History of Architecture and Culture – 5

Lecture 28

Growth of International Style

The international style is the name of a major architectural style there is if it is merged between 1920s and 30s. The formative decades of modern architecture, as first defined by Americans Henry-Russell Hitchcock and Philip Johnson in 1932, they had an emphasis more the architectural style form, shape and aesthetics than the social aspects.

The modern movement where as the CIAM dealt with the social aspects of the modernist movement. The term international style first came to use via 1932 exhibition curated by Hitchcock and Johnson which is called modern architecture- international exhibition which declared and labeled the architecture style of the early twentieth century as the international style. So why did they call it international style, they called it so because this was a style irrespective of their location, irrespective of their region, irrespective of their context can be welcomed into all kinds of places.

Let's take an example of the picture which is they here. All you see as white horizontal walls large openings glass simple clear forms rectilinear forms. This can be attributed to any buildings across the world at any point time. It is not specific to a particular place, so there is a place lessness and architectural which means the context of place can be totally removed from architectural gamete here so that is why it is called the international style.

Let's take a look at the all the common characteristics of international style buildings they have rectilinear forms, very light weight, taut plans surfaces that have between completely stripped of any applied ornamentation and decoration, pure simple forms known decoration, open interior spaces because interior has to definitely interact with the exterior for this particular style, a visually weightless quality that is created by cantilever construction, uses of RCC or steel are its best and finally they use glass and steel in combination with usually less visible reinforced concrete oxide. These are the characteristic feature materials and ideals of international style that gifts place lessness to a particular project.

With the surge in the growth in cities in the first half of the twentieth century, particularly World War II because of economic instability in most the countries, the international style provided an easy achievable solution and a style option for a vast-scale in urban development project "cities within cities", advantages of international style is like you see a in this thing they have rectilinear forms which means they are easy to construct , they are light weight which means the foundation costs are low and completely stripped of ornamentation which means you don't have to spend on ornamentation no decoration, open spaces again you have from you have to build lesser walls, a visually at the same time physically weightless quality which means you only have to minimally use materials and with all the availability of steel and glass modularity and steel being industrially to

manufacture, glass being industrially to manufacture different sizes and regular shapes, what happens is it creates the large easily achievable style option for a vast-scale development projects especially when a place where world war as struck.

Intended to completely maximize the floor space given to a specific site at the same time attempted to convince local planners, Politicians, and the general public that the development would bring much needed wealth to the city, on the other hand, rejecting the proposal would lead to the development being taken to a different, competing city. The idea is very simple you take a project to the city and then you tell them that the development would bring much needed wealth to the city at the same time if they rejected it you take it to a different competing city and give you same the proposals it still works. That is the advantages of international style

There is verticular typical building that was designed in the international style you can say all the essential characteristics of international style and those particular building.

Works of Le-Corbusier – 1

A great or let's say the greatest architect of our times Le Corbusier lived during 1837-1965. He was a Swiss born French racist. He was an architect, designer, painter, an urban planner, writer, and the pioneer of modern architecture. Like it is he was born in Switzerland and became a French citizen by the year 1930. His career spanned five decades and it spanned a lot of continents with his buildings constructed all throughout the Europe, Americas and even in India. Corbusier's post-war buildings rejected his early forms you can clearly see a different Le Corbusier architecture before the World War II and after the World War II because in the earlier forms he utilized vernacular materials, brute, concrete and articulated surfaces, industrial forms and after the world war he chose different kind of architecture, by the end of his career he worked on several projects in India which utilizes brutal materials and sculpture forms. In these buildings he readopted the recessed structural columns, the expressive staircase, the flat undecorated plane of his celebrated five points of architecture.

After World War II Corbusier attempted to realize his urban plan scheme on a smaller scale by constructing a series of unites. Unites are housing block which unit of the Radiant City which Corbusier designed. Corbusier designed Radiant City and unites are smaller housing blocks within the city and he thought of designing all these unites around France. The most famous of these was the unite d'Habilation of Marseilles it was constructed between 1946-52. In 1950s, a unique opportunity to translate the Radiant City on a grand scale presented itself to Corbusier. The union territory of Chandigarh, the new capital for the Indian states of Punjab and Haryana and India's first ever planned city was going to be designed by Le Corbusier. India's first prime minister Mr. Jawaharlal Nehru Pandit he went and met Le Corbusier invited him to come to India to design Chandigarh. Corbusier designed many administrative and lot of buildings including a courthouse, a parliament building, a university. He also designed the general layout of the city, dividing it into many sectors.

