Lecture 10

CIAM, the Return of Individualism, and the Proliferation of Modernities

Ludwig Mies van der Rohe, German Pavilion, World’s Exposition in Barcelona, Spain 1929

Ludwig Mies van der Rohe, German Pavilion, as reconstructed in late 1990s
Mies van der Rohe, German Pavilion, distant view.

Mies van der Rohe, Project for Brick Country House, 1924, elevation and floor plan, exploring new concepts of space, volume, and materials.
Columns of chrome-plated steel are “self-consciously” industrial, non-referential to language of classical columns or capitals.
Idealized house "floating" on columns and reached by ascending stairs that seem to "hover" over the earth and lead first to a plinth.
Mies's tubular steel furniture partakes of the language of an industrial "type" (Werkbund) or "objet types" (Le Corbusier), while the architect's minimalist treatment makes the house a veritable objet type as well.
The nearby Fox River has flooded the house twice, in 1954 and 1996, but not in this image from September, 2007, when torrential rains crested just below the main floor of the house.

Crown Hall (Architecture Building), Illinois Institute of Technology, 1940-56
Mies van der Rohe, Carr Memorial Chapel at IIT, 1952
Load-bearing brick with steel framed windows, plain, largely unadorned interiors

Interior of Mies-designed art gallery at IIT, 1951
Alison + Peter Smithson, Hunstanton School, Norfolk, 1949-1954

This building took the notion of material “frankness” to a new level, treating all objects as simple, industrially manufactured products, with no veneers or special coverings, earning them the term “brutalist.” Yet brutalist work to the Smithsons was an expression of honesty, of frank acceptance of urban and industrial conditions for what they are.

James Stirling and James Gowan, Leicester University Engineering Laboratories, 1963
The Smithsons, Economist building group, London, 1964

James Stirling’s History Faculty building, Cambridge University, 1963-68
View of glass atrium, with double-glazing and controlled ventilation system

The Smithsons, competition submission for Golden Lane Housing, 1952-55, London, illustrating their idea of 'streets in the sky,' borrowed from Le Corbusier

Le Corbusier, details of competition submission ‘Capital Berlin,’ 1958, for West Berlin
Smithsons, competition submission for new "Capital Berlin" in 1958 in West Berlin, detail showing Unter den Linden, new housing and government administrative building, plus separated vehicular and pedestrian circulation.

Shadrach Woods and Georges Candilis, Toulouse-Le-Mirail, France, 1960, master plan, as critique of Le Corbusier and CIAM's "inorganic" approach to urbanism.

Shadrach Woods and Georges Candilis, Free University, Berlin, 1964

Shadrach Woods and Georges Candilis, Berlin Free University, 1964: the "mat" building and the embedding of complex vehicular, pedestrian, and courtyard circulation systems in a dense "mat" of woven built form.

Louis Kahn, Yale University Art Gallery, 1951-53
Louis Kahn, Richardson Medical Research Laboratories, Philadelphia, PA, 1957-65
Le Corbusier, Master plan and sketch of Capitol Complex at Chandigarh, with view of Palace of Assembly, 1956