

Prairie School

THE EARLY 20TH CENTURY

•The Prairie School

Characteristics of Prairie School Buildings:

- Low-pitched roof
- Overhanging eaves
- Horizontal lines
- Central chimney
- Open floor plan
- Rows of small windows
- One-story projections

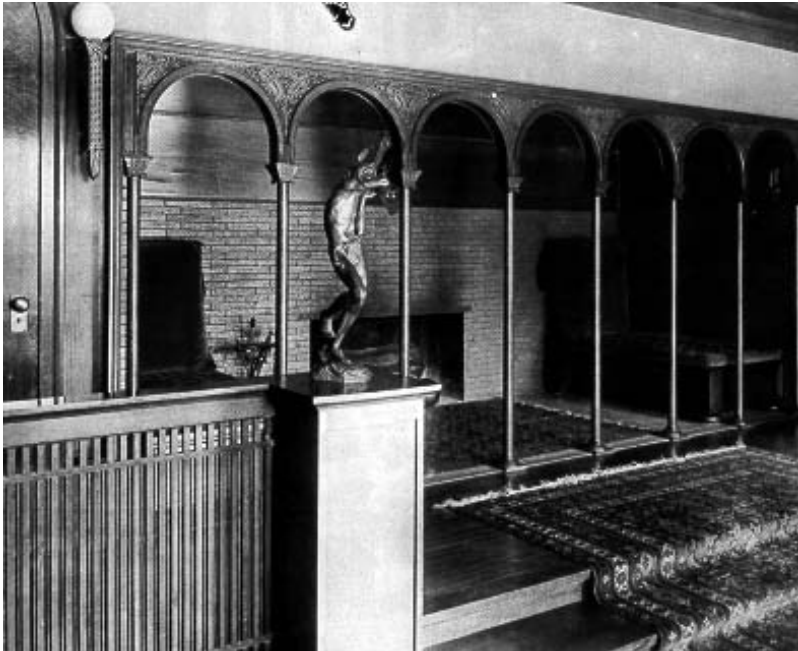
Frank Lloyd Wright believed that rooms in Victorian era homes were boxed-in and confining. He attempted to refine American housing by designing houses with low horizontal lines and open interior spaces. Rooms were often divided by leaded glass panels. Furniture was either built-in or specially designed. Wright's new style of housing was coined the prairie style after his 1901 Ladies Home Journal plan titled, "A Home in a Prairie Town." Prairie houses were designed to blend in with the flat, prairie landscape.

THE EARLY 20TH CENTURY

Frank Lloyd Wright (1867 – 1959)

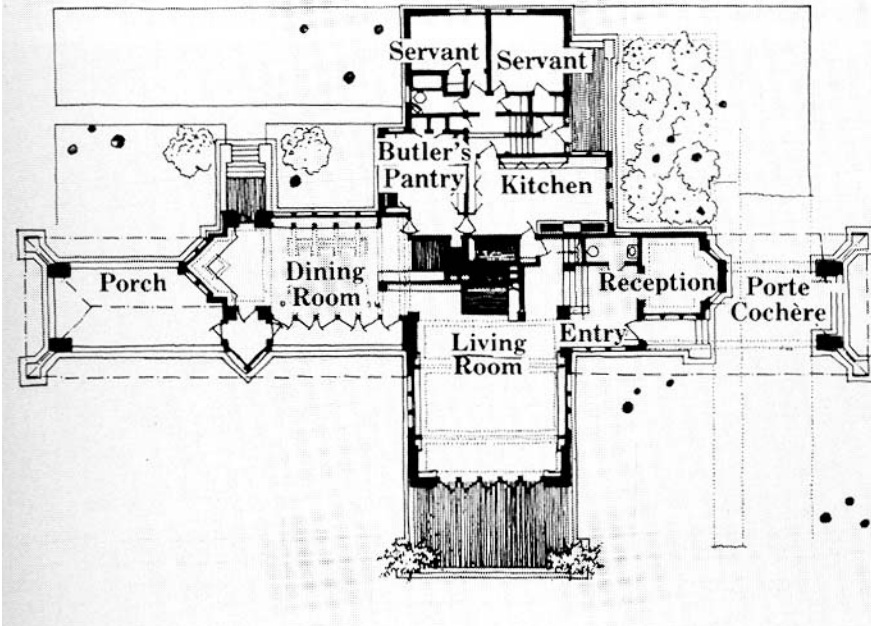
- Winslow House, River Forest, Illinois, 1893

One of Wright's first private commissions. His earlier work carried hints of traditional styles. Wright by training was a structural Engineer before leaving school early. In the living room we see the hearth offset by a Romanesque Portico. The detail on the portico suggests the influence of Sullivan his former boss. The Exterior of the building is distinctly modern with its brick planes & large overhangs. This is considered Pre-Prairie Style.



THE EARLY 20TH CENTURY

- Frank Lloyd Wright (1867 – 1959)
- Willits House (1902)



Wright began to use Japanese House building principles in developing the outer skin of the house. This wooden skeleton helped break apart the façade and gave it scale. This was Wright's "Breaking of the box" The new façade is an interweaving of materials at different points of relief.

This house begins to speak toward the Prairie aesthetic. The low slung roof begin to elude to the horizon on the Midwestern plane. At the intersection of building forms, Wright changed elevations creating dynamic interior space. He used this "Expansion & Contraction" throughout his work.

Ward Willits House – Plan



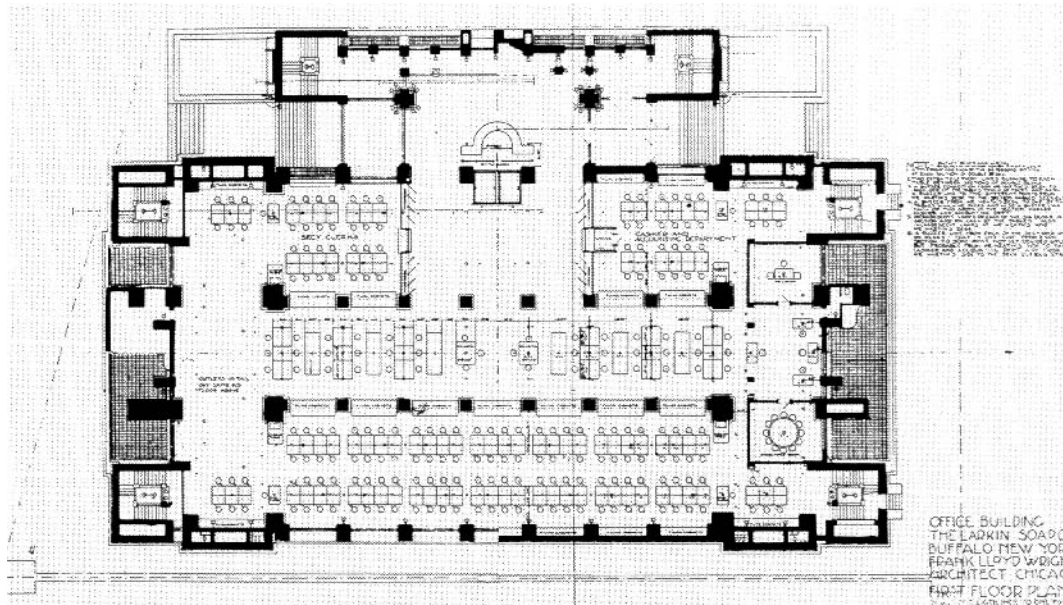
Ward Willits House - Exterior

THE EARLY 20TH CENTURY

- Frank Lloyd Wright (1867 – 1959)
 - Larkin Building (1904)



Larkin Building - Exterior



Larkin Building - Plan

THE EARLY 20TH CENTURY

Frank Lloyd Wright (1867 – 1959)

- Larkin Building (1904)



Larkin Building – Great Hall

Wright developed this office space for a mail order company in Buffalo New York. The ground floor is completely open. The upper floors terrace to the central hall for light. The central court was skylit. The building displays the basics of construction but with no distinct ornament.

Wright developed the furniture for the building as well. The chairs were attached to their related desks. Wright designed alcoves for the file cabinets to fit neatly into. Wright like many of the modernist began developing furniture for their spaces in a means to create a total aesthetic.

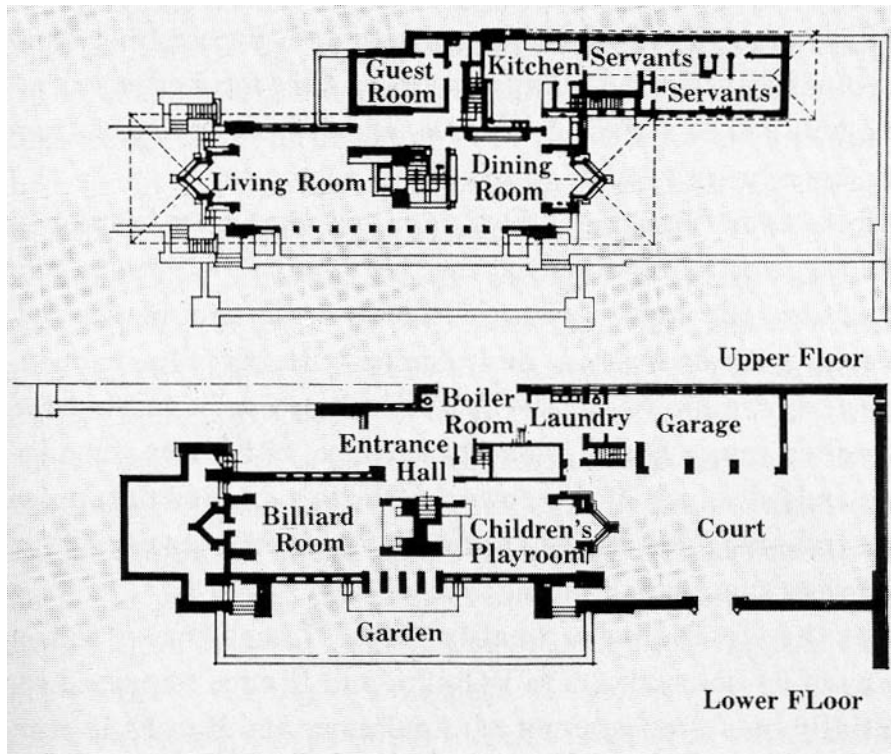
THE EARLY 20TH CENTURY

- Frank Lloyd Wright (1867 – 1959)
 - Robie House (1909)



THE EARLY 20TH CENTURY

- Frank Lloyd Wright (1867 – 1959)
 - Robie House (1909)



Robie House – Plan

The Robie House was the embodiment of the Prairie Style Movement. Its low slung cantilevered roofs created long lines that matched the horizon. These roof forms also controlled the amount of natural light coming into the space. The plans radiate out from the central fireplace / Stairway. He creates a series of raised patios in effort to control the flow in and out of the house.

Wright again designed all the furniture within the space. This level of control allowed him to establish the look he wanted. The furniture was almost gothic in terms of proportion but stripped of any ornament. Its raw nature fit the modern aesthetic.

