

FAQs

1. What is De Stijl and where did it start?

De Stijl, Dutch for "The Style", also known as Neoplasticism, was a Dutch artistic movement founded in 1917 in Amsterdam. The De Stijl consisted of artists and architects.

2. Who were the key proponents of the De Stijl style?

De Stijl advocated pure abstraction and universality by a reduction to the essentials of form and colour; they simplified visual compositions to vertical and horizontal, using only black, white and primary colors.

De Stijl is also the name of a journal that was published by the Dutch painter, designer, writer, and critic Theo van Doesburg that served to propagate the group's theories.

Next to van Doesburg, the group's principal members were:

The painters:

Piet Mondrian

Vilmos Huszár

Bart van der Leek

Architects:

Gerrit Rietveld

Robert van 't Hoff

J. J. P. Oud

3. Explain the De Stijl architecture with an example.

The De Stijl movement posited the fundamental principle of the geometry of the straight line, the square, and the rectangle, combined with a strong asymmetry; the predominant use of pure primary colors with black and white; and the relationship between positive and negative elements in an arrangement of non-objective forms and lines".

In general, De Stijl proposed ultimate simplicity and abstraction, both in architecture and painting, by using only straight horizontal and vertical lines and rectangular forms. Furthermore, their formal vocabulary was limited to the primary colours, red, yellow, and blue, & values black, white, and grey.

The Schröder House was the only building realized completely according to the principles of De Stijl. The De Stijl influence on architecture remained considerable long after its inception.

Proponents also include:

Mies van der Rohe

JJP Oud

Hoek van Holland

Charles and Ray Eames

Frank Lloyd Wright

4. Write a few notes about Bauhaus and its functioning under different directorships.

Bauhaus, was an art school in Germany that combined crafts and the fine arts, and was famous for the approach to design that it publicized and taught.

It operated from 1919 to 1933. In German term "bauhaus" literally means "construction house" and was understood as "School of Building". The Bauhaus was founded by Walter Gropius in Weimar.

Nonetheless, it was founded with the idea of creating a "total" work of art in which all arts, including architecture, would eventually be brought together.

The Bauhaus had a profound influence upon subsequent developments in art, architecture, graphic design, interior design, industrial design, and typography.

The school was closed in 1933 by its own leadership under pressure from the Nazi regime, having been painted as a

centre of communist intellectualism. Although the school was closed, the staff continued to spread its idealistic precepts as they left Germany and emigrated all over the world.

Thus, the Bauhaus style, also known as the International Style, was marked by the absence of ornamentation and by harmony between the function of an object or a building and its design.