture if you could see the interiors of guardian building and the fisher building both in Detroit both in corporate Art Deco architecture and here are the buildings of the famous Chrysler Building by William Van Alen, the Rex theatres interiors if I do Art Deco and If I don't do Skyscrapers it would have been mark of disrespect to the style what let's see skyscrapers of Manhattan. The modern Skyscraper that we see on television the streets of New York this mark the summit of Art Deco style there was the paramount of important for the style, this style buildings became the largest, tallest and the most recognizable modern buildings in the world. They were design to show the prestige of builders of the owners with the height with the shape with the form with the color and their dramatic illumination at night name it they had it.

On the picture right you can see the American Radiator Building. The first new York Skyscrapers were built in the neoclassical style, it was the American Radiator Building by Raymond Hood which could combined the Art Deco and the Gothic form of elements of design on the building

Black Brick on the frontage of the building symbolizes coal was selected to give an idea of solidity and to give the building a solid mass. Other parts of the building were cover in Solid gold bricks which symbolizes fire and the entrance was decorated with Marble and Black mirrors, these are some of the Art Deco skyscrapers the New York Skyline was dramatically changed with the Chrysler building come in to the picture which was designed by William Van Allen. This building became the icon of Art Deco architecture. This was the giant seventy seven floor tall advertisements for Chrysler automobile, the top of the building was crowned by a stainless steel spire which is the most famous element of this building.

The stainless steel spire was ornamented by deco "gargoyles" which you seen on the picture below as the radiator cap decorator. The Base of the tower which is thirty three stories above the street was decorated with colorful art deco frieze and the lobby was decorated with art deco symbols and images expressing modernity. So we just saw this Chrysler building, when Chrysler building was built it became the symbol of Art Deco architecture in the entire New York City and elsewhere so they saw this building and it was immediately followed in all the other building that's followed the Chrysler building. At one point of time Chrysler building was the world tallest building, so immediately after that another building was designed by another architect William Lamb

So William Lamb is designed the empire state building in which style again Art Deco Style. So the empire state building RCA building, RCA building currently called the Comcast building, the Rockefeller Centre was again designed by Raymond hood together this building completely changed the skyline of New York. The famous building were change the New York skyline were the American radiator Building, Chrysler building there you can see the Rockefeller Centre then of course the world tallest building were the long time empire state building. Empire state building had reputation of still even after a lot of years many people would say still that the empire state building was the world tallest building because that was the building that which had reigned for a very very long period of time even though they had been lot of other building that has cypress the past a style of and height of empire state building that became the symbol of skyscraper wherever someone mention skyscraper, we always think about the empire state building. At that is the point of time when all the buildings the entire style in of new york was changing and new york became the Centre of style of that particular point of time because all the European countries were now not as past developing as the USA now, USA had a past development European all development and this was where all the latest things started coming and all the free things that the free economy, the free life and that started revolution and that particular period that is when people started building all kind of skyscrapers with the top of the skyscrapers were design to resemble Art Deco finials so they were all having buildings that were stainless steel at top was spires , gargoyles, art deco friezes and the façade would have thick solid gold color bands are brightly colored band all the interiors are richly decorated with metallic finishes and sometimes they take the ideas of ancient Egypt's and Mesopotamian art forms were in the color symbols would come from the ancient style which they would modernize it with their particular style and they will put it similar buildings which though they would not tall as the this building which we are talking about this started appear and Chicago and Boston in all other large American cities they all described, they all represented the Art Deco architecture and one way or the other. Slowly the architecture movement transform from art deco to putting things from perspective it was art deco some style which is started as luxury style and then it started immolating all the curve linear forms and transform itself to ideas taken from the steam liners from automobiles and stuffs so that idea kind of got on to

architecture also that is when Art Deco gave birth to another sub style the later Art Deco was also called the stream line more than architecture. These are all other industrial application of Art Deco architecture like I mentioned earlier this are used in architecture of cars and high speed trains and domestic electronic equipment like the Radio and the Vacuum cleaner major brands like Chrysler Philips Electrolux all watching for this particular style this became this style of the twenties and the thirties'. This proves as the pivotal point of transition from the early modern architecture to the modern architecture became the international style and Europe and everywhere else.