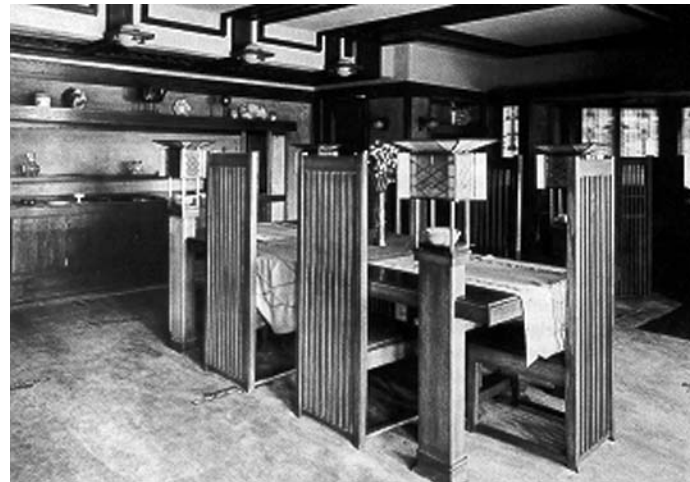


THE EARLY 20TH CENTURY

- **Frank Lloyd Wright (1867 – 1959)**
 - **Robie House (1906)**

Wright developed the stained glass patterns that were housed in the skylight & Clerestory. The couch arms were developed to be like coffee tables. Wright developed every light fixture & table as well as clothes for the people who were to live there.

Wright lived in controversy. It is rumored that he slept with many of his client's wives. He went through a couple of bad marriages and affairs. He even had a wife die of mysterious causes. All of this caused his career to stall from the 1920's to the mid 1930's.



THE EARLY 20TH CENTURY

- Frank Lloyd Wright (1867 – 1959)
 - Robie House (1909)



THE EARLY 20TH CENTURY

- Frank Lloyd Wright (1867 – 1959)
 - Robie House (1906)



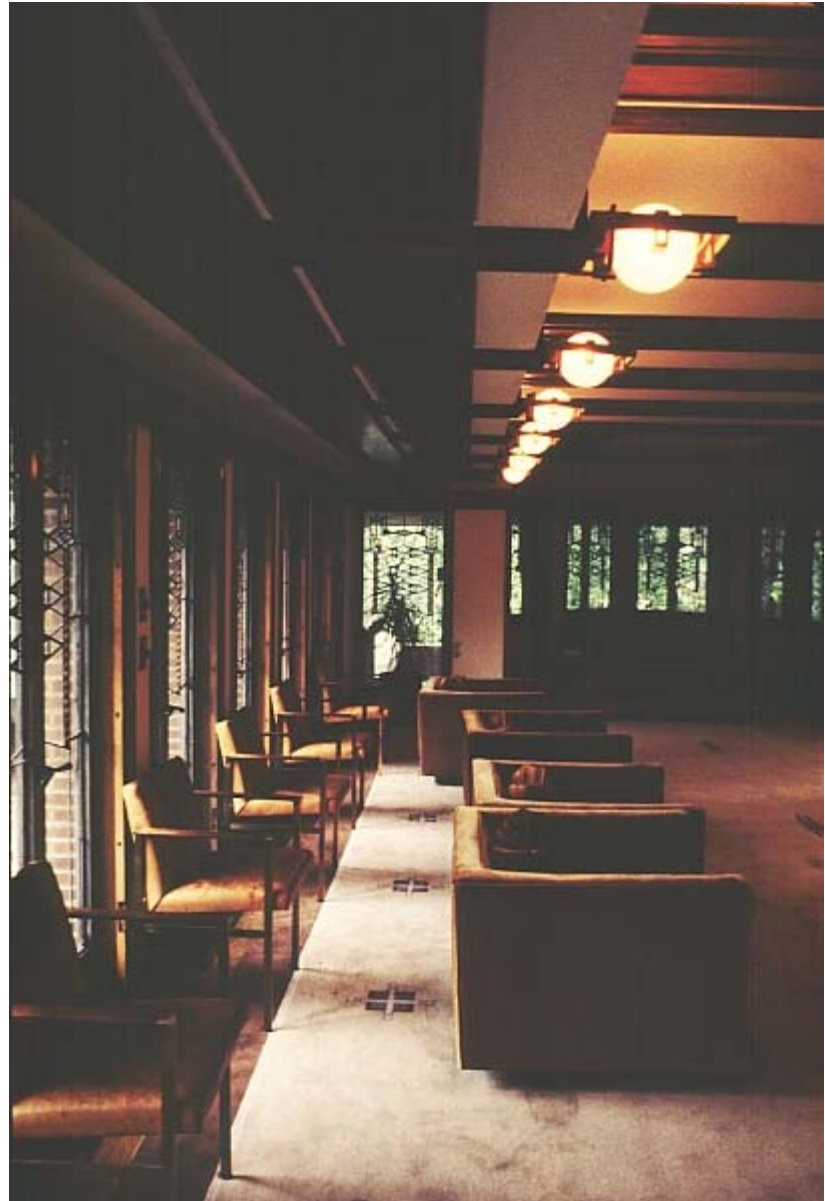
THE EARLY 20TH CENTURY

- Frank Lloyd Wright (1867 – 1959)
 - Robie House (1906)



THE EARLY 20TH CENTURY

- Frank Lloyd Wright (1867 – 1959)
 - Robie House (1906)



THE EARLY 20TH CENTURY

- Frank Lloyd Wright (1867 – 1959)
 - Unity Temple (1909)



THE EARLY 20TH CENTURY

- Frank Lloyd Wright (1867 – 1959)
 - Unity Temple (1909)



THE EARLY 20TH CENTURY

- Frank Lloyd Wright (1867 – 1959)
 - Unity Temple (1909)



THE EARLY 20TH CENTURY

- Frank Lloyd Wright (1867 – 1959)
 - Unity Temple (1909)



THE EARLY 20TH CENTURY

- Frank Lloyd Wright (1867 – 1959)
 - Dana House, Springfield, Illinois (1902)



THE EARLY 20TH CENTURY

- Frank Lloyd Wright (1867 – 1959)
 - Dana House, Springfield, Illinois (1902)



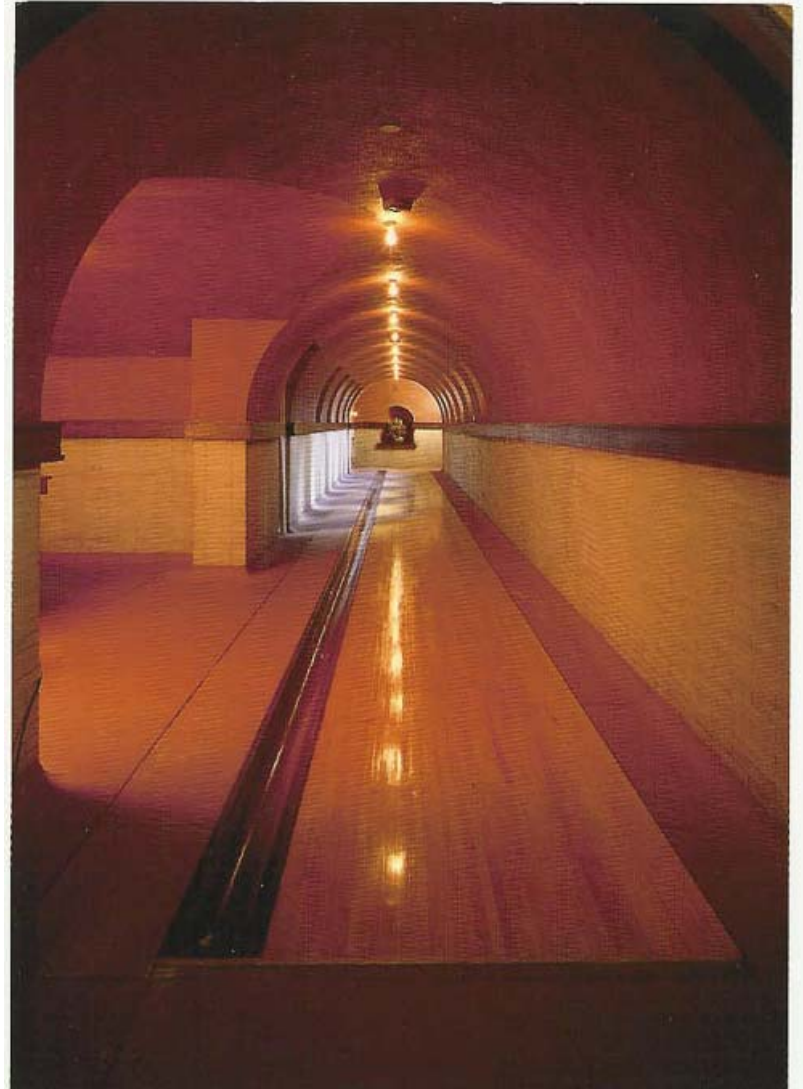
THE EARLY 20TH CENTURY

- Frank Lloyd Wright (1867 – 1959)
 - Dana House, Springfield, Illinois (1902)



THE EARLY 20TH CENTURY

- Frank Lloyd Wright (1867 – 1959)
 - Dana House, Springfield, Illinois (1902)



THE EARLY 20TH CENTURY

- Frank Lloyd Wright (1867 – 1959)
 - Dana House, Springfield, Illinois (1902)



THE EARLY 20TH CENTURY

Frank Lloyd Wright

- Sumac Suspended Lamp, Dana Thomas House, 1902



THE EARLY 20TH CENTURY

- Frank Lloyd Wright (1867 – 1959)
 - Dana House, Springfield, Illinois (1902)



