


The Lecture Contains:

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Plate 1A International Style
(Toronto)



1B Villa Savoye, Le Corbusier
(France)



1C Glass Palace
(The Netherlands)

(Source: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_style_%28architecture%29 ; February 27, 2013)

International Style in Architecture

The Bauhaus created major impact on architectural design in Europe and in the North America. The philosophy and the spirit of Bauhaus had striped the ornamentation and introduced simplicity in form and true to material. The International Style is a major architectural style that emerged in the 1920s and 1930s, the formative decades of Modern architecture.

(Ref. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_style_%28architecture%29 ; February 27, 2013)

The term originated from the name of a book by [Henry-Russell Hitchcock](#) and [Philip Johnson](#), The International Style, which tried to analyze various aspects of architectural design in new concept. "The authors identified three principles: the expression of volume rather than mass, the emphasis on balance rather than preconceived symmetry, and the expulsion of applied ornament."

(Ref. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_style_%28architecture%29 ; February 27, 2013)

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The International Style (plate 1A & 1C) became a formidable force that wanted to break away from the tradition of heavy architectural ornamentation of Art Nouveau period. The Dutch 'de Stijl' movement inspired architects. In 1920s Western Europe found significant contemporary common ground among the [de Stijl](#) movement that encouraged exploring the new material and concept of slimmer design. Three stalwart of the modern style of architecture- [Le Corbusier](#) (plate 1B) in France, and [Ludwig Mies van der Rohe](#) and [Walter Gropius](#) in Germany spearheaded the movement, which had focused on- a radical simplification of form, a rejection of ornament, and adoption of glass, steel and concrete as preferred materials. The new material expanded their imagination and generated an elegant plasticity in architecture design. Transparency of buildings, construction (called the honest expression of structure), and acceptance of industrialized mass-production techniques contributed to the international style's design philosophy. The transparency of building created a new feeling of negative and positive space. It created opening of larger space feeling. True to material became a major force of the new design concept. The new material and their possible exploitation clearly led to altogether a new roadmap for the future generation. The lighter and stronger material looked amazingly elegant and smarter (plate 1A).



Plate 2A Cristal Palace, London (1851)

2B Robie House, 1910, (Chicago)
(Frank Lloyd Wright)2C Ludwig Mies
van der Rohe,
(Chicago)

(Source: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Modern_architecture ; March 1, 2013)

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The Cristal Palace (plate 2A) at London is perhaps the first structure that was conceived to build with glass keeping the quality of transparency in the structure. Large amount of glass supported by metal structure was created, which could be the first architectural construction that had shown the future modernist style. It is indeed a remarkable step towards the modernist architectural philosophy. The modernism sprang out of the clarity in the vision based on the followings-

- "Form follows function",
- Simplicity and clarity of forms
- Visual expression of structure (as opposed to the hiding of structural elements)
- The related concept of "Truth to materials"
- The use of industrially-produced materials; adoption of the machine aesthetic
- The visual emphasis on horizontal and vertical lines



Plate 3A Gray Hound Bus Station, Cleveland



3B van der Rohe, 1956
New York



3C Luis Kahn
National Assembly,
Bangladesh

(Source: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Modern_architecture ; March 1, 2013)

Middle of 20th century witnessed matured architectural design that synthesized curve planes with horizontal and vertical planes (plate 3A- 3C) successfully. It did not hesitate to combine both.

The future modernism has striped the entire veil around the structural elements. Naturally the philosophy of Bauhaus had strong influence on such theme and concepts. Ludwig Mies van der Rohe's (plate 2C) multistoried building with 'skin and bone' structure had set the trend for the future of urban architectural constructions. Technology development played major role along with the social changes created an environment that could appreciate the new aesthetics. Frank Lloyd Wright's Robie House in Chicago (plate 2B) shows the dominating horizontal planes and vertical lines. The architectural clarity in Wright's design undoubtedly introduces new concept of negative and positive spaces and aesthetics. The Gray Hound Bus Station (plate 3A) at Cleveland shows neat clean shape and streamlined aesthetic appeal. Thus, the new age design arrived with the philosophy of simplicity, clarity and truth to material in design.