

*Design of Cities*  
 Modernism and the Modernist Movement

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- Modernism grows out of the 'enlightenment project'- using the accumulation of knowledge, objective science, universal morality in the pursuit of human emancipation and the enrichment of daily life.
- Modernism is a reaction against the crisis of urban disorder, impoverishment, congestion, and anarchy through the imposition of rational order (technologically efficient and machine like)
- Modernism is...
  - large scale
  - metropolitan wide
  - technologically rational & efficient plans
  - no frills (functionalist) architecture
  - organizing and rationalizing space through zoning



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- Modernists attempting to come to grips with...
 

- explosive urban growth	failure of building solutions
- strong rural to urban migration	the despair of the cities
- industrialization	social uprisings
- mechanization	failing urban health
- massive rebuilding of the urban environment	
- Modernism in the design of structures vs. Modernism in the design of cities
  - Le Corbusier, Frank Lloyd Wright, Soria y Mata, Tony Garnier, Mies van der Rohe,
  - Walter Gropius, The Bauhaus Movement, The International Style
- Baroque is window dressing-modernism is complete reworking
  - What does this mean?
- CREATIVE DESTRUCTION
  - Haussman & Nash left a lot behind their facades
  - Joseph Schumpeter – Creative Destruction
  - Modernists tear down and rebuild
- What did all this mean to the world of design?
- What did it all mean to the outside world?

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- What does modernism really do?
  - The machine, the factory, the transport system (later the automobile), mass consumption and marketing are modern
    - city is the factory of modern life
    - home is "nothing more than a factory for the production of happiness" Good Housekeeping 1910
    - the house is a "machine for modern living" Le Corbusier
    - the machine is our medium of modern design
- Modernism becomes a force in architecture in the 20's & 30's--spills out into application in the post-war era of rebuilding and renewal.

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### Modern Architecture

- Modern architecture is a term given to a number of building styles with similar characteristics, primarily the simplification of form and the elimination of ornament, that first arose around 1900.
- By the 1940s these styles had been consolidated and identified as the International Style and became the dominant architectural style, particularly for institutional and corporate building, for several decades in the twentieth century.
- The exact characteristics and origins of modern architecture are still open to interpretation and debate.

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### Modern Architecture - The Bauhaus

- The ultimate, if distant, aim of the Bauhaus is the unified work of art – the great structure – in which there is no distinction between monumental and decorative art. – Gropius
- The Bauhaus was founded with the visions of erecting the cathedral of socialism and the workshops were established in the manner of the cathedral building lodges.
- The artist was no longer “above” the craftsman, but both were equals.
- In 1922, Gropius changed the focus of the school from craft to the understanding of industrial methods of production.



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### Modern Architecture – International Style

- Was a major architectural style that emerged in the 1920s and 1930s, the formative decades of Modernist architecture.
- The term had its origin from the name of a book by Henry-Russell Hitchcock and Philip Johnson written to record the International Exhibition of Modern Architecture held at the Museum of Modern Art in New York City in 1932 which identified, categorized and expanded upon characteristics common to Modernism across the world.
- As a result, the focus was more on the stylistic aspects of Modernism.



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