THE EARLY 20TH CENTURY

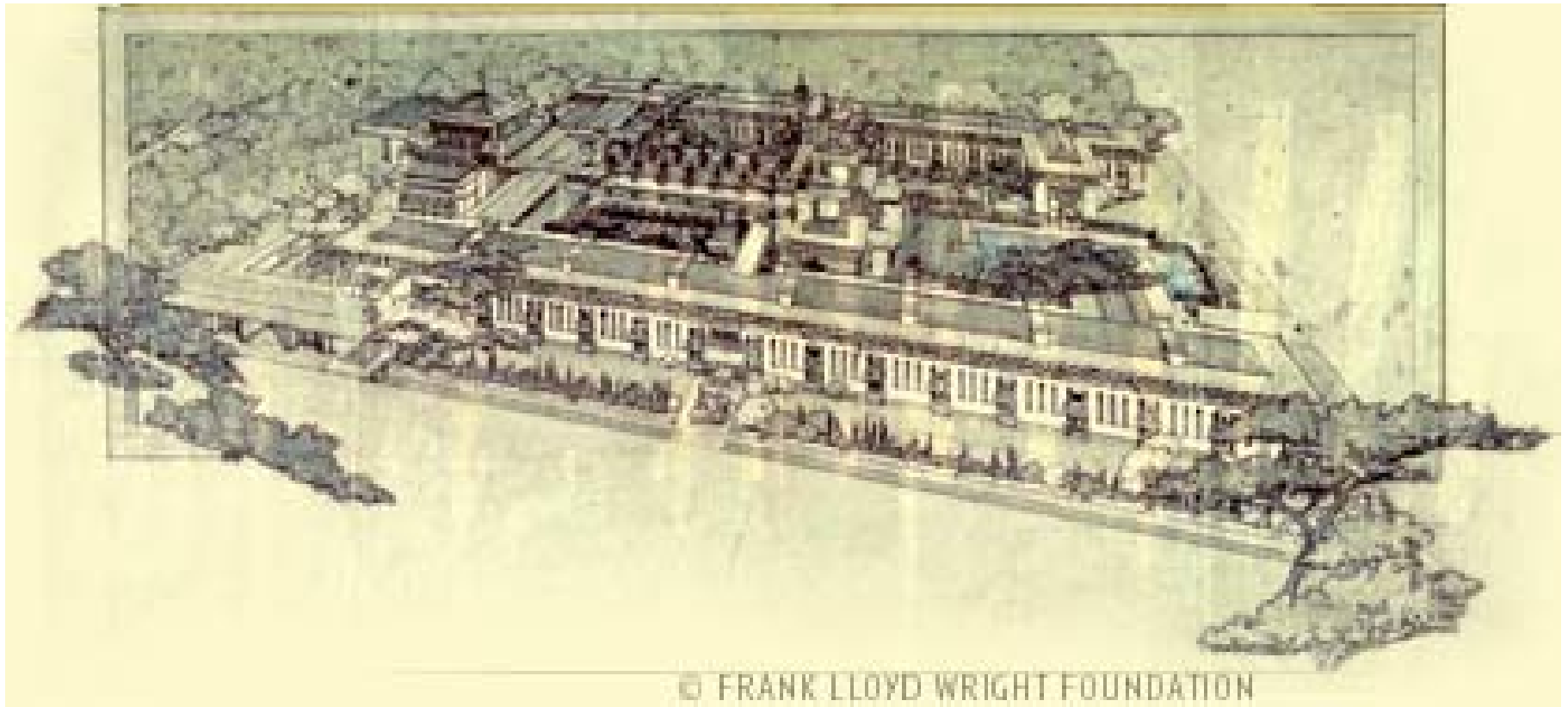
- Frank Lloyd Wright (1867 – 1959)
 - Dana House, Springfield, Illinois (1902)



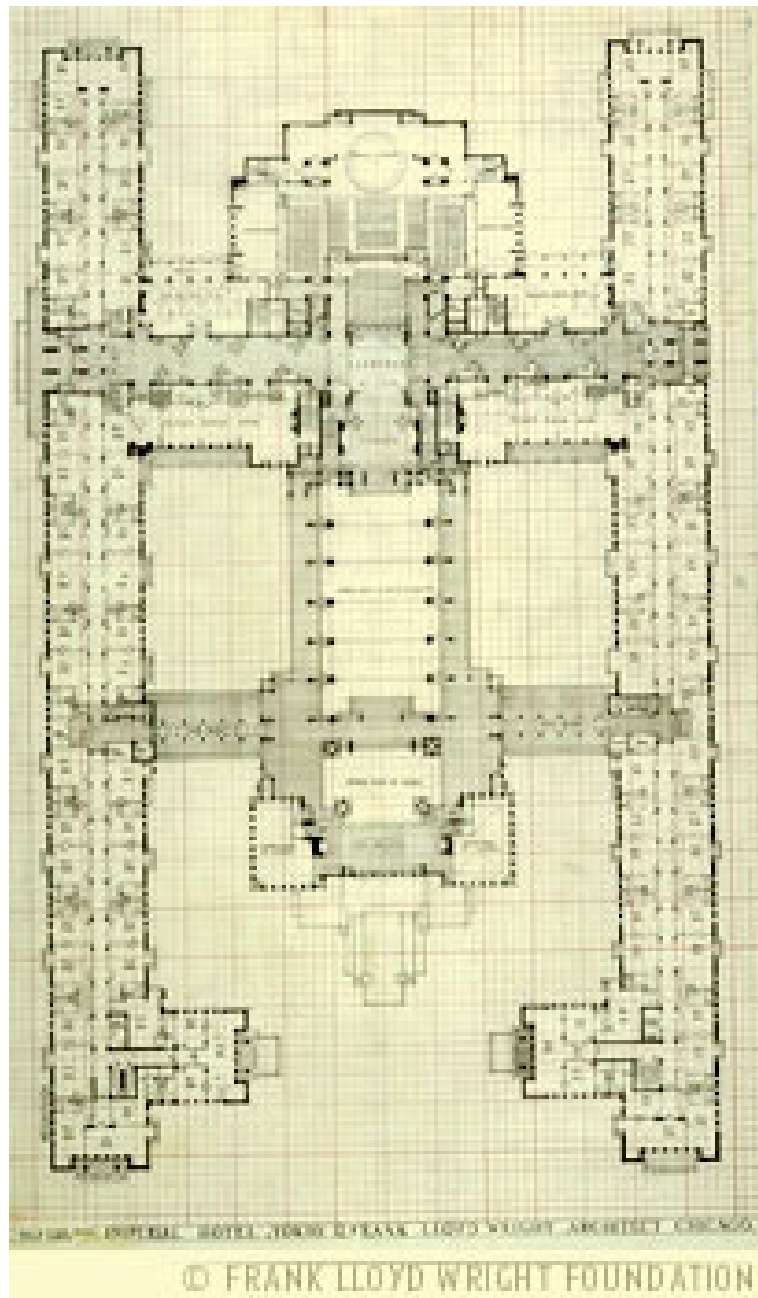
THE EARLY 20TH CENTURY

- Frank Lloyd Wright (1867 – 1959)
 - Dana House, Springfield, Illinois (1902)