Corbusier was primarily brought to develop the plan that was created by Albert Meyer. For insert he ended up giving improvisation of the plan fourteen years idea on to it and on the picture you can see some of the buildings designed by Corbusier.

Villa Savoye is one of the very important buildings which is designed by Le Corbusier. Unlike the usual confined urban location of most of the Corbusier's are early houses. This villa there is an openness inside this villa and free standing building, full realization of all his five point program.

Essentially the house has two contrasting sharply defined aspects one is the dominant squared single-storied box, pure, sleek, geometric envelop. Its lifted buoyantly above a slender pilotis, pilotis is a series of small thin columns stock skin stilt for a narrow ribbon windows run unbroken from corner to corner.

Here is a thin cube which is lifted on pilotis, a long thin ribbon of window unbroken.

Corbusier lifted the bulk of the structure off the ground, supporting by pilotis, which are reinforced concrete stilts.

These pilotis, in providing with structural support for the house allowed him to do two of his important points. He wanted a free facade which means normal non-supporting walls that could be designed as the architect wished and he wanted a open free floor plan which meant that the floor space was to be completely free to be configured into rooms without having any concern of supporting walls. He doesn't have to be worried about the supporting walls which cannot be moved from one place to another. He wanted the walls to be kept at whatever spaces so a free floor spaces are available him. So two points are clearly achieved one is the free facade and the free floor space.

The second floor of Villa Savoye has long stripes of ribbon windows that allows large views of the yard surrounding yard. A views into the surrounding yard is one of the points in his system. The fifth point was the roof garden he made a roof garden because he had to compensate for the green area which was occupied by the building itself, so he took the greeneries and placed it on the roof which meant that all the green that he ate of the building and the whole building was compensated by the roof garden.

A ramp that is rising from ground level which goes all around to the third-floor level and house-floor, a complete architectural promenade through the structure. The white tubular rail recalls for the ocean-liner aesthetic that Le Corbusier much admired.

Unite d'habilation was another famous building. It was one of most influential late work and his first significant postwar structure. This is a giant twelve-story apartment block which he designed for 1,600 people is a mass housing project which is designed because he was a huge amount housing shortage after the world war II because lot of buildings were destroyed by the bombing and due to the wash and France was one of the most terribly hit

places during world war II. So mass housing was the need of the Arpathein. Although the program of the building will elaborate structurally the building is pretty simple, rectilinear ferroconcrete grid like pattern, into which slotted precast individual units can be made like bottles in a wine rack that is how Le Corbusier wanted to call it.

So each of these slots can have a house this the wine rack that he had designed and each of these is a house which can be slotted inside the wine rack. Through beautiful engineers plan in twenty-three different apartment configurations were provided and the whole building. He was able to accommodate single person family, reasonable number of families and families that are large as ten members inside the house. So he is able to make accommodation to wide variety configuration wide variety of possibles. They were twenty-three different configurations for the users to choose from. Nearly all of the units were double-height living rooms and the deep balconies that form the major external feature. So here you can see the deep balconies that are forming the major external feature.

These are some of the housing configurations here you can see the plans and the sections, double-height so this is the section of one typical house which spans almost three stories. The building developed with Corbusier designers Shadrach woods, George candilis had 337 units of apartments arranged over twelve stories all suspended over a large pilotis. The building also accommodates shops within architectural bookshop, sporting, medical, educational facilities, a hotel which is open to the public, and a gastronomic restaurant which is called The Architect's Belly which is placed on the top floor.

Here you can see a picture of the pilotis which Corbusier had designed this is a support on which the entire building stands all the weight is transferred to the pilotis and the space underneath can be used as parking space for two wheelers.

Let us take a another look at the building and inside corridors around through the center of the long axis of every third floor of the building with each apartment lying on two levels on every third floor of the building there is an corridor on the apartments are on two levels stretching from one side of the building to another side of the building with balconies. So the unit is actually continuous through and through one side of the building and another side of the building and that are corridors on the side of the one through the center of the long axis on every third floor of the building.

