

FAQs

1. List down the most common characteristics of international style building.

- Rectilinear forms;
- Light, taut plane surfaces that have been completely stripped of applied ornamentation and decoration;
- Open interior spaces;
- A visually weightless quality engendered by the use of cantilever construction.
- Glass and steel, in combination with usually less visible reinforced concrete, are the characteristic materials of the construction.

2. Brief on the growth of international style.

The International Style is the name of a major architectural style that is said to have emerged in the 1920s and 1930s.

The formative decades of modern architecture, as first defined by Americans Henry-Russell Hitchcock and Philip Johnson in 1932, with an emphasis more on architectural style, form and aesthetics than the social aspects of the modern movement.

The term "International Style" first came into use via a 1932 exhibition curated by Hitchcock and Johnson, Modern Architecture - International Exhibition, which declared and labeled the architecture of the early 20th century as the "International Style".

With the surge in the growth in cities in the first half of the twentieth century, particularly after WW II, the International Style provided an easily achievable style option for vast-scale urban development projects, "cities within cities",

Intended to maximize the floor space for a given site, while attempting to convince local planners, politicians and the general public that the development would bring much-

needed wealth to the city while, on the other hand, rejecting the proposal would lead to the development being taken to a different, competing city.

3. Write a brief about Le Corbusier's early life and career.

Le Corbusier (1887 – 1965), was a Swiss-French Architect, Designer, Painter, Urban Planner, Writer, and the pioneer of modern architecture.

He was born in Switzerland and became a French citizen in 1930. His career spanned five decades, with his buildings constructed throughout Europe, India, and America. Le Corbusier's post-war buildings rejected his earlier industrial forms and utilized vernacular materials, brute concrete and articulated structure.

Near the end of his career he worked on several projects in India, which utilized brutal materials and sculptural forms. In these buildings he readopted the recessed structural column, the expressive staircase, and the flat undecorated plane of his celebrated five points of architecture.

4. Explain Le Corbusier's – Unite d'Habitation.

"Le Corbusier's most influential late work was his first significant postwar structure—the Unite d'Habitation in Marseilles of 1947-52.

The giant, twelve-story apartment block for 1,600 people is a mass housing built to alleviate a severe postwar housing shortage. Although the program of the building is elaborate, structurally it is simple: a rectilinear ferroconcrete grid, into which are slotted precast individual apartment units, like 'bottles into a wine rack' as the architect put it.

Through ingenious planning, twenty-three different apartment configurations were provided to accommodate single persons and families as large as ten, nearly all with double-height living

rooms and the deep balconies that form the major external feature."

Inside, corridors run through the centre of the long axis of every third floor of the building, with each apartment lying on two levels, and stretching from one side of the building to the other, with a balcony.