Imperial Hotel, Tokyo, 1922, Frank Lloyd Wright



Imperial Hotel, Tokyo, 1922, Frank Lloyd Wright



© FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT FOUNDATION

Imperial Hotel, Tokyo, 1922, Frank Lloyd Wright



© FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT FOUNDATION

Imperial Hotel, Tokyo, 1922, Frank Lloyd Wright



© FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT FOUNDATION

Imperial Hotel, Tokyo, 1922, Frank Lloyd Wright





© FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT FOUNDATION

Imperial Hotel, Tokyo, 1922, Frank Lloyd Wright

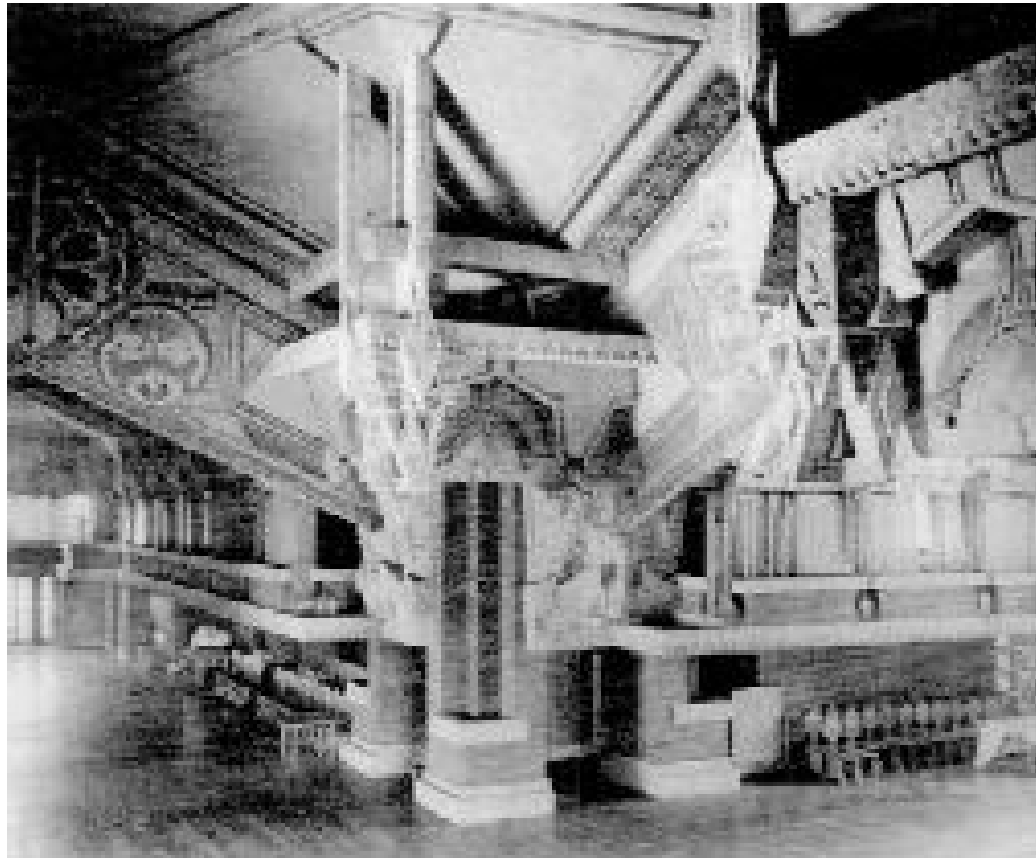


© FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT FOUNDATION

Imperial Hotel, Tokyo, 1922, Frank Lloyd Wright



Promenade to the Peacock Ballroom. Photo: courtesy Raku Endo



Interior of the Peacock Ballroom. Photo: courtesy Raku Endo



Peacock Chair, Imperial Hotel, Tokyo, 1922, Frank Lloyd Wright



Dinnerware, Imperial Hotel, Tokyo, Frank Lloyd Wright



Johnson Wax Building, Racine, Wisconsin, Frank Lloyd Wright, 1939



Johnson Wax Building, Racine, Wisconsin, Frank Lloyd Wright, 1939



Johnson Wax Building, Racine, Wisconsin, Frank Lloyd Wright, 1939



Johnson Wax Building, Racine, Wisconsin, Frank Lloyd Wright, 1939



Johnson Wax Building, Racine, Wisconsin, Frank Lloyd Wright, 1939



Johnson Wax Building, Racine, Wisconsin, Frank Lloyd Wright, 1939



Johnson Wax Building, Racine, Wisconsin, Frank Lloyd Wright, 1939



**Chair designed for Johnson
Wax Building, Racine,
Wisconsin, Frank Lloyd
Wright, 1939**



Johnson Wax Building Furniture, Steelcase, Frank Lloyd Wright

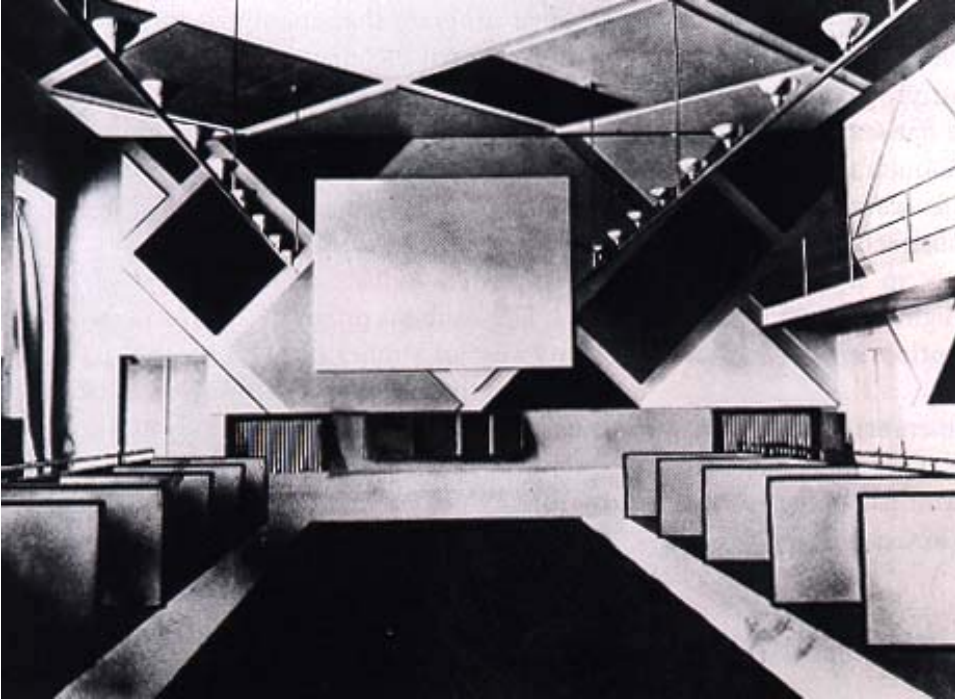
WRIGHT VS. EUROPE

As Wright became more popular he assailed the European Architects

- **Accused their work as being less human**
- **Said their work lacked genius**
- **Said their work lacked vision**
- **European Architects were familiar with the Work of Wright.**
 - **He was a half generation ahead of them**
 - **He gained rapid success**
 - **He was outspoken**
 - **His work influenced theirs**
- **Wright loses stature**
 - **Was like a raging bull**
 - **Forced to take commission in Japan**
 - **Built the Imperial Hotel to withstand a massive Earthquake**
 - **Use of Reinforced Concrete**
 - **Withstood the test**
 - **Wright hailed a Genius**

THE EARLY 20TH CENTURY

- Theo Van Doesburg (1883 – 1931)
 - Café L'Aubette (1926)



Café L'Aubette – Dance Hall

Van Doesburg another leader of the De Stijl. The Geometric scheme is based on the use new materials: aluminum, concrete, steel & glass.

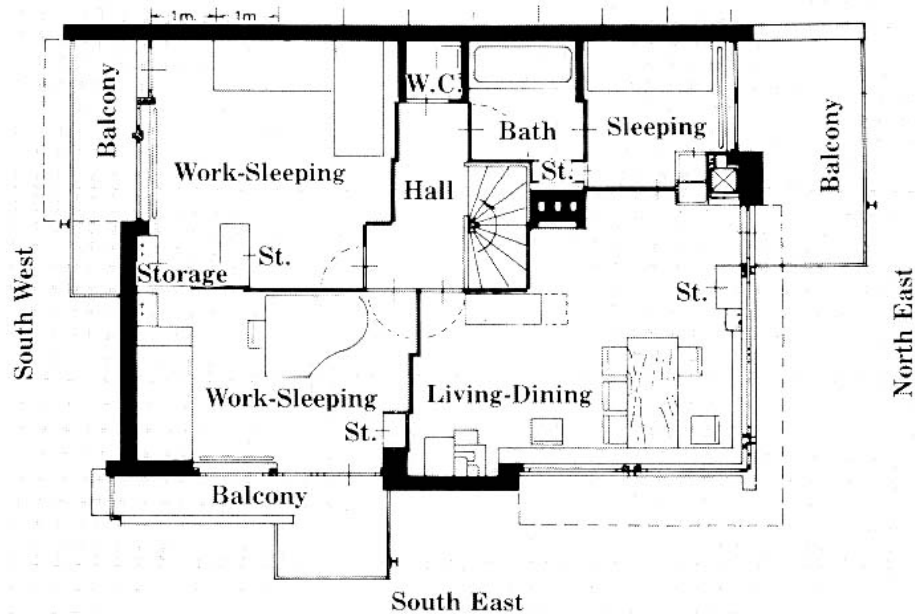
Mondrian was a huge influence on his design work. The use of the Primary colors are throughout.

Van Doesburg & Mondrian developed a theory known as Neoplasticism. It talks of superiority in abstract form & color. This was the basis of their work.

Van Doesburg went on to teach at the Bauhaus.

THE EARLY 20TH CENTURY

- Gerrit Rietveld (1888 – 1964)
 - Schroeder House (1924)



Schroeder House – Living Room



Schroeder House – Exterior

THE EARLY 20TH CENTURY

Gerrit Rietveld (1888 – 1964)

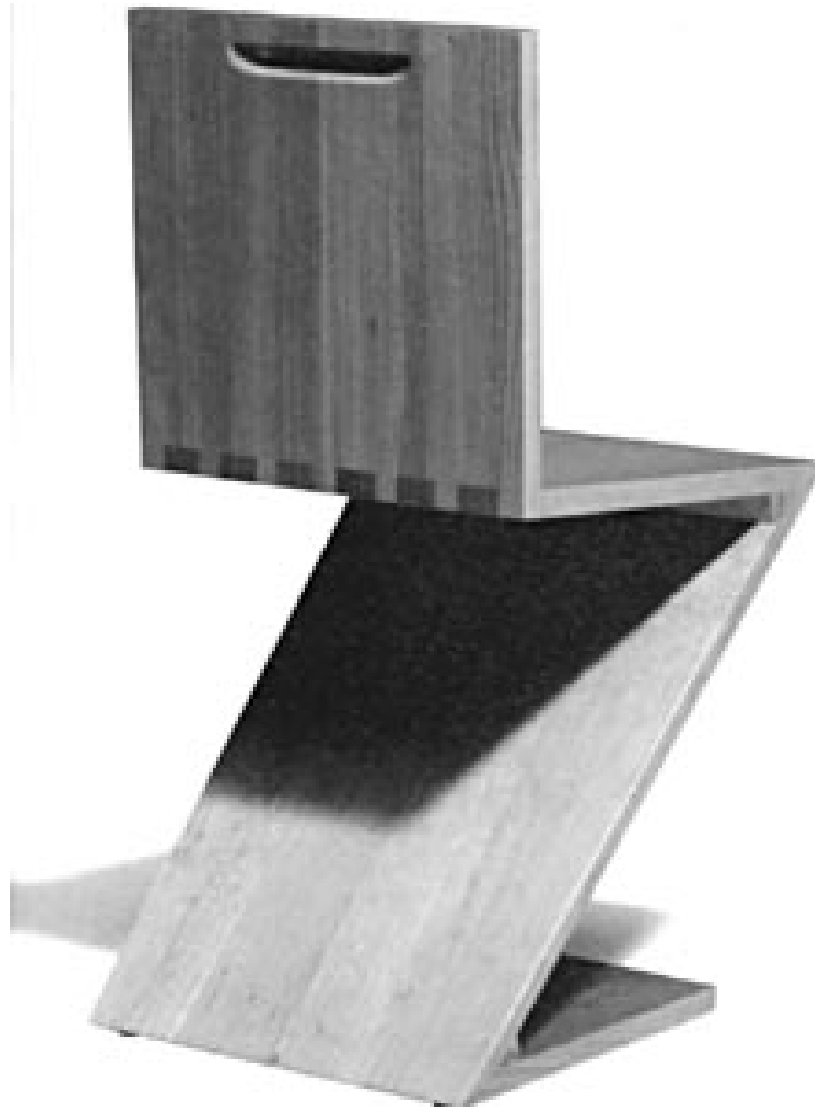
- **Schroeder House (1924)**



Schroeder House – Living Room

Rietveld was one of the founding members of a design movement known as the De Stijl. It was centered out of the Netherlands. The basis for the movement was simple Geometric forms in combination to produce an open plan. The movement bred less ornament & expressed new materials.

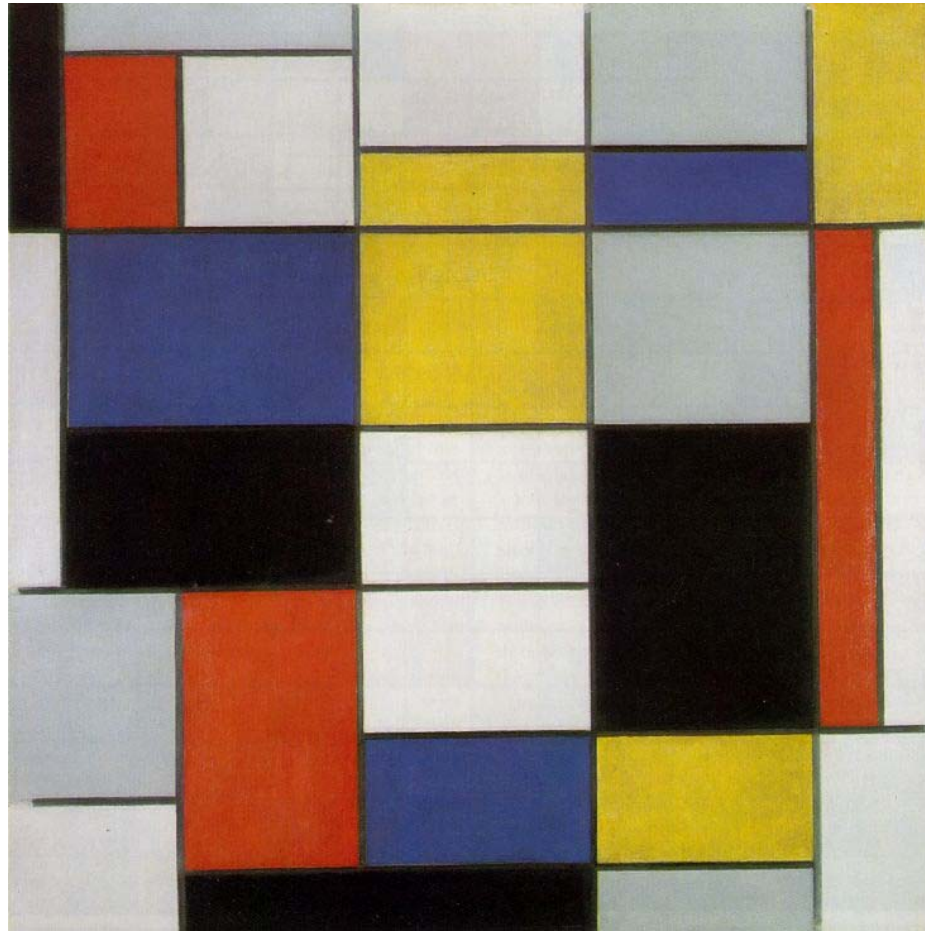
In this House, there are a series of moveable screens that allow the user to change the room to fit the function. Rietveld developed all the furniture for the space. The building is painted white, black, red, & blue.



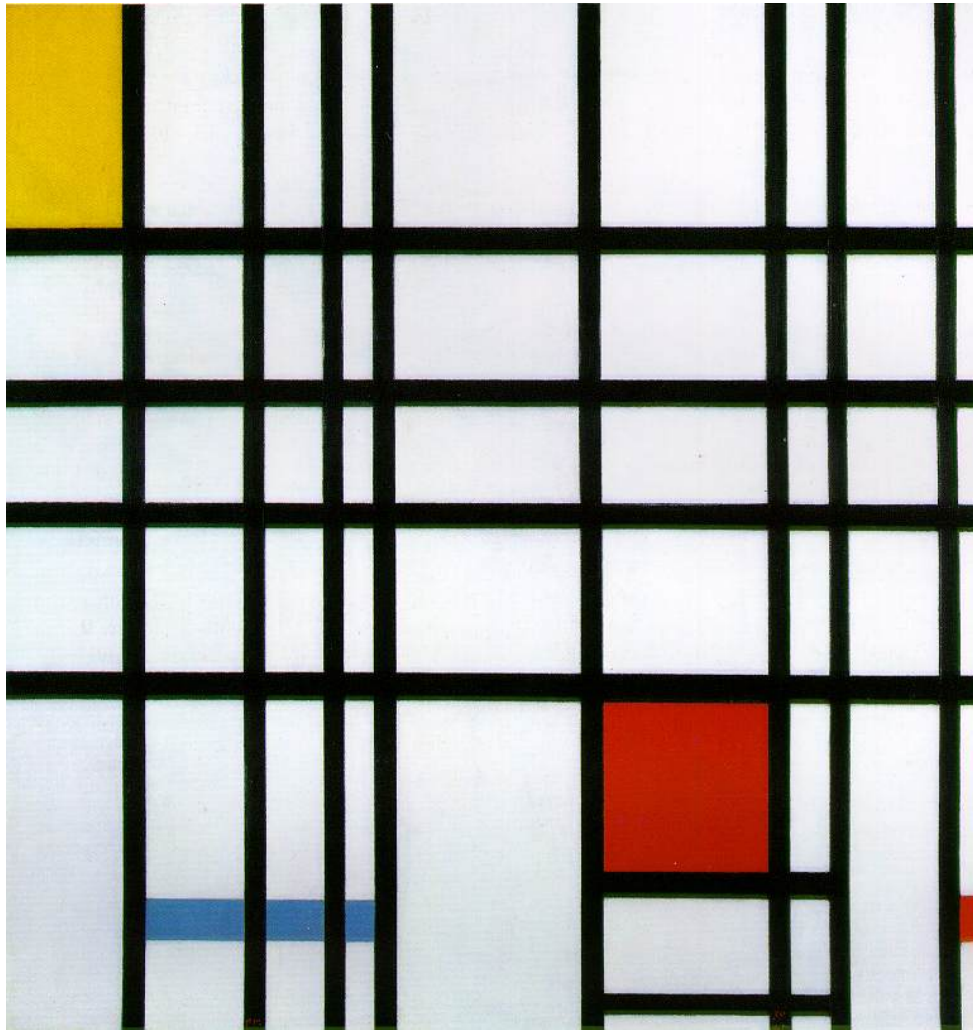
Zig-Zag Chair, Gerrit Rietveld, 1934



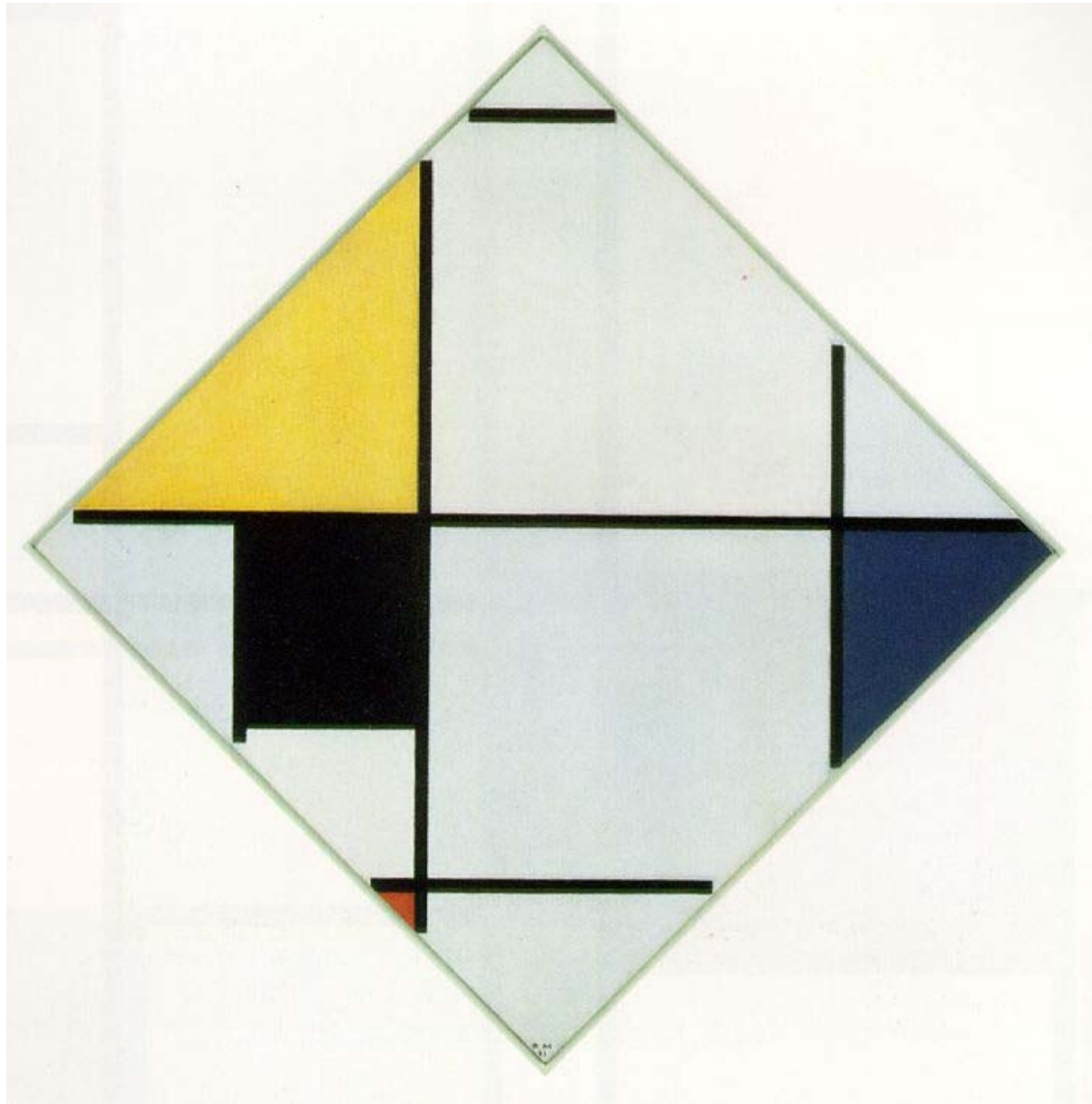
Red & Blue Chair, Gerrit Rietveld, 1918



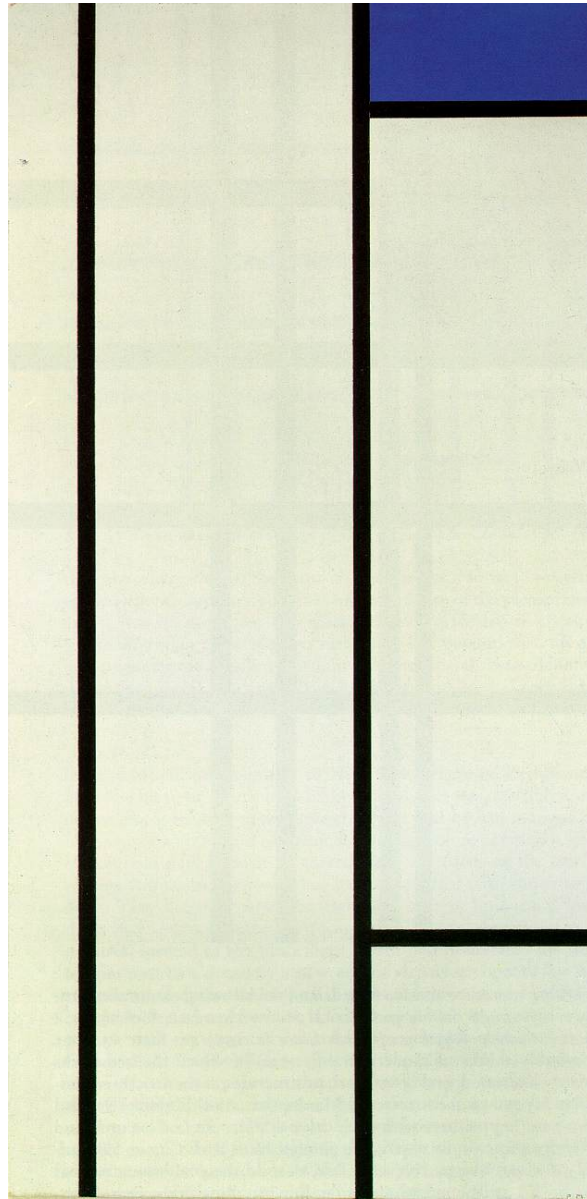
Composition with Black, Red, Grey, Yellow and Blue, 1920, Piet Mondrian