Unlike many of the inferior system-built blocks it inspired, which lack the original genius generous proportions that architecture created by Le Corbusier had. There are lot of copies of this particular building and then they are all lacking and size or proportions. The communal facilities, the parkland center this unite is popular with its residents and is now mainly occupied by upper middle-class professionals in this particular time period because of the amount openness, amount of functional efficiency that the building provides even today.

This is the top floor of the building where you can see pool and a restaurant.

Works of Le-Corbusier – 2

Now let's look at very very interesting and different building that was designed by Le Corbusier.

In the commune of Ronchamp, slightly south of east of Paris, sits one of Corbusier's most unusual projects of his career, is called Notre Dame du Ronchamp, or its commonly called as Ronchamp Chapel.

This is how the building looks the shape and style of the building is most unusual. In 1950, Corbusier was commissioned to design a new Catholic church to replace a previously existing church that had been destroyed during World War II.

So instead of designing a normal church, Corbusier went on to design a radical church.

Ronchamp is deceptively modern because it as such it is not appear as a part of Corbusier's aesthetic or even that of the international style if you had been seeing all the slides, all the pictures that have been showing in this episode so far of the international slides of Corbusier's other buildings. Those buildings doesn't linked to those pictures. Rather it sits in the site as a sculptural object. The inability to categorize Ronchamp Chapel into any of the things made it one of the most important buildings of Corbusier's career. It cannot be classified as international style it cannot be classified as a typical Le Corbusier architecture and it cannot be put into any of the categories of architectural styles its such like architectural sculpture.

The most striking part of Ronchamp is the curved roof that peels up to the heavens.

You can see the curved roof of over here.

The curving roof appears to float above the building as it is supported by embedded columns in the walls, which creates a 10cm gap between the roof and the walls, there are embedded columns in the walls which supports the roof and there is a 10cm gap which is created here allows for a silver clerestory light which can come inside the building.

The roof is only a actually the glimpse of the mechanized influence in the overall design of the RonChamp. Because it is actually inside from the wing of an airplane.

See on the wing going on the way it Trans upwards it is inspired from an airplane.

The aerodynamic in design and in all of its massive and heavy qualities it still appears weightless.

Here there is a quick comparison of Ronchamp chapel which is designed by Le Corbusier in 1950 and our lady of the angels' cathedral looks like created by Rapheal Moniyo in 1996.

There you can see very very close relationship between the buildings that was designed by Corbusier and CIAM.

It was on the roof it was very plain he also lifted plain. Corbusier had created as a plainer story top lights and Rapheal moniyo also created lights on the top from sides. Here Corbusier created a roof in this fashion whereas light can from both the sides whereas Rapheal Moniyo created from this pattern again light can from both sides. Rapheal moniyo had a lot of learning's from Corbusier and Ronchamp chapel and designing another Cathedral, our lady of angel's cathedral. And why I am talking about this is how much a project can influence future architecture and architects. How much a single project can influence this is unbelievable.

One of the most interesting aspects of the design is the sporadic window placement on the walls. What Corbusier did was he implemented punctures on the facades that amplified the light within the chapel by tapering the window into the wall cavity.

In this picture you can see there is a small cavity and because of the tapered the light seams to flush in and watch the entire building.

This is how it looks from the outside and on the opposite side this is what we have.

Look at the amount of natural light that the building has have edge was in spite of the building being very very heavy.

Programmatically the church is pretty simple an oblong nave, two side entrances, an axial main altar, and three chapels beneath towers. The rough masonry walls faced with whitewashed sprayed concrete and a roof which is exposed concrete.

Formally and symbolically, however, this small building sited on top of a hill side with access from the south, is looks immensely powerful and completely complex. But programmatically it's actually very simple but it looks so complex with all the complexities inherited with the building.

This is the section of the building; this is the Palace of Assembly which is created by Le Corbusier in Chandigarh. Here again you can see the sculptural quality of use of concrete in his buildings use of punctures.

Here is another picture of the Palace of Assembly which Corbusier had designed. Look at the enormous amount enormous bulk of the building. And this is a piece here sculptural piece here is in spite from a horn of a bull.