

INTERNATIONAL STYLE OF ARCHITECTURE

- "International Style" of architecture developed mainly in Germany, Holland and France, during the 1920s.
- The term International Style came from the 1932 exhibition at the Museum of Modern Art, organized by Philip Johnson.
- The International Style grew out of the work of a small group of brilliant and original architects in the 1920s who went on to achieve great influence in their field. These major figures included Walter Gropius and Ludwig Mies van der Rohe in Germany and the United States, J.J.P. Oud in the Netherlands, Le Corbusier in France, and Richard Neutra and Philip Johnson in the United States.

Origins and Development

The International Style emerged largely as a result of four factors that confronted architects at the beginning of the 20th century:

- (1) Increasing dissatisfaction with building designs that incorporated a mixture of decorative features from different architectural periods, especially where the resulting design bore little or no relation to the function of the building;
- (2) The need to build large numbers of commercial and civic buildings that served a rapidly industrializing society;
- (3) The successful development of new construction techniques involving the use of steel, reinforced concrete, and glass; and
- 4) A strong desire to create a "modern" style of architecture for "modern man". This underlined the need for a neutral, functional style, without any of the decorative features of Romanesque, Gothic, or Renaissance architecture, all of which were old-fashioned, if not obsolete.



- After World War II, the International Style matured, HOK and SOM perfected the corporate practice, and it became the dominant approach for decades.

FEATURES

- Radical simplification of form
- Rejection of ornament
- Open interior spaces
- Adoption of glass, steel and reinforced concrete as preferred materials
- Ribbon windows
- Smooth and undecorated wall surfaces
- Flat roofs
- Cantilevers
- Curtain walls: In a framed building, an exterior wall having no structural function

During the 1930s these ideas were introduced into the United States by several distinguished practitioners, like Walter Gropius and Mies van der Rohe, Richard Neutra and Marcel Breuer who emigrated to escape the developing chaos in Europe.

Defining features:

- Simple geometric forms, often rectilinear
- Asymmetrical
- Form characterized by a series of volumes
- Reinforced-concrete and steel construction with a nonstructural skin
- Occasionally, cylindrical surfaces
- Unadorned, smooth wall surfaces, typically of glass, steel, or stucco painted white
- Complete absence of ornamentation and decoration; often, an entire blank wall
- Often, a cantilevered upper floor or balcony
- Houses in this style are characterized by open interior spaces and are commonly asymmetrical
- Commercial buildings are not only symmetrical but appear as a series of repetitive elements
- Flat roof, without a ledge, eaves, or coping, that terminates at the plane of the wall
- Large areas of floor-to-ceiling glass or curtain walls of glass
- Metal window frames set flush with the exterior walls, often in horizontal bands
- Casement windows; sliding windows
- Doorway treatments conspicuously plain, lacking decorative detailing



<https://buffaloah.com/a/virtual/us/seatt/ibm/ibm.html>



http://www.greatbuildings.com/cgi-bin/gbi.cgi/Farnsworth_House.html/cid_1176264517_20050610_134119_farnsworth_mies.html

BAUHAUS

- Bauhaus—literally translated to “construction house”—originated as a German school of the arts in the early 20th century.
- Founded by Walter Gropius, the school eventually morphed into its own modern art movement characterized by its unique approach to architecture and design.

HISTORY

- In 1919, German architect Walter Gropius established Staatliches Bauhaus, a school dedicated to uniting all branches of the arts under one roof.
- Bauhaus as an educational institution existed in 3 cities—Weimar (1919 to 1925), Dessau (1925 to 1932), and Berlin (1932 to 1933)—until it was closed due to mounting pressures from the Nazis.
- Today, Bauhaus is often credited as the catalyst for modern architecture and furniture and as an important influence on mid-20th century painting and sculpture.
- The Bauhaus movement had a profound influence upon subsequent developments in art, architecture, graphic design, interior design, industrial design, and typography.



BAUHAUS ARCHITECTURE

- Similar to Bauhaus art, architecture in this style is characterized by harmoniously balanced geometric shapes and an emphasis on function.
- Featuring open plans and lots of glass, it is inspired by the simple yet polished look of the American Arts and Crafts movement—a genre popularized by master architect and Prairie School pioneer Frank Lloyd Wright.
- Furthermore, this modern architecture movement heavily inspired the look of mid-century modern homes, which borrow the clean lines and functional design of Bauhaus buildings.
- Bauhaus interiors are renowned for their simplicity and openness.
- Minimally adorned with iconic furniture—including the Wassily Chair, a model named after Kandinsky—and uncomplicated accents, they perfectly echo their exteriors.



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