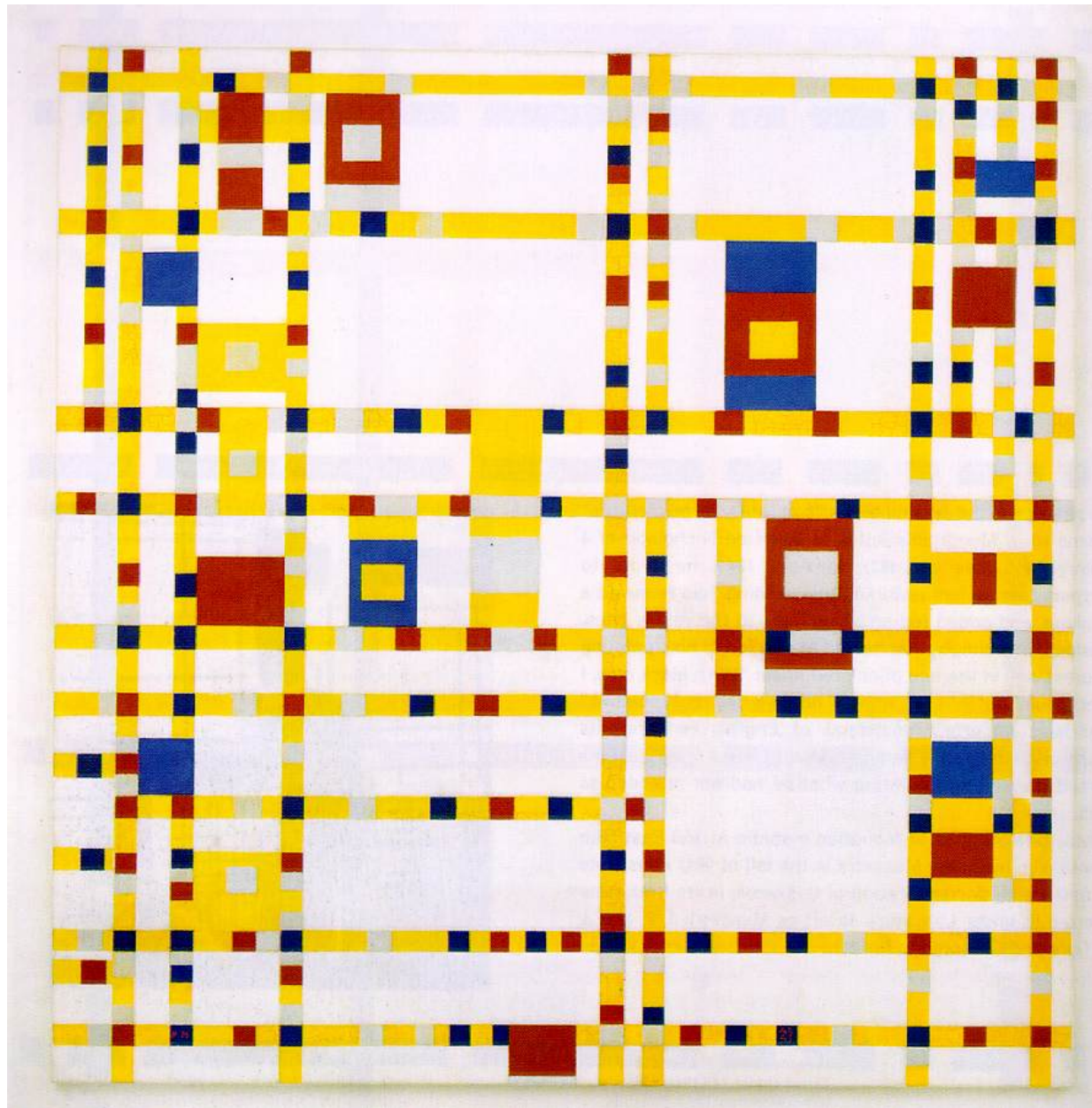
Composition with Red, Yellow and Blue, 1921, Piet Mondrian



Composition with Yellow, Black, Blue, Red and Grey, 1921, Piet Mondrian



Vertical Composition with Blue and White, 1936, Piet Mondrian



Broadway Boogie Woogie, 1942, Piet Mondrian

THE BAUHAUS

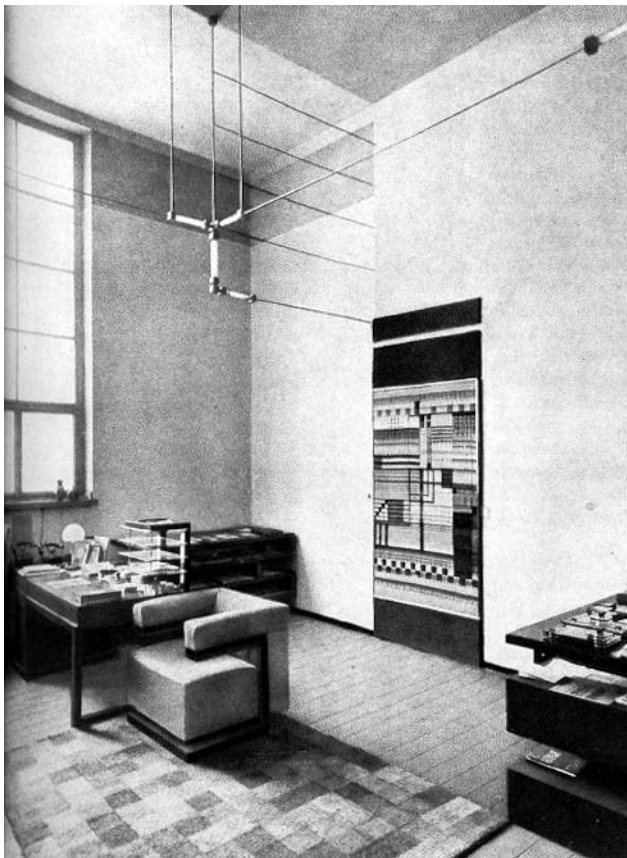
- **Walter Gropius was offered the directorship of both an Arts School & an Applied Arts School.**
 - **Combined the schools together to create a new school.**
- **Assembled world renowned artists & Designers to come teach**
 - **Kandinsky, Klee, Albers, Itten, Mies Van Der Rohe, Breuer, Moholy-Nagy**
- **First at Weimar – Closed in German depression**
- **Built own School at Dessau**
- **School Struggled with the German Government**
 - **Nazis hated the school**
 - **Hitler wanted to be “Holy Roman Emperor”**
 - **Choose the work of Albert Speyer over modernism**
 - **Eventually after they gained total power of Germany they shut it down**
 - **All the teachers fled Germany in fear of prosecution.**

THE EARLY 20TH CENTURY

- **Walter Gropius (1881 – 1969)**
 - **Bauhaus (1926)**

The Bauhaus took its form from its plan. The building was industrial in its aesthetic. It truly was the first building of the international style. It was comprised of steel, Concrete & Glass. It was meant to house the various functions of the school. So it was not only a design studio, but a furniture shop, textile mill, studio apartments, & ceramics studio.

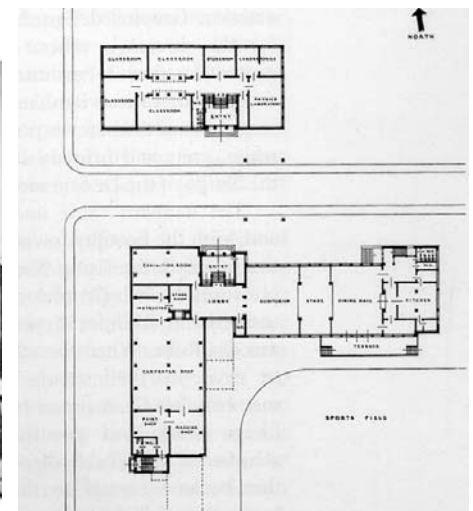
Its shocking appearance harkened back to the Deutscher Werkbund, the German organization that promoted its excellence in production.



Bauhaus – Directors Office

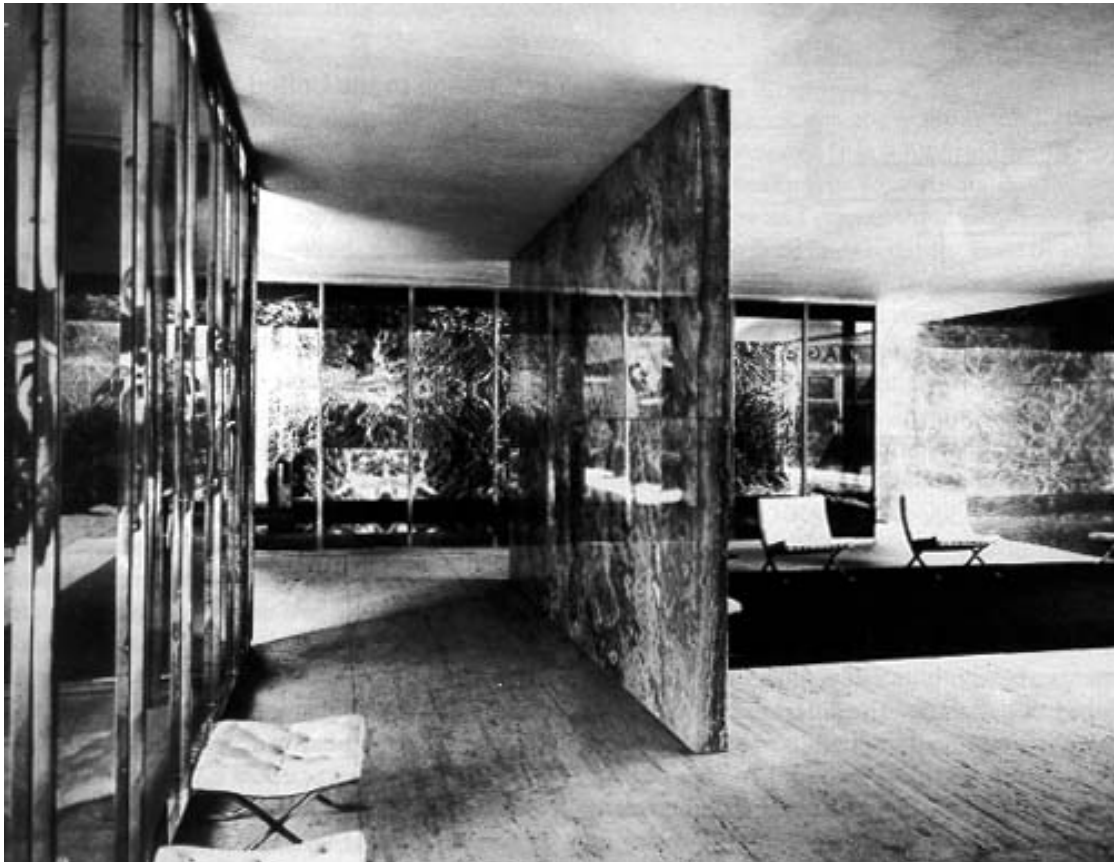


bauhaus – exterior



THE EARLY 20TH CENTURY

- Ludwig Mies Van Der Rohe (1886 – 1969)
 - The Barcelona Pavilion (1929)



