Unité d'Habitation, Le Corbusier

Σύνθεση IV
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Project of the Architect

• For Le Corbusier the building had the “right size”, one big space for the inside uses effectively and economically.

• He was design strictly and effectively “cells” for the housing of a lot of people, using the least space of a house (14m2) per person proposal from CIAM 1930. Le Corbusier was questioned “is it possible to have a comfortable house with the above m2?” He answer referring to the example of the rooms of an ocean liner.

• The habitation units are building an autonomous community, summarize bottlenecking ideas of urban space and offer better opportunities.

• Create new traffic engineering, organization of functions, integrated system design are features that are used with discipline and reflect the desire to intervene in the process of architecture and contemporary society.
Transoceanic → sustainable society → town houses feed and entertain thousands of passengers in a very limited space → project for the new concept of a common housing

Features liner → the organization of space and organization of life of people in the project

• The Unite d'Habitation is bulky and looks like an ocean liner
• This huge volume seems to float
• The horizontal windows look like ship cabin windows
On the roof (roof garden) ventilation sculptures looks like the upper deck and the chimneys.
- Apartments constructed as separate elements
- Suspended into a concrete frame
- Each unit is modeled house with double height everyday space and rooms
Environmental and Cultural Conditions

- Designed as a "vertical garden city" unlike villa construction.
- Located on Boulevard Michelet, in the elegant suburbs of Marseille in France.
- Designed specifically to rehouse victims of destroyed neighbourhoods of the city after the 2nd World War and to put in place an innovative project.
- It is an early model building capable in anywhere positioned.
- Comprised of 337 apartments of different sizes, designed as independent elements, hanging within a concrete structure.
- Each unit is modeled residence with double height everyday space and rooms on the mezzanine floor.
- The pilotis with particular columns and the roof are hosting shared facilities such as jogging track, swimming pool, kindergarten, fitness center, store and hotel in interior floor.

- Density and green space

Footprint vs height
External Structure

- Located in a large park
- The main views are from East and West
- The north side is blind due to cold winds
- It consists of 337 apartments of different sizes, placed on the pilotis creating traffic areas below
- Discloses the structural core, through the use of concrete balconies
- Uses independent concrete structure, while the pay elements are prefabricated, so the apartments come and slide the frame
Buildings materials

- The materials used are reinforced concrete and glass, without ornaments and elegance
- This reveals the greatness of possibilities using reinforced concrete as a natural material
- Often referred to as the original inspiration of the Brutalist architecture and philosophy
Le Corbusier deliver an analog system modulor → balance + series of Fibonacci → operating ratios of the human body → use of modulor in Unité d'habitation

→ Its not just a series of numbers with inner harmony → for a measurement system governing lengths, surfaces and volumes and everywhere maintains the human scale.

Εμπειρική Αντίληψη του Χώρου
We see that the commingling of residents was on the roof, which hosted various activities. The ground floor and the main corridors were designed to resemble the streets of a neighbourhood.

Bright apartment covering the full width of the building, have sea view mountain view.
Interior Design

- The apartments are private.
- Located around internal central corridors. On one side of the hallway you enter the lower level of an apartment and on the other you may enter the upper level of the adjacent interconnected.
- Each unit has two floors connected by an internal staircase leading to the narrow bedrooms and a double-height space, living room with a wall around windows, allowing a complete picture of the landscape.
- Extending from one side of the building to another and provides balcony.
- The project is not completely free, the partition wall is load bearing, releasing the facades, and providing soundproofing from lead sheets.
- In the kitchen, shelves are sliding and moving, creating new opportunities.
Light and Sun protection

Innovations which resolve isolation and light problems with concrete shutters
Balcony sun protections
Shelters exceeding from the main body building
Apartments are covering the whole floor but allow to natural light and
Ventilation to be permeable in both sides and also surround the apartments
Each apartment is decorated with a large glass wall
Internal corridors are dark. The only source of light comes from the lights above doors.
Patterns, Rhythms in building

• The symmetric orthogonal patterns are evident and repeated throughout the building. In free facades with a carefully orchestrated pattern of single and double height balconies created fifteen different types of apartments
• The apartments are offset in a pattern, forming a series of vertical interlocking shaped 'L'
• Windows and shelves inside the compartments are divided into motifs reminiscent tables of Mondrian.
Conclusions

- Failed to collective → failed to act as an a society → who would work together to highlight the usefulness of public spaces containing → Because he separation operation
- Different needs for different times
- Some of the shared facilities were less important → laundry rooms (individual washing machines)
- more affluent professionals + the demands of current generation for larger two adjacent units → premises and federate.
- Accused of the large size → building to city neglects completely the urban structure.
- Failed to accept aesthetic → creation of avant-garde architecture → proposed a language unfamiliar to the residents where intended, thus inhabited by bourgeois intellectuals, artists and not by workers