

## LP<sup>2</sup> STUDY GROUP PROPOSAL FOR SPRING 2023

### **INTERNATIONAL STYLE ARCHITECTURE** **The Principles, the Founding Masters, their Iconic Buildings**

**Coordinators:** Marietta Meyers and Patrick Siconolfi

An introduction to International Style Architecture, the design principles, and key International Style architects of the period.

**Marietta Meyers**, retired architect, joined LP<sup>2</sup> in 2019 and is Co-Chair of the Diversity-Outreach Committee. She developed the Systemic Inequality study group and was coordinator for the housing component. Between LP<sup>2</sup> semesters, Marietta presented a paper on FDR and another on the Bauhaus.

**Patrick Siconolfi** is a graduate of the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute's School of Architecture. His professional career has been involved primarily with real estate finance and real estate development. He joined LP<sup>2</sup> in 2017, and he co-coordinated The Federalist Papers study group. Patrick also conducts regular tours of the architectural treasures of New York through LP<sup>2</sup>'s Art Sig group.

**Type of Study Group:** Content presentation and "lively" class discussion. Content will include oral presentation of salient facts about the elements of architecture, and the preeminent practitioners of the style. Further, the classes will be heavily visually dependent, as understanding architecture is largely a visual experience. Slide presentations will be a part of each class.

#### **Readings and other Materials/Online Services:**

Magazine, journal and scholarly articles will be the main reading material. Readily available online videos may also be included. Reading assignments and/or links will be e-mailed one week prior to the class. Recommended but not required: the book *International Style: Modernist Architecture 1925-1965* published by Taschen in 1998, reprinted in 2001. The book is no longer in print but is available on the secondary market. Readings will not be assigned from the book.

**\*\*\*\*\* SYLLABUS - A WORK IN PROGRESS \*\*\*\*\***

**WEEK 1** (coordinator Patrick Siconolfi)

## LP<sup>2</sup> STUDY GROUP PROPOSAL FOR SPRING 2023

### **TOPIC:** Introduction

In this session we discuss the underlying principles and elements of the International Style of Architecture; the Bauhaus movement and the genesis of modern architecture; and the technological and social conditions making modernism possible.

### **READING:**

The International Style

<https://www.theartstory.org/movement/international-style/>

"Concrete & Glass: Buildings that Defined the International Style

<https://magazine.artland.com/concrete-glass-buildings-that-defined-the-international-style/>

### **QUESTIONS:**

What is Architecture? And how is it distinct from a building?

Is architecture more than a style? What is the International Style of

Architecture? How did technological advances make modernism possible?

### **WEEK 2** (coordinator Marietta Meyers)

### **TOPIC:** Le Corbusier (English translation: "The Crowlike One")

Architect, Urban Planner, Painter, Sculptor, Designer, Author—

In this session we discuss Le Corbusier's design principles and elements, key buildings from the beginning in 1912 through 1965; his urban planning principles; and Chandigarh, his major urban planning accomplishment. We will also review paintings, sculpture, and furniture designs, some of which are available to this day.

### **READING:**

"Le Corbusier—Between Architecture and Fine Art"

<https://www.ideelart.com/magazine/le-corbusier-art>

"The many contradictions of Le Corbusier"

<https://www.theguardian.com/artanddesign/2008/jul/17/architecture>

"Corbusier and the Modular Man"

<https://www.trystcraft.com/single-post/2018/04/09/corbusier-and-the-modular-man>

"Design Method and Iconography: Le Corbusier's Chapel at Ronchamp"

<https://www.acsa-arch.org/proceedings/Annual%20Meeting%20Proceedings/ACSA.AM.86/ACSA.AM.86.97.pdf>

"Le Corbusier: How a Utopian Vision Became Pathological In Practice"

## LP<sup>2</sup> STUDY GROUP PROPOSAL FOR SPRING 2023

<https://orangeticker.wordpress.com/2013/03/05/le-corbusier-how-a-utopic-vision-became-pathological-in-practic/>

Chandigarh

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chandigarh>

### **QUESTIONS:**

For each of the buildings presented, how are Le Corbusier's design principles and elements manifested? Are there any buildings in NYC that incorporate Le Corbusier's design principle(s)? What are they and what is the design principle(s)? Le Corbusier has stated, "The purpose of construction IS TO MAKE THINGS HOLD TOGETHER: of architecture to MOVE US". In your experience, which buildings qualify as architecture and why?

### **WEEK 3** (Coordinator: Patrick Siconolfi)

**TOPIC:** Walter Gropius—Architect, Educator, the progenitor of Modernism—Born in Berlin in 1883, Gropius was a pioneer, some say *the* pioneer, of modernist architecture. His areas of interest began with a discernment of how evolving technologies could be used to respond society's need for housing and economic development. Further, he began to address the methods of architectural and artistic education, founding the Bauhaus. Bauhaus was a revolutionary approach to learning which emphasized integrated design projects and industrial methods of production. Collective learning and cross fertilization of ideas between disciplines were hallmarks of his approach.

He was an enthusiastic believer in the maxim that "form follows function."

### **READINGS:**

Walter Gropius

<https://www.theartstory.org/artist/gropius-walter/>

"The ideas man who founded the Bauhaus"

<https://www.dezeen.com/2018/11/02/walter-gropius-bauhaus-100-founder-director-architecture-design/>

Bauhaus

<https://www.theartstory.org/movement/bauhaus/>

"The father of the Bauhaus"

<https://www.german-way.com/notable-people/featured-bios/walter-gropius/>

(optional)

### **QUESTIONS:**

How did Gropius ideas, and those of the Bauhaus, inspire an international movement in building design, the arts, and their place in society? What

## LP<sup>2</sup> STUDY GROUP PROPOSAL FOR SPRING 2023

does “form follows function” mean? Give examples. What are revival styles of architecture? Why were they prominent, and how did they no longer serve the needs of society?

**WEEK 4:** Mies van der Rohe (coordinator Marietta Meyers)

**WEEK 5:** Oscar Niemeyer (coordinator Patrick Siconolfi)

**WEEK 6:** Marcel Breuer (coordinator Marietta Meyers)