

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

The beginnings of “brutalism” (Le Corbusier’s ‘beton brut’ or ‘brute concrete’; Smithson’s coining of term in English as simultaneous origins of term): attempt to address buildings as unique solutions to unique building problems of program, structure, materials, without resorting to formulas. Peter and Alison Smithson, **Hunstanton School**, Norfolk, 1954; homage to and departure from the “technical excellence” achieved by Ludwig Mies van der Rohe in post-war U.S., but also before the war, in a remarkable series of buildings: **Barcelona Pavilion**, 1929; **Farnsworth House**, Plano IL, 1946-50, the **Illinois Institute of Technology** in Chicago, 1952-56+, the **Seagram’s building**, New York city, 1958 (with Philip Johnson), and other works of carefully considered modernist elegance. Hunstanton School has greater frankness about exposing the building’s systems and infrastructure, handles the school as an individualized building problem requiring a rigorous solution. Other brutalist works celebrate distinctiveness of their individual forms and solutions, consciously departing from historical references or precedent but belonging to the modernist tradition nonetheless. Examples: James Stirling and James Gowan, **Leicester University Engineering Laboratories**, 1963; the Smithsons, **Economist building group**, London, 1964. A more formalist solution involving greater use of “hi-tech” elements in the still highly individualistic solution at James Stirling’s **History Faculty building**, Cambridge University, 1963-68.

Further post-World War II generational adjustments: Team 10, rebels from CIAM who organize the 10th CIAM Congress in Dubrovnik (thus Team “10”) in 1956. Team 10 made up of a younger generation of CIAM participants tired of Le Corbusier’s dominance and the seeming rigidity in the CIAM thinking about the city. Team 10 includes Peter Smithson, Alison Smithson, Josef Candilis, Shadrach Woods, Jacob Bakema, and several others. The ‘habitat’ approach to total planning as a site-specific and climate specific alternative to the Unite de Habitation “cruiseship” and “Radiant City” approach of Le Corbusier. Still total planning and architecture: **Golden Lane Housing**, 1952-55, the Smithsons, London. Competition designs by Le Corbusier and the Smithsons for new “**Capital Berlin**” in 1958 in West Berlin show contrast of approaches at urban scale in the destroyed city. Shadrach Woods and Georges Candilis, **Toulouse-Le-Mirail**, France, 1960. “Streets in the sky” and the organic approach to developing city plan, with trunk and branches, separated vehicular and pedestrian circulation. Shadrach Woods and Josef 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