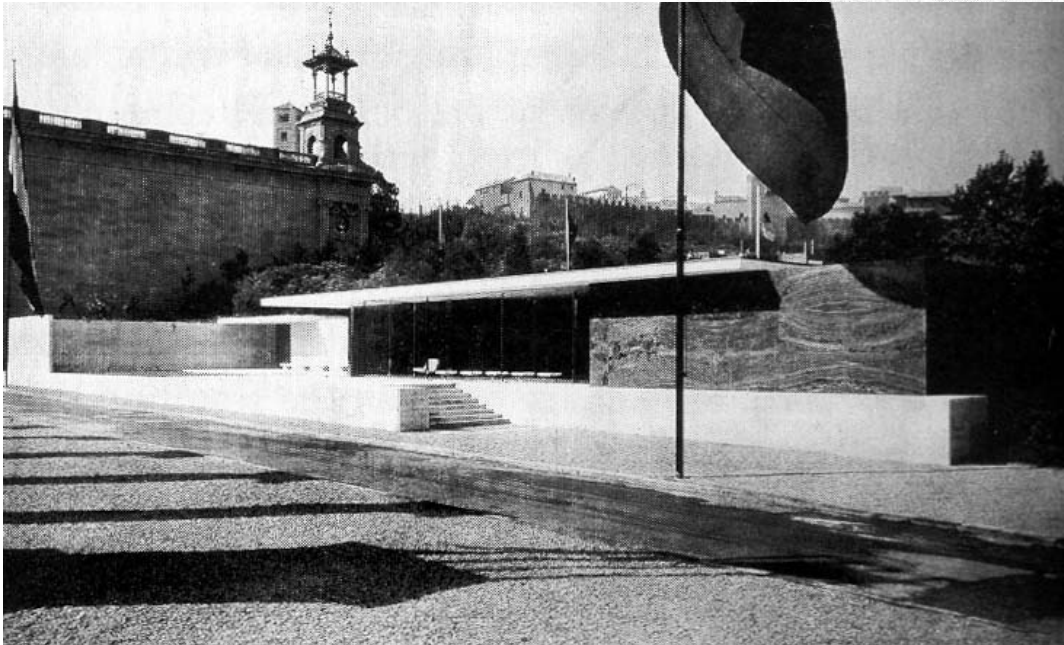
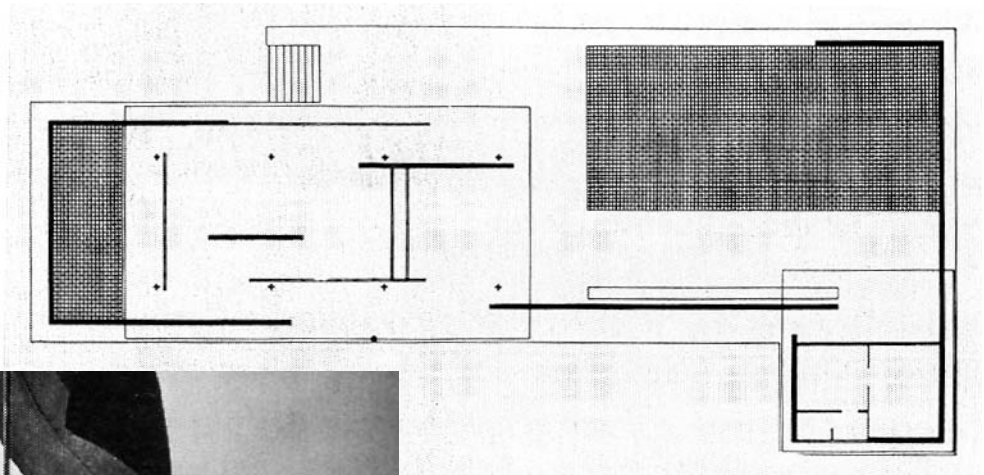
Barcelona Pavilion

Built for the Barcelona Exposition, the pavilion became the embodiment of the International style. The pavilion is on a plinth with two reflecting pools. The walls are comprised of variegated marbles, glass & black onyx. The floor is travertine. The building itself is a series of planes with a long overhanging roof. IT is apparent that Mies knew of the designs of Frank Lloyd Wright.

Mies designed all the furniture. These pieces are still popular today. The project is still standing today.

THE EARLY 20TH CENTURY

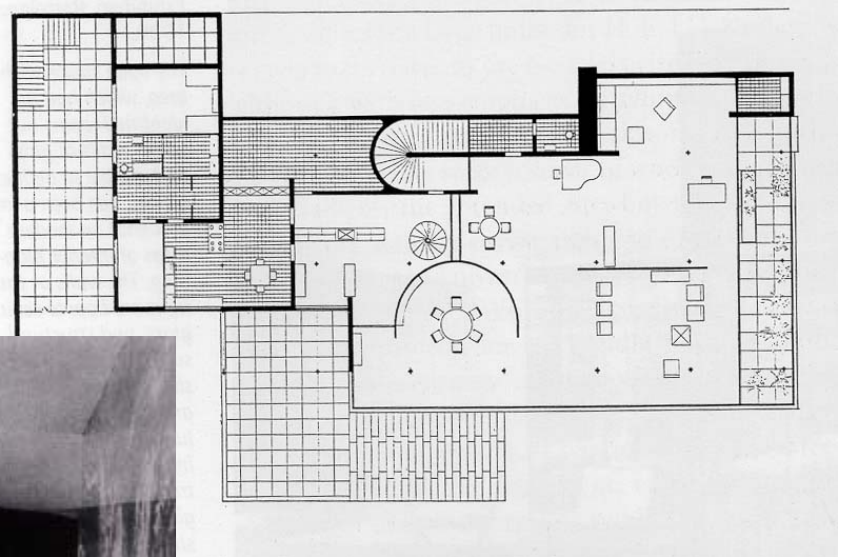
- Mies Van Der Rohe (1887 – 1969)
- Barcelona Pavilion (1929)



Barcelona Pavilion – exterior

THE EARLY 20TH CENTURY

- Ludwig Mies Van Der Rohe (1887 – 1969)
 - Tugendhat (1929)



Tugendhat – Living room

Tugendhat was developed for a couple in the Czech Republic. It too had an open plan defined by a series of planes of Marble & onyx. Its simplicity was its strong suit. The spaces were designed with the furniture in mind and how people would use them.

THE EARLY 20TH CENTURY

- **Le Corbusier (1887 – 1965)**
 - **Villa Savoye (1929 - 1931)**

Le Corbusier was schooled in architecture & painting. He wrote treatise like “Towards a new Architecture” that are influential today. He proposed that Houses are machines for living, and the Engineer was the true master. Buildings were better when there was not any ornament. Having been trained by Behrens & Hoffmann, he was well verse in proportion.



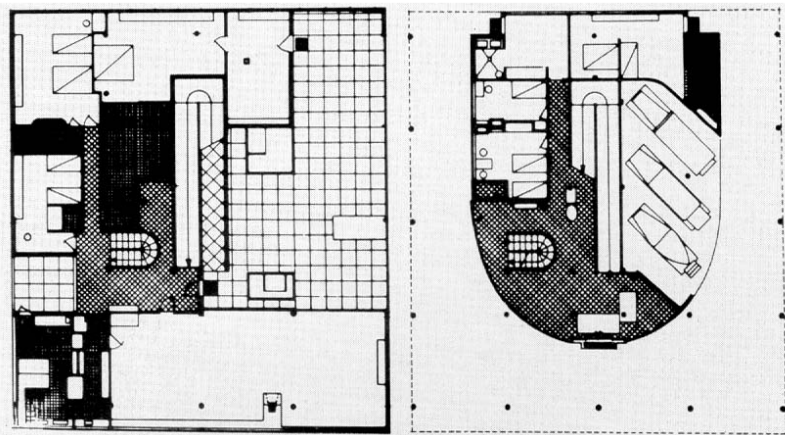
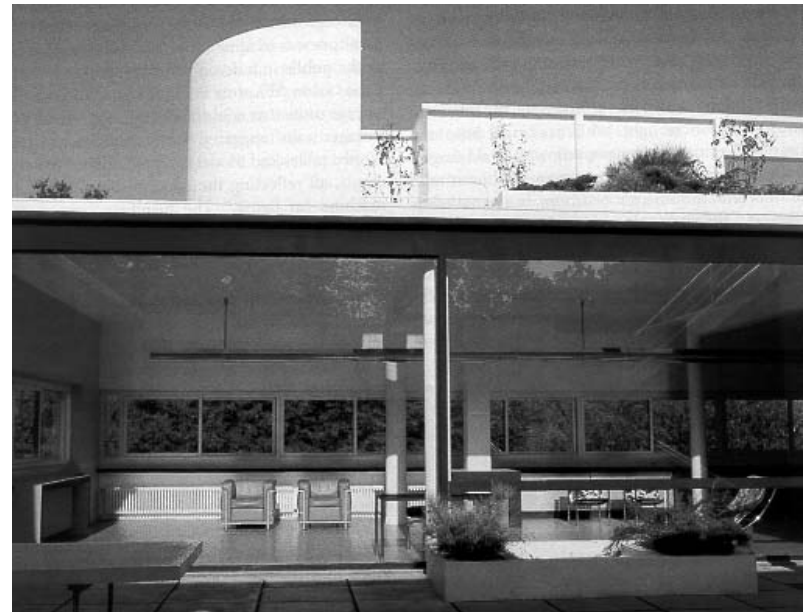
Villa Savoye – exterior

Le Corbusier was schooled in architecture & painting. He wrote treatise like “Towards a new Architecture” that are influential today. He proposed that Houses are machines for living, and the Engineer was the true master. Buildings were better when there was not any ornament. Having been trained by Behrens & Hoffmann, he was well verse in proportion.

THE EARLY 20TH CENTURY

Le Corbusier (1887 – 1965)

- Villa Savoye (1929 - 1931)

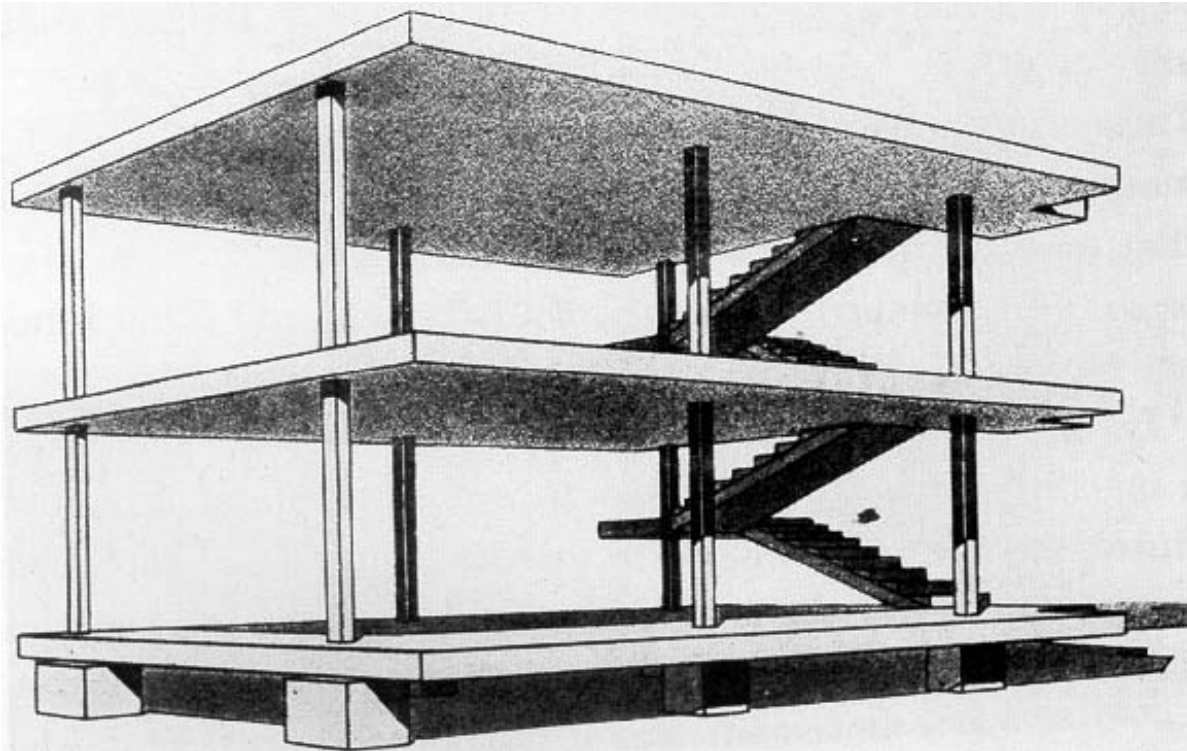


Villa Savoye – plan

The villa was designed with the automobile in mind. The building was raised on pilotis such that cars could be parked underneath. The house began to blur the relationship of interior to exterior with its large glass walls to slide to expand the upper floor out to the roof deck. Corbusier did a number of houses in the 1920s and this by far was his masterpiece.

