



# From Moderne to Modern:

## Architectural Heritage of Art Deco and Bauhaus Traditions

"What do the airplane, the ocean-liner, Ultraman, a Sony transistor radio and the Apple iPhone have to do with Hong Kong's 20th-century Architectural Heritage?"

# 從「摩登」到「現代」：

## 藝術裝飾與包豪斯建築傳統的文物

"香港二十世紀的建築文物與飛機、輪船、鹹蛋超人、新力牌原子粒收音機和與蘋果iPhone到底有什麼關係?"

Dr. Hoyin Lee 李浩然 博士  
HKU Architectural Conservation Programmes (ACP) 香港大學建築文物保護課程

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## Part 1:

### Moderne Architecture 摩登建築

When the world wanted to be “modern” 「摩登時代」世界潮流  
Charlie Chaplin's *Modern Times* (1936)

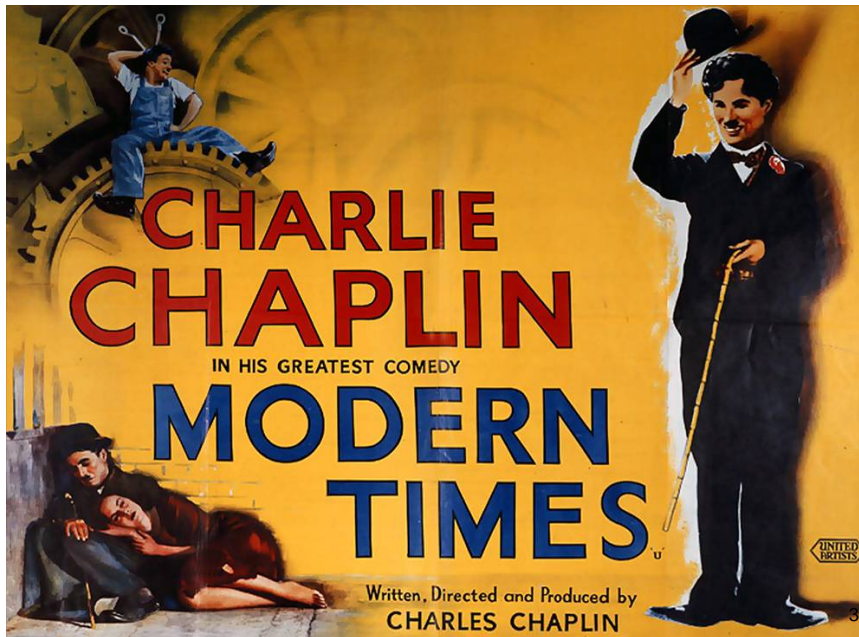


Image source: chaplin.bfi.org.uk; www.altfg.com

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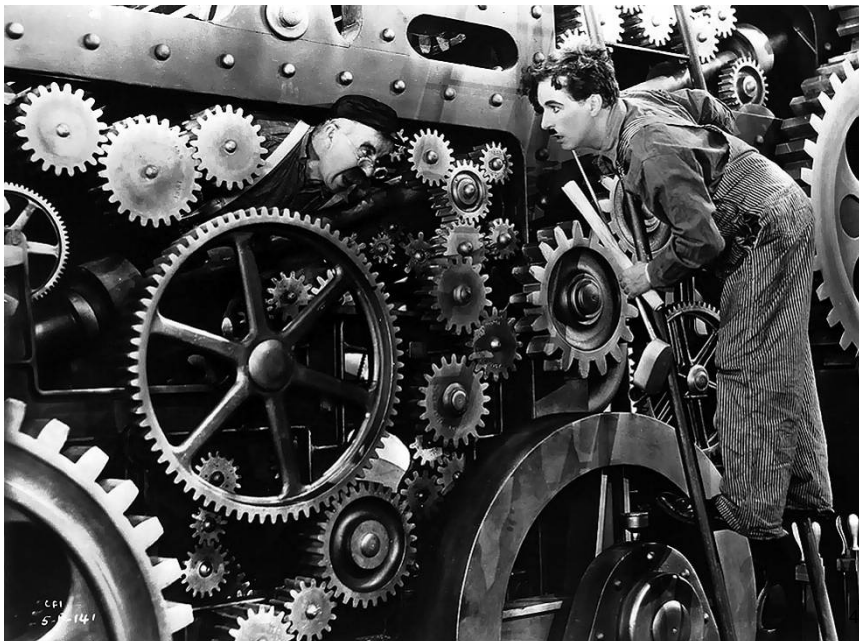


Image source: chaplin.bfi.org.uk; www.altfg.com

When the world wanted to be “modern” 「摩登時代」世界潮流  
Posters depicting “modern” Shanghai, circa mid-1930s



When the world wanted to be “modern” 「摩登時代」世界潮流  
Posters depicting “modern” Shanghai, circa mid-1930s



In search of machine-inspired “modern” aesthetics

Postcard, Art Deco Seattle (USA, 1923)



Fritz Lang's movie *Metropolis* (Germany, 1927)



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Image source: www.artknowledgenews.com; www.moviepapers.net

**Moderne architecture: Art Deco style**

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**Art Deco: the beginning of “modern” aesthetics**

What is **Art Deco** style? 藝術裝飾風格



Image: lartnouveau.com

**Art Deco** is a decorative style stimulated by the **Paris Exposition Internationale des Arts Decoratifs et Industriels Modernes** of 1925, and become the **dominant architectural style through the 1930s**; characterized by sharp angular or zigzag surface forms and ornaments.

Text adapted from Cyril M. Harris (ed.), *Illustrated Dictionary of Historic Architecture* (New York: Dover Publications, 1977), p.32.

**Art Deco: the beginning of “modern” aesthetics**

1925: "Modern" architecture at the expo vs actual architecture in the city

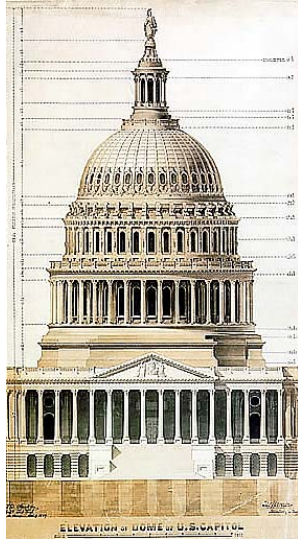


Image source: www.vam.ac.uk; collections.bm-lyon.fr; www.topdesignmag.com; french.commons.gc.cuny.edu

**Neo-classical Architecture 新古典主義建築**

**Neo-classical architecture, or Neo-classicism in architecture**, plays up the grandeur appearance of Classical architecture. It is inspired by the monumental public buildings of ancient Rome. It is an effective expression of state power and has often been used for this purpose.

US Capitol Dome (1866)



USSR's Zaryadye Administrative Building (1934)



Nazi Germany's Reich Chancellery (1939)



Image source: wikipedia; wikipedia; www.darkroastedblend.com

**Classicism aesthetics in art**

Formal style, representational, epic story

Raphael, School of Athens, 1510

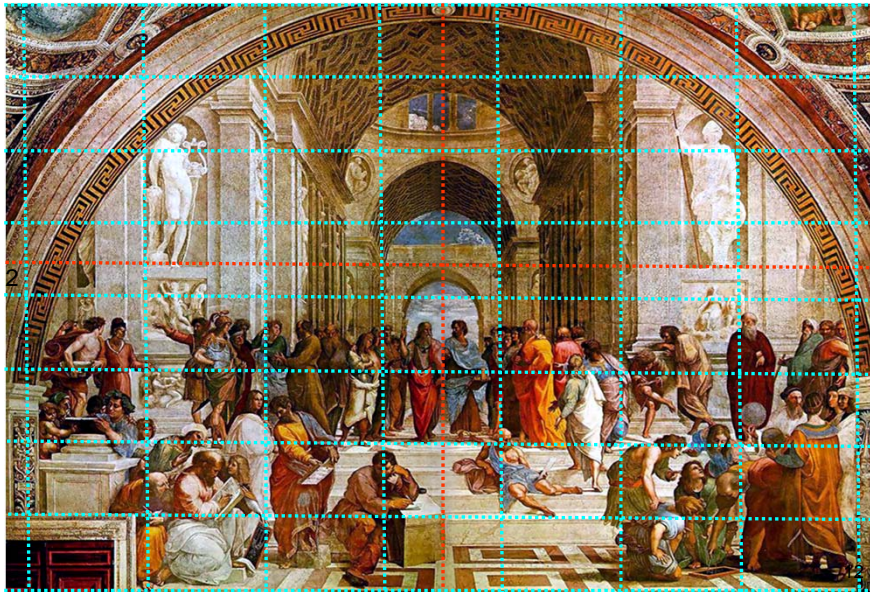
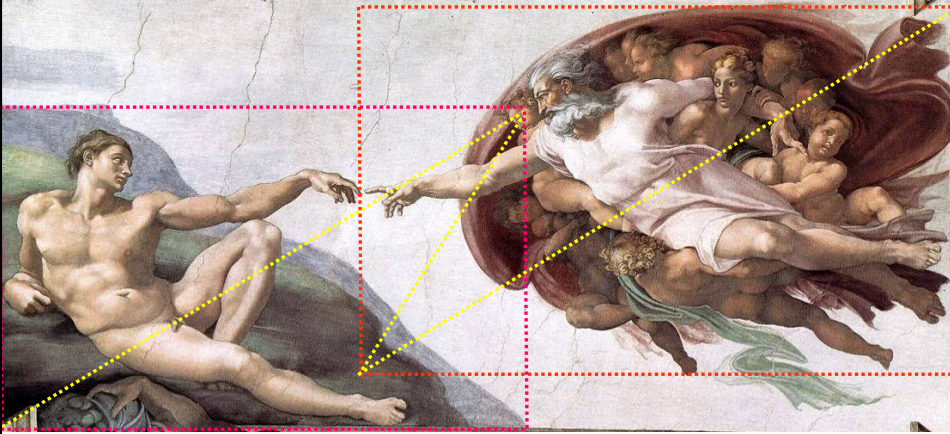


Image source: WikiPaintings

**Classicism aesthetics in art**  
Formal style, representational, epic story

Michelangelo, Creation of Adam, 1512



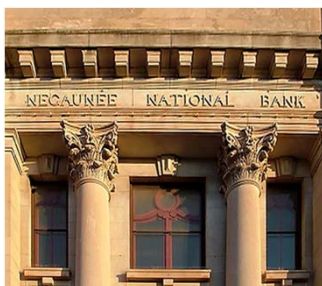
13

Image source: WikiPaintings

**From Classicism to Art Deco**  
Non-formal style, abstraction, personal narrative



Image source: WikiPaintings



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Image source: WikiPaintings

**Art Deco aesthetics in art**  
 Abstracted Forms based on Geometry

Image source: [www.vividperspective.com](http://www.vividperspective.com); [www.art2admire.com](http://www.art2admire.com); [www.olivegodstuff.com](http://www.olivegodstuff.com); [www.fortunecity.com](http://www.fortunecity.com); unknown Internet source

**Early- and late-style Art Deco architecture**  
 Geometrical Forms – Breaking Away from Classicism

**Early Art Deco architecture (from 1925 to around 1937)**

Main characteristics:

- decorative appearance
- emphasis on verticality
- stepped form raising to a central tower

Example: Niagara Mohawk Power Corp, Syracuse (1932)

**Latter Art Deco architecture (from around 1937 to the 1950s)**

Main characteristics:

- austere appearance
- emphasis on horizontality
- rounded corners ("streamlined")

Example: The Rau Store, Chicago (1940)

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Image source: [www.rootsweb.ancestry.com](http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com); [chuckmancollectionvolume6.blogspot.com](http://chuckmancollectionvolume6.blogspot.com)



**Early-style Art Deco architecture**  
Stepped form with decorative features

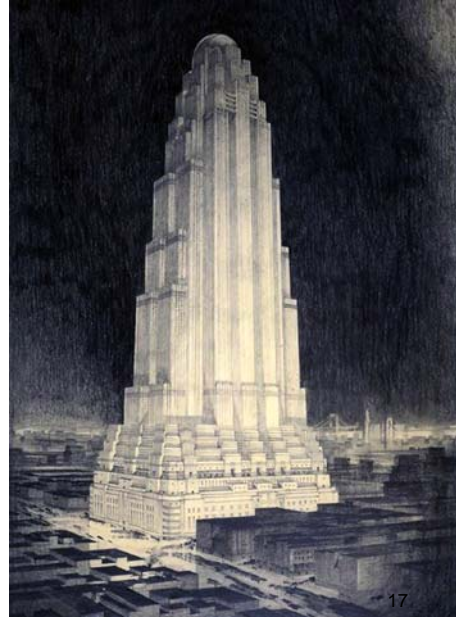


Image source: [www.rootsweb.ancestry.com](http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com); David M. Schwarz collection at the National Building Museum

**Early-style Art Deco architecture**  
Stepped form with decorative features

Red Market, Macau (1936)



Atwater Market, Montreal (1933)




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Image source: Hoyin Lee; [www.artdecomontreal.com](http://www.artdecomontreal.com)

**Late-style Art Deco architecture**  
Streamlined form without decorative features

Wan Chai Market, Hong Kong (1937)



Greyhound Bus Depot, Minneapolis (1937)



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Image source: uraedu.proj.hkcity.net; illeks.com

Detailed description: This block contains two photographs of late-style Art Deco architecture. The first is the Wan Chai Market in Hong Kong, a three-story building with a rounded corner and horizontal bands of windows. The second is the Greyhound Bus Depot in Minneapolis, a two-story building with a prominent curved facade and large windows, featuring the text 'NORTHLAND GREYHOUND' and 'GREYHOUND' on its facade.

**Iconic early-style Art Deco skyscraper**

Chrysler Building (1928), New York




Image source: www.whack.com.au; www.pbs.org; lcweb2.loc.gov

Detailed description: This block features three images of the Chrysler Building in New York City. The left image is a black and white architectural drawing showing the building's iconic Art Deco spire with its terraced, radiating structure. The middle image is a color photograph of the building at night, illuminated with golden lights against a dark sky. The right image is a black and white photograph of the building during the day, showing its full height and the surrounding cityscape.

**Iconic early-style Art Deco skyscraper**

Empire State Building (1933), New York



Image source: Turner Entertainment; img-nex.theonering.net; misheli.image.pbase.com

**Iconic early-style Art Deco skyscraper in Hong Kong**

Old HSBC HQ Building (completed in 1935; designed in the early 1930s)  
Old Bank of China Building (completed 1952; designed in the late 1940s)




Image source: Michael Rogge; Ngan Tung-chun

**Iconic early-style Art Deco skyscraper in Hong Kong**

Old Bank of China Lions (1952)



Image source: Michael Rogge; Hoyin Lee; unknown Internet sources

**Moderne architecture: Streamline Moderne**

### What is **Streamline Moderne**?

Maritime Museum (originally a public bathhouse (1937)), San Francisco



**Streamline Moderne**, known as **Art Moderne** in the USA, is a **latter development of the Art Deco style of architecture**. It emphasizes on curving forms, long horizontal lines, and sometimes nautical elements (such as masts, railings and porthole windows). It seems to have reached its height around **1937**, when many buildings in this style were completed worldwide.

Text Source: adapted from Wikipedia  
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Image source: US National Park Service

### The 1930s: rise of streamlined machines

Advances in transoceanic transportation technology in the early 20th century

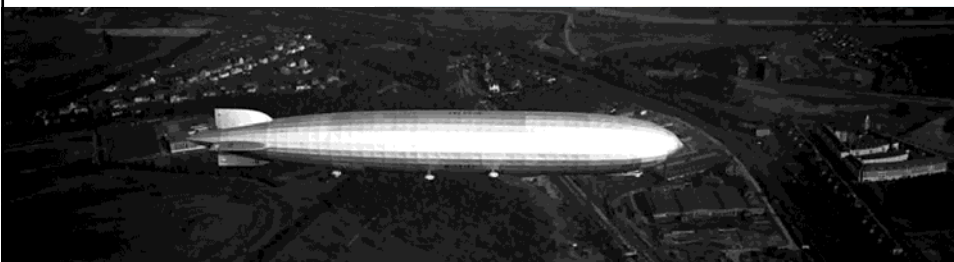
German **cargo ship** *Preussen*; launched 1902, sail powered, cruising speed about 20 km/h

British **ocean liner** *RMS Titanic*; launched 1912, steam turbine, cruising speed about 40 km/h

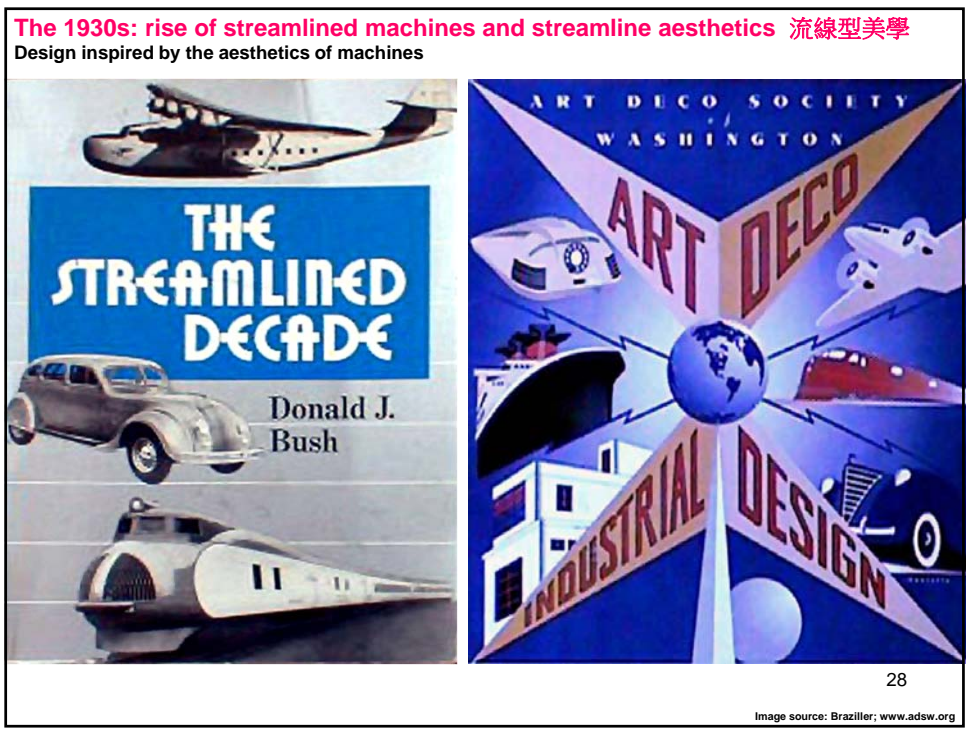
German **airship** *Graf Zeppelin LZ 127*; launched 1928, propeller engines, cruising speed about 120 km/h

American **flying boat** *China Clipper*; launched 1935, propeller engines, cruising speed about 200 km/h

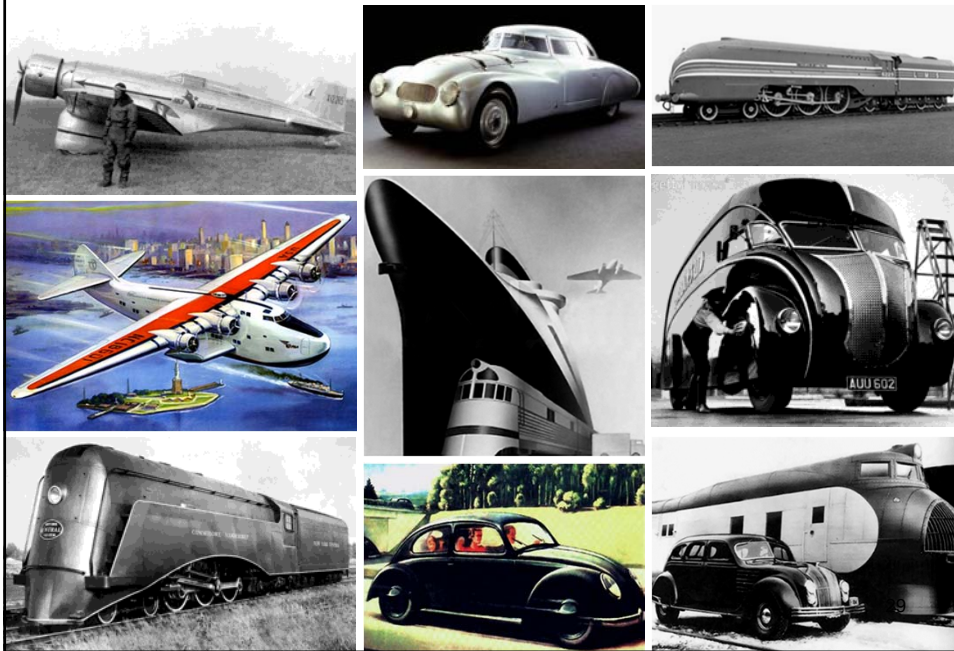
British **jetliner** *Comet 1*; launched 1951, jet engines, cruising speed about 800 km/h



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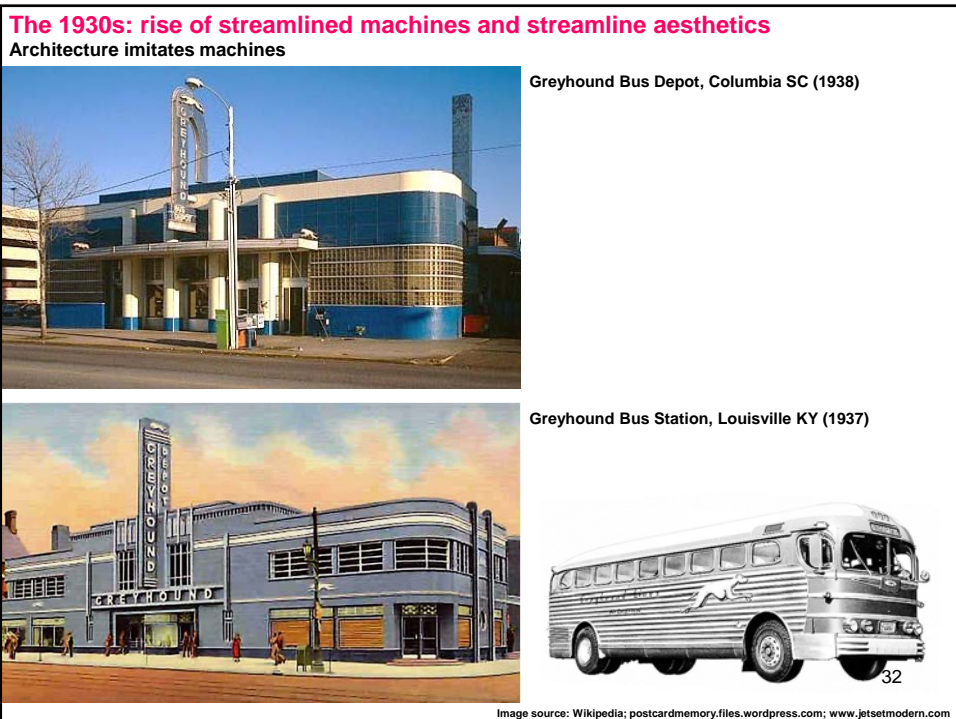


**The 1930s: rise of streamlined machines and streamline aesthetics**  
Functional streamlining for fast-moving vehicles

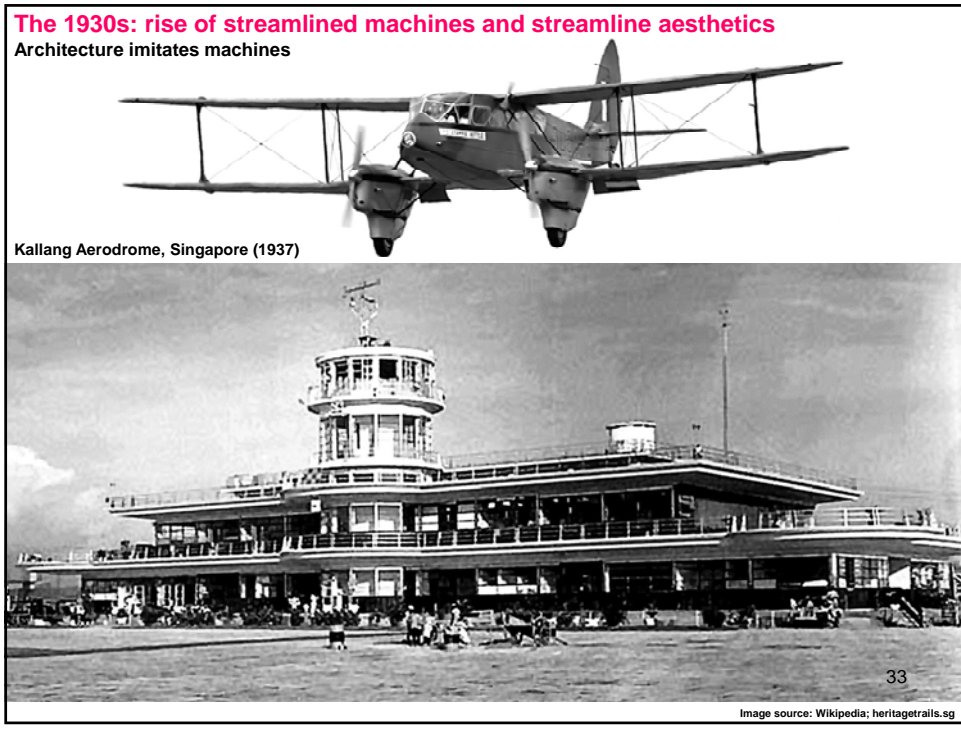


**The 1930s: rise of streamlined machines and streamline aesthetics**  
Aesthetic streamlining for non-moving appliances











**The 1930s: rise of streamlined machines and streamline aesthetics**  
Architecture imitates machines

Shophouse, Singapore (1938)



SS Normandie, Le Havre (1932)





**NORMANDIE**  
C. G. TRANSATLANTIQUE  
LE HAVRE - SOUTHAMPTON - NEW-YORK  
VOYAGE INAUGURAL  
29 MAI 1935

35

Image source: Hoyin Lee; Wikipedia

**The 1930s: rise of streamlined machines and streamline aesthetics**  
Architecture imitates machines

Shophouse, Singapore (1939)



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Image source: Hoyin Lee; www.oceanliner.org

**The 1930s: rise of streamlined machines and streamline aesthetics**  
Architecture imitates machines

Rat & Parrot Pub, Liverpool (1930s)



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Image source: Hoyin Lee; www.walkerrowe.com

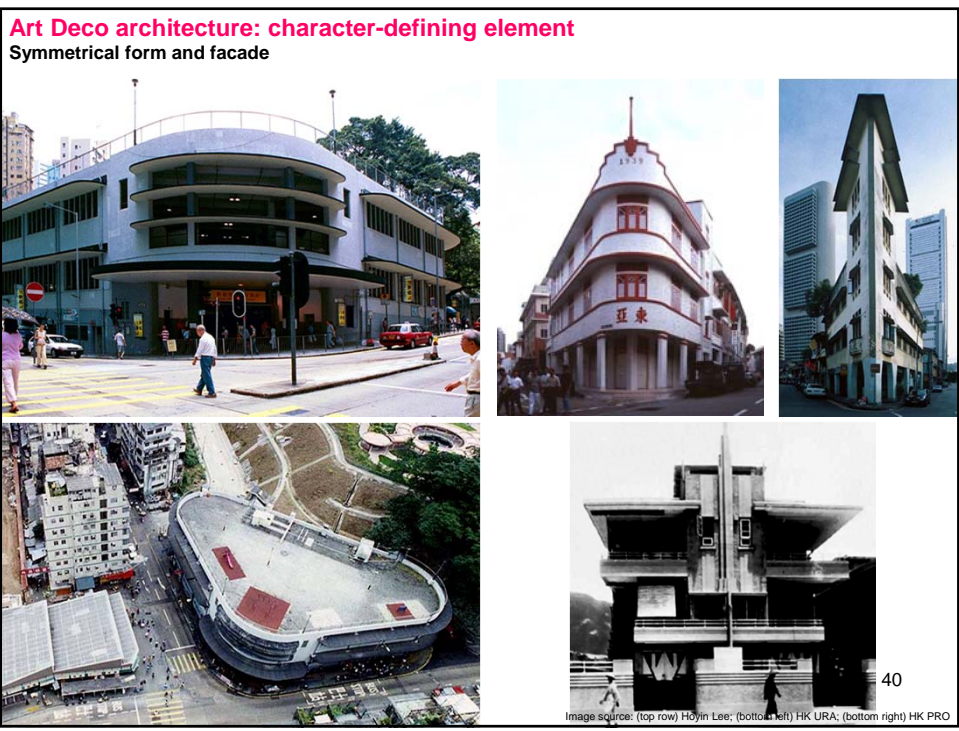
**The 1930s: rise of streamlined machines and streamline aesthetics**  
Architecture imitates machines

Wan Chai Market, Hong Kong (1937)



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Image source: Hoyin Lee; artfulexpressmuse.blogspot.hk



**Art Deco architecture: character-defining elements**

Rounded building corners (for Streamline Moderne buildings) and projecting fins



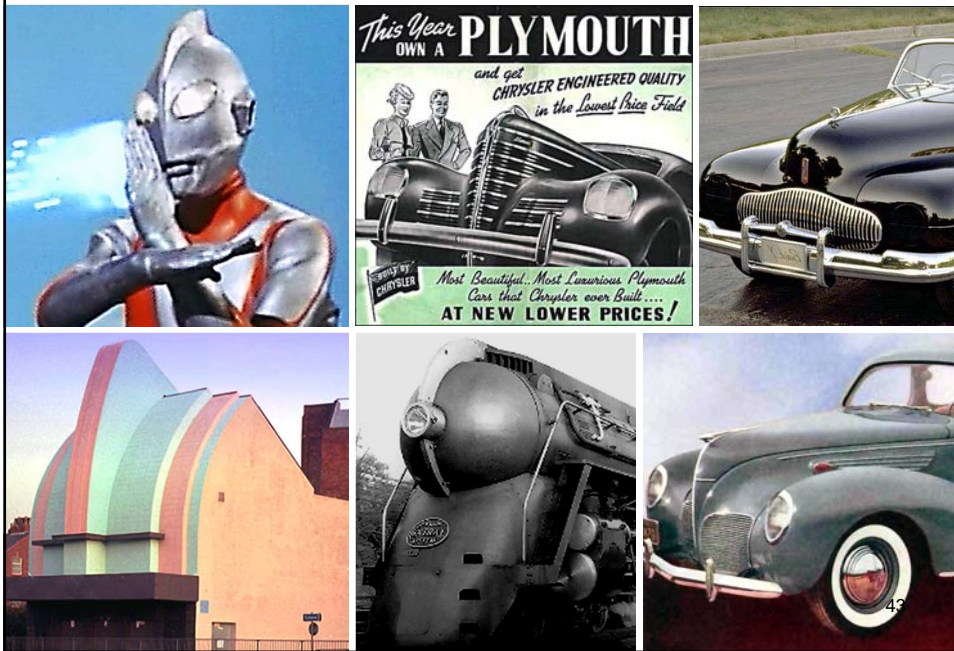
**Art Deco architecture: character-defining elements**

Decorative central vertical "fins"



**Art Deco architecture: character-defining elements**

Decorative central vertical “fins” – inspired by streamlined engine hood



**Art Deco architecture: character-defining elements**

Decorative central “flagpole”

Shophouse at George Town, Penang (1930s)



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Image source: Hoyin Lee

**Art Deco architecture: character-defining elements**  
Decorative central “flagpole”

Tong Lau at Nathan Road (1930s)



Eddington House, Shanghai (1936)



Image source: (left image) Hoyin Lee

**Art Deco architecture: character-defining elements**  
Decorative central “flagpole”

Kowloon Cricket Club, Hong Kong (1932)



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Image source: Hoyin Lee

**Art Deco architecture: character-defining elements**  
Decorative central “flagpole”

Maryknoll Convent School, Hong Kong (1936)

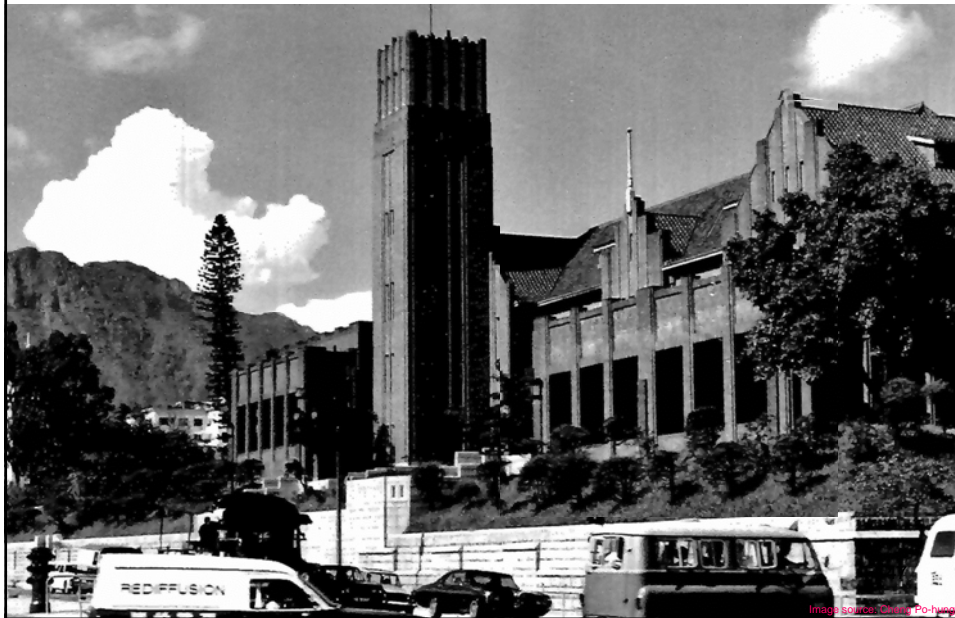


Image source: China Photo

**Art Deco architecture: character-defining elements**  
Decorative central “flagpole”

Shophouses at Boat Quay, Singapore (late 1930s)



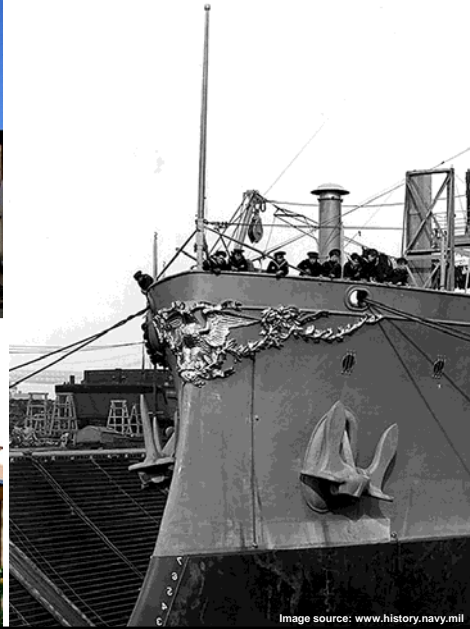
Image source: Wikipedia



Image source: (shophouse images): Hoyin Lee



**Art Deco architecture: character-defining elements**  
Decorative central “flagpole” – inspired by ship’s masts



**Art Deco architecture: character-defining elements**  
Decorative central “flagpole”

Lui Seng Chun (1931), Hong Kong  
Mixed Classical and Art Deco feature – typical of architecture designed during the transition from one dominant style to another



Image source: AMO; Hoyin Lee

## Part 2: Modern Architecture 現代建築

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### Modern architecture 現代主義建築

**Modern architecture, or Modernism in architecture**, is based on the principle of Functionalism, in which a building's aesthetics is derived from function and not decoration. This principle is summarized by the Modern architect's maxim, "**form follows function**." The resultant architecture often has an utilitarian appearance that is not easily appreciated or understood.



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Image source: www.nysid.net; wikipedia; www.magic-cities.com; www.anasamiami.com

**Modernism in Architecture (developed in the 1920s and 1930s)**

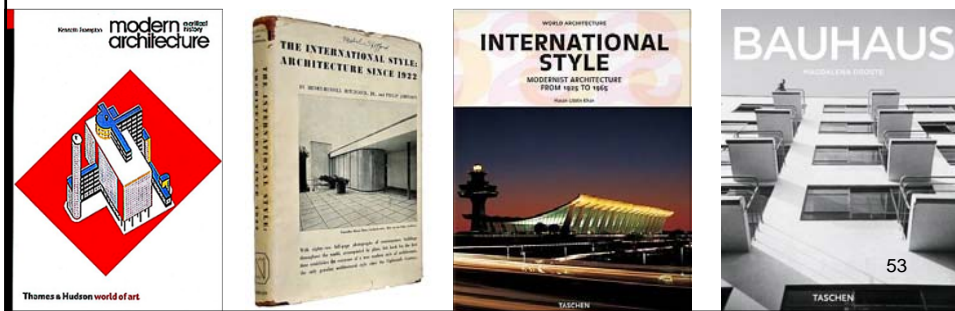
**What's in a Name?**

**Modern Architecture** = the "proper" name used by architects

**Modernist Architecture** = an alternative name sometimes used by non-architects; you won't find it on any architectural book cover!

**International Style** = a name used mostly in the US; created for the 1932 MOMA exhibition *The International Style: Architecture since 1922*

**Bauhaus Style** = a popular name used in Hong Kong to refer to **early Modern Architecture from the 1930s to the 1960s.**

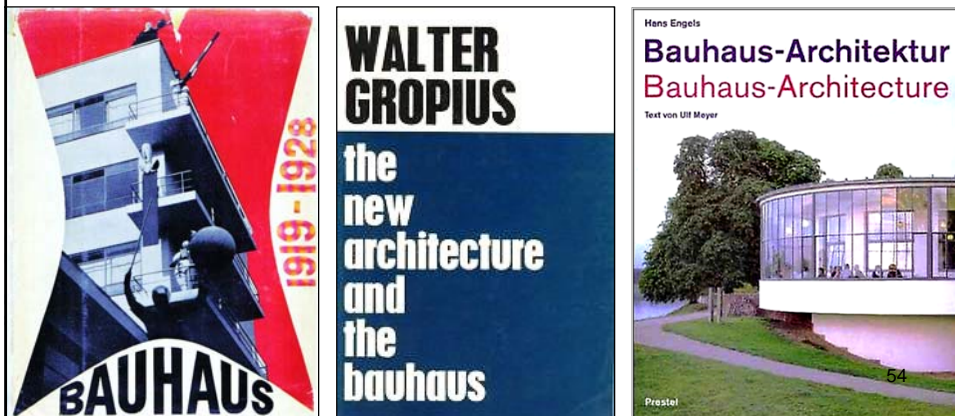


**Modernism in Architecture (developed in the 1920s and 1930s)**

**What's in a Name?**

"Bauhaus" is not a style. Properly, Bauhaus buildings refer to those designed by architects with direct association with or influenced by the pre-W.W.II Bauhaus School of Design (1919-1933).

As someone wrote on the Internet:  
 "WTF, let's just call them **Bauhaus Architecture!**"



### Pre-war Bauhaus



**Bauhaus** was founded by the German architect **Walter Gropius** in 1919, it was first established in Weimar (1919-25), then moved to Dessau (1925-32) and finally Berlin (1932-33). Despite its influence, Bauhaus waned in the 1930s when the Nazi regime closed the school and exiled the directors.

Text adapted from Cyril M. Harris (ed.), *Illustrated Dictionary of Historic Architecture* (New York: Dover Publications, 1977), p.55, and "Buffalo as an Architectural Museum": <http://www4.bfn.org/baha/DCTNRY/1/1g3nt1.html>

Image source: [www.allposters.com](http://www.allposters.com)

### Post-war Bauhaus



**Bauhaus'** way of design was revived and widely adopted after W.W.II as its emphasis on functional aesthetics and mass production is inherently suited to the massive rebuilding of war-damaged cities. Today, Bauhaus Weimar and Bauhaus Dessau are **World Heritage Sites**.

Text by Hoyin Lee

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Image source: [www.bauhaus-dessau.de](http://www.bauhaus-dessau.de)

### White City – authentic Bauhaus architecture

Inscribed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2003, the **White City** is the historical core of Tel Aviv, the capital of Israel, where there is the largest number of **Bauhaus** buildings (some 4,000) than any city in the world. Built from the early 1930s to the 1950s by German Jewish architects trained in the Bauhaus School of Design who immigrated to pre-state Israel after the Nazi gained power in Germany in 1933.



Image source: www.indiegogo.com

### White City vs Kadoorie Hill – authentic Bauhaus architecture

Inscribed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2003, the **White City** is the historical area of Tel Aviv, the capital of Israel, where there is the largest number of **Bauhaus** buildings (some 4,000) than any city in the world. Built from the early 1930s to the 1950s by German Jewish architects trained in the Bauhaus School of Design who immigrated to pre-state Israel after the Nazi gained power in Germany in 1933.



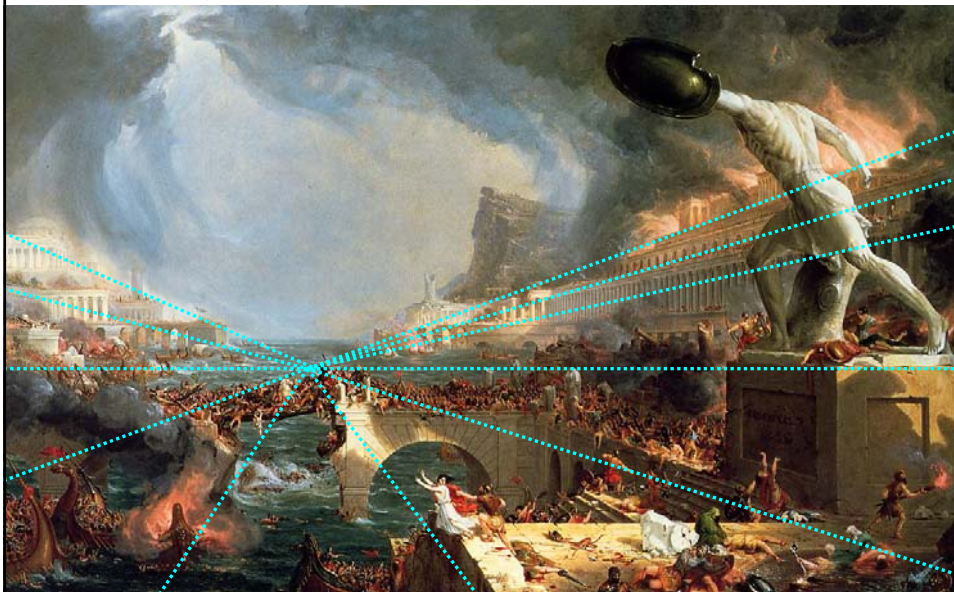
Image source: www.indiegogo.com

## Modern Architecture: Breaking Free from Classicism

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### Classical Aesthetics in Art

Representational, single-point perspective, capturing a moment in time



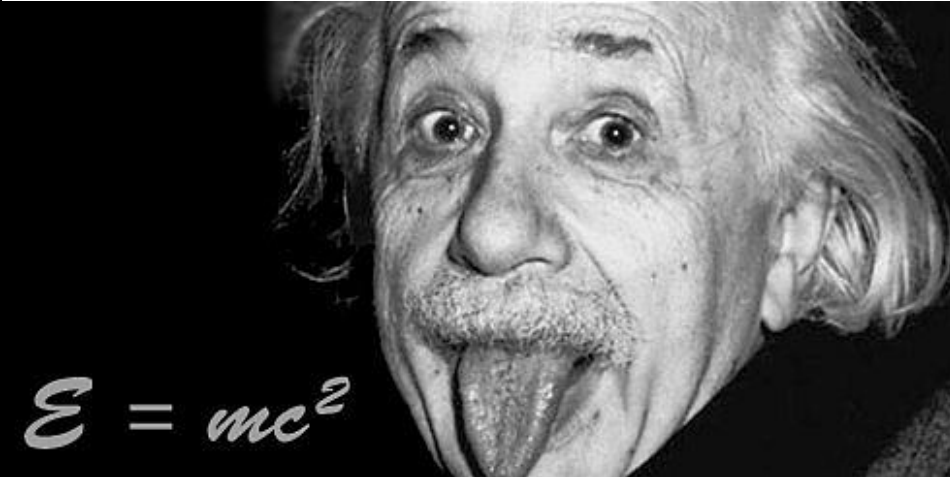
Thomas Cole, The Course of Empire - Destruction, 1836

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Image source: silverandexact.com

**Modernism in art (developed in the 1910s and 1920s)**

**Influence:**  
Albert Einstein's space-time continuum in his 1905 General Theory of Relativity



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Image source: [www.bildungsexperten.net](http://www.bildungsexperten.net)

**Modernism in art (developed in the 1910s and 1920s)**

**Abstract, non-perspective, expression of timelessness or space-time**

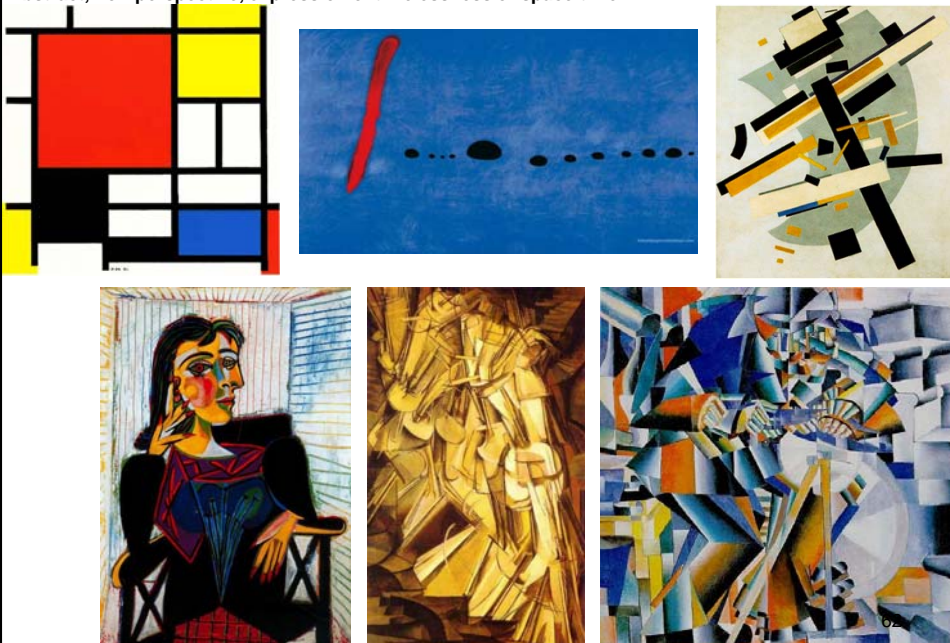


Image source: [lisathatcher.wordpress.com](http://lisathatcher.wordpress.com); [www.paintings-art-picture.com](http://www.paintings-art-picture.com); [www.ibiblio.org](http://www.ibiblio.org); [www.1paintings.com](http://www.1paintings.com); [11squared.wordpress.com](http://11squared.wordpress.com); [www.wikipaintings.org](http://www.wikipaintings.org)

**Modernism in architecture (developed in the 1920s)**

Abstract, non-perspective, expression of space-time



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Image source: (all) Wikipedia

**Modernism in architecture (developed in the 1920s): Bauhaus**

**Bauhaus School of Design, Dessau, Germany**  
(completed in stages from 1925 to 1932)



Image source: historyofads.the-voice.com



Image source: www.arch.mcgill.ca

**Walter Gropius (1883-1969)**  
Founding director & architect of the Bauhaus complex

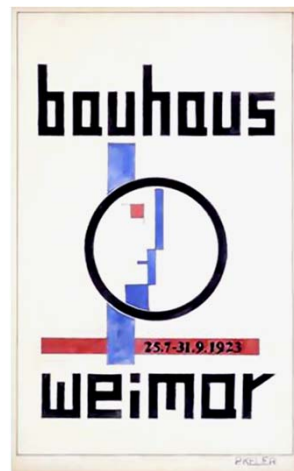


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Image source: www.artnet.com



What is “Bauhaus”? 包浩斯（應用藝術與建築學院）



**Bauhaus** (*bauen + haus*: “house of architecture”) was a school of **architecture and the applied arts** in Germany that established the fundamentals of Modernism in architecture, based on **functional aesthetics** and **mass-production**.

Text by Hoyin Lee

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### Functional aesthetics and mass production

Pre-war cities in Europe: non-mass-produced architecture

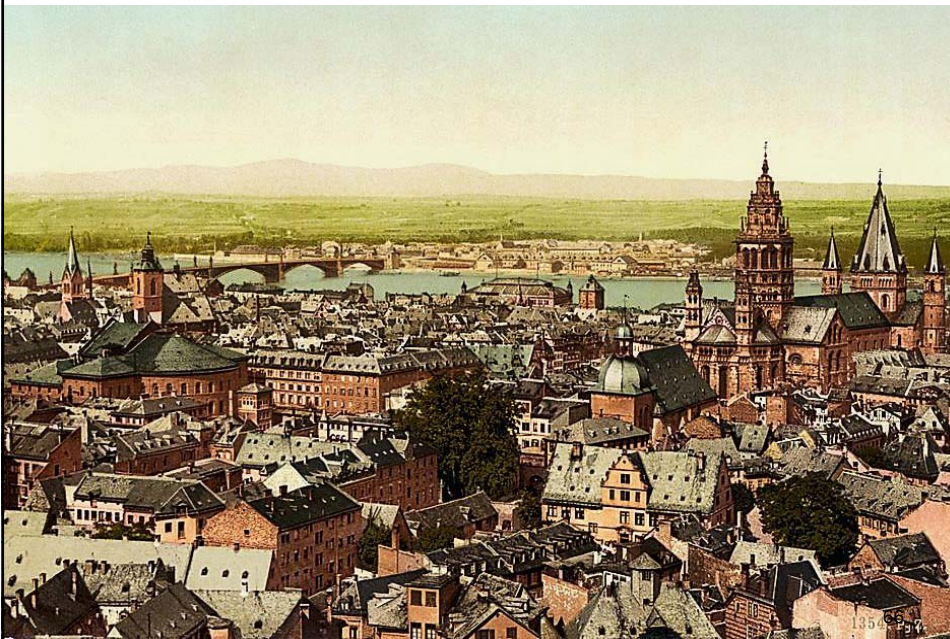
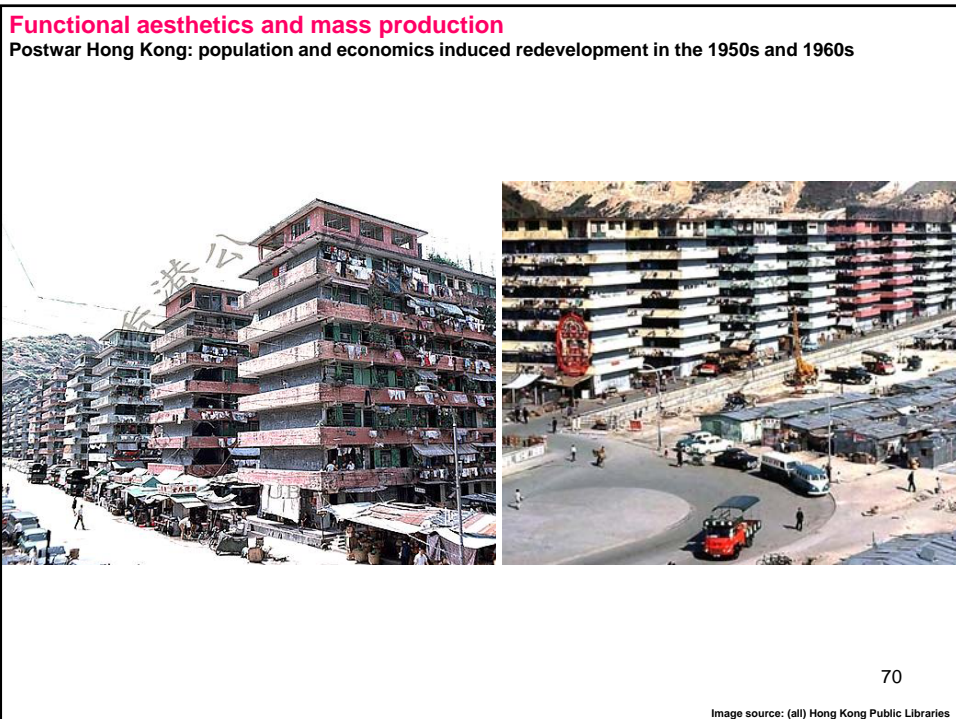
