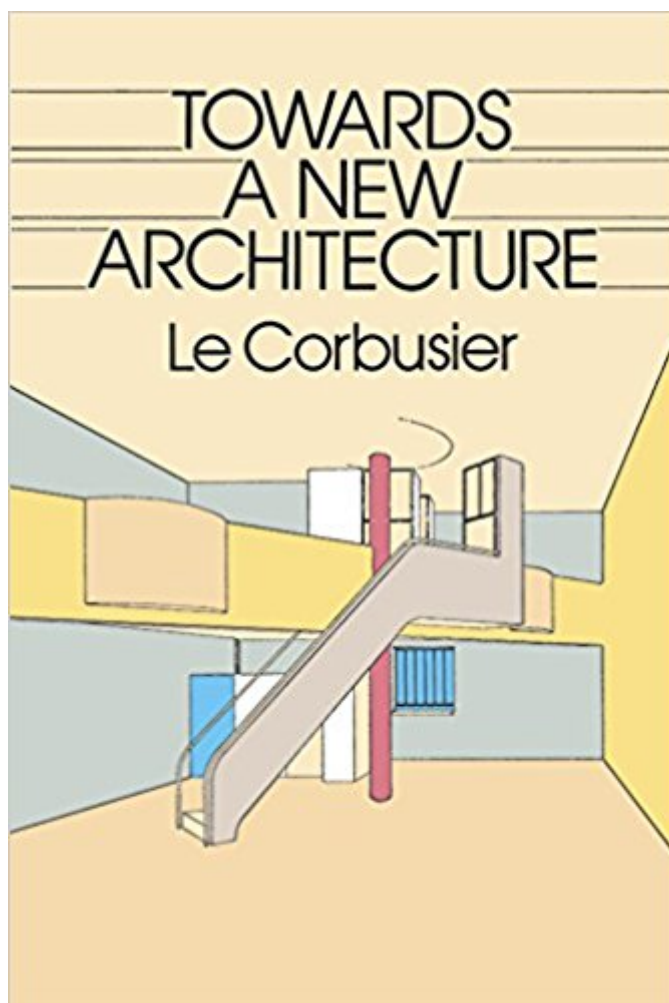


The book was found

Towards A New Architecture (Dover Architecture)



Synopsis

For the Swiss-born architect and city planner Le Corbusier (Charles-Édouard Jeanneret, 1887–1965), architecture constituted a noble art, an exalted calling in which the architect combined plastic invention, intellectual speculation, and higher mathematics to go beyond mere utilitarian needs, beyond "style," to achieve a pure creation of the spirit which established "emotional relationships by means of raw materials." The first major exposition of his ideas appeared in *Vers une Architecture* (1923), a compilation of articles originally written by Le Corbusier for his own avant-garde magazine, *L'Esprit Nouveau*. The present volume is an unabridged English translation of the 13th French edition of that historic manifesto, in which Le Corbusier expounded his technical and aesthetic theories, views on industry, economics, relation of form to function, the "mass-production spirit," and much else. A principal prophet of the "modern" movement in architecture, and a near-legendary figure of the "International School," he designed some of the twentieth century's most memorable buildings: Chapel at Ronchamp; Swiss dormitory at the Cité Universitaire, Paris; Unité d'Habitation, Marseilles; and many more. Le Corbusier brought great passion and intelligence to these essays, which present his ideas in a concise, pithy style, studded with epigrammatic, often provocative, observations: "American engineers overwhelm with their calculations our expiring architecture." "Architecture is stifled by custom. It is the only profession in which progress is not considered necessary." "A cathedral is not very beautiful . . ." and "Rome is the damnation of the half-educated. To send architectural students to Rome is to cripple them for life." Profusely illustrated with over 200 line drawings and photographs of his own works and other structures he considered important, *Towards a New Architecture* is indispensable reading for architects, city planners, and cultural historians—but will intrigue anyone fascinated by the wide-ranging ideas, unvarnished opinions, and innovative theories of one of this century's master builders.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

'The only piece of architectural writing that will be classed among the essential literature of the 20th century.' Reyner Banham

From my perspective, Le Corbusier bounces back and forth between brilliance and stupidity. He poses excellent questions and makes stunning points, then answers himself with some of the most outrageous and idiotic declarations in history. This book should be on every architect's "must" list, but even those with a general interest might share my wild swings of reaction to his nearly psychotic delusions and keen perceptions. I can almost guarantee he would not have been welcome in my home! But at the same time, his book most certainly is. I laughed, I cried, I wanted to throw the book against the wall and jumped up yelling, "Yes! Yes!" A cross between Mein Kampf and Walden, with a little Dickens and Tolkein thrown in. Wierd, wonderful, and depressing all rolled into one.

Now, having read this book, I see. Examples of the evolution of his thoughts on architecture are everywhere. He also seemed to have some influence on modern building standards and made some predictions on housing which have come to pass, some with good results and some not so good. I believe I read about an idea that was the precursor to the timeshare condo. (Blech) ! What an incredible influence. Not a particularly great read but one I am glad I experienced and will not forget.

great!

I liked Le Corbusier's early architectural works, not so much with the later stuff. The beginning chapters of this book were interesting, but the later chapters were a bit boring, perhaps paralleling his work in concrete.

Read this for my intro year of architecture and it's a good foundation piece to have in your library.

An awesome book, Corbusier never gets old.

Very good read for beginners in the field of architecture and interior design

Le Corbusier is one of Architecture's famous intellectuals. He is to Architecture what Albert Einstein was to Physics. Highly recommend if your in Arch. School or even just some light reading after work. It shows how differently he thought about things at the time and why his points were actually thoughtful of the time period.

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