THE EARLY 20TH CENTURY

- Le Corbusier (1887 – 1965)
 - Domino House



Domino house

Corbu theorized that the Domino house was the ideal house of the future. It was stripped down to its efficiency. He believed this would be the framework for the houses of the future.

THE EARLY 20TH CENTURY

- Alvar Aalto (1887 – 1965)
 - Viipuri Library (1933)



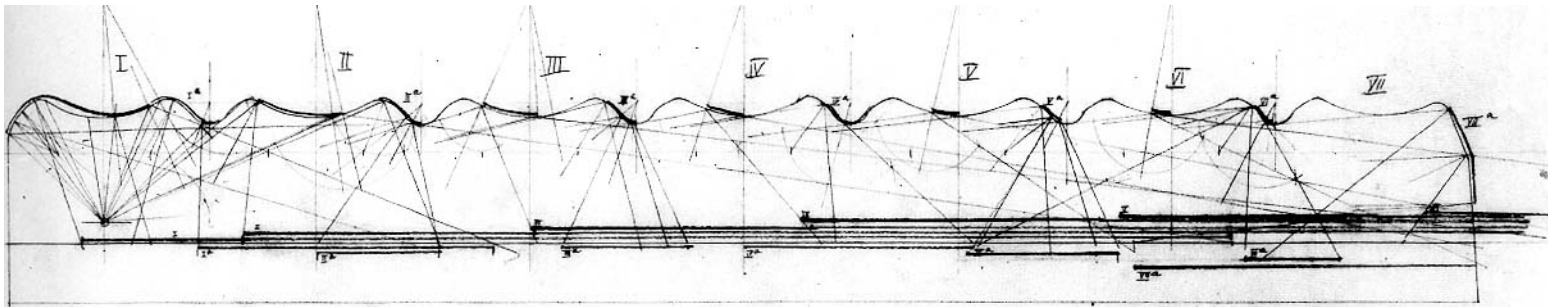
Viipuri Library – Lecture Hall

Aalto was a master at blending materials within a building. He used forms based on natural shapes. The wood ceiling undulates as it crosses the space. The furniture he designed, stacks upon itself to be stored away easily. Aalto was not only a great designer but also great furniture designer.

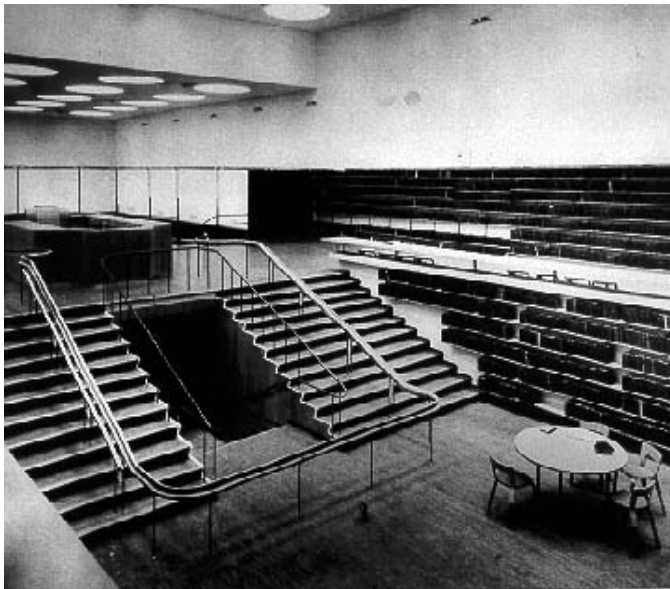
THE EARLY 20TH CENTURY

Alvar Aalto (1887 – 1965)

• **Viipuri Library (1933)**



Viipuri Library – Acoustic Diagram



Viipuri Library – Reading Room

Aalto designed the lecture hall to be acoustically perfect. The curved wood ceiling was developed as seen in the above sketch to bounce the sound around such that it covered the whole room.

The Reading room incorporates a change in level. Aalto uses changes in level to differentiate different function such as the reading area from the stacks.

Eliel Saarinen

"Always design a thing by considering it in its next larger context - a chair in a room, a room in a house, a house in an environment, an environment in a city plan."



Eliel Saarinen (1873-1950)

THE EARLY 20TH CENTURY

- **Eliel Saarinen (1870 – 1950)**
 - **Chicago Tribune Competition (1922)**

His second place finish in the Chicago Tribune Design Competition, was highlighted by vertical bands of masonry. The building gave the illusion of the Gothic Revival style but did not use any ornament. Instead it focused on the stone joinery. This design was very influential. Other buildings began to copy its forms.



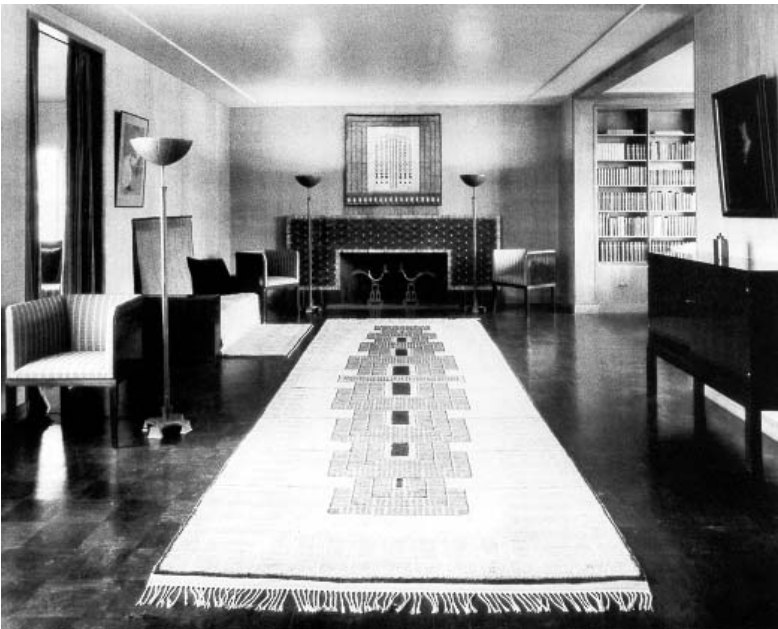
Chicago Tribune Design Competition, 1922
Competition rendering by Eliel Saarinen

THE EARLY 20TH CENTURY

Elie Saarinen (1870 – 1950)

- Cranbrook (1925)

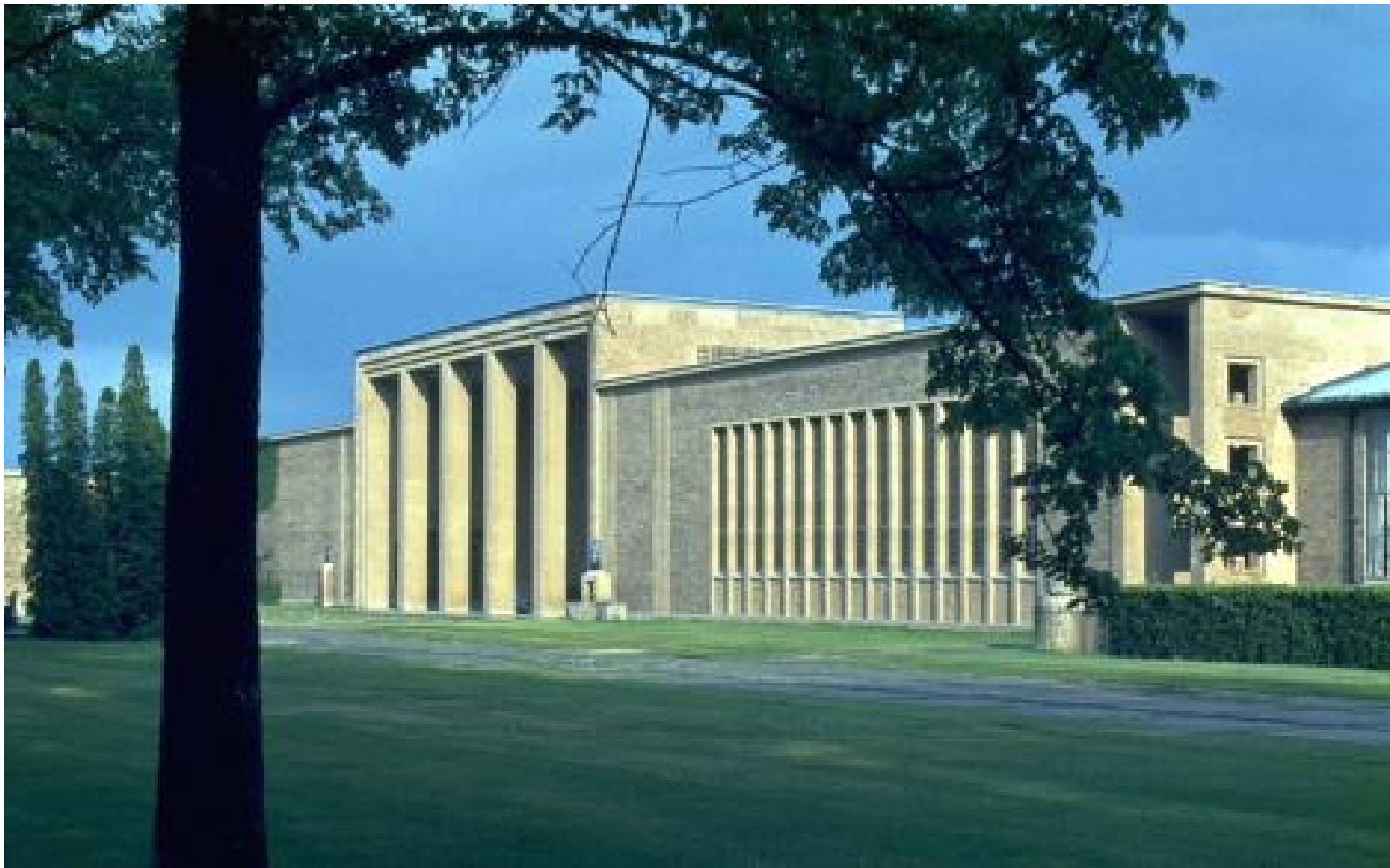
After his second place finish in the Chicago Tribune Design Competition, Saarinen was asked to head the Cranbrook Academy of Arts in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan. He Developed a School based on Modern Design. He taught everything from Architecture & Interior Design to Furniture design, Textile Design, and even industrial design where they made pens, flatware, dishes & lights. His whole family ended up being instructors including his famous architect son Eero.



Saarinen House Cranbrook



Dining Hall, Cranbrook



Library, Cranbrook, Eiel Saarinen



First Christian Church, Columbus, Indiana, Eiel Saarinen, 1942



Dining Room Saarinen House



Boy's School Dining Chairs, Cranbrook



Blue Suite, Eiel Saarinen



White Chair, Eliel Saarinen





Hannes Chair, 1908, Eliel Saarinen

**"Ornament is the spirit of
man in abstract form."**

"Ornament is the mediator between line and mass, color and material ... it bestows liveliness and variety, light and shadow. And it interblends them into a mellow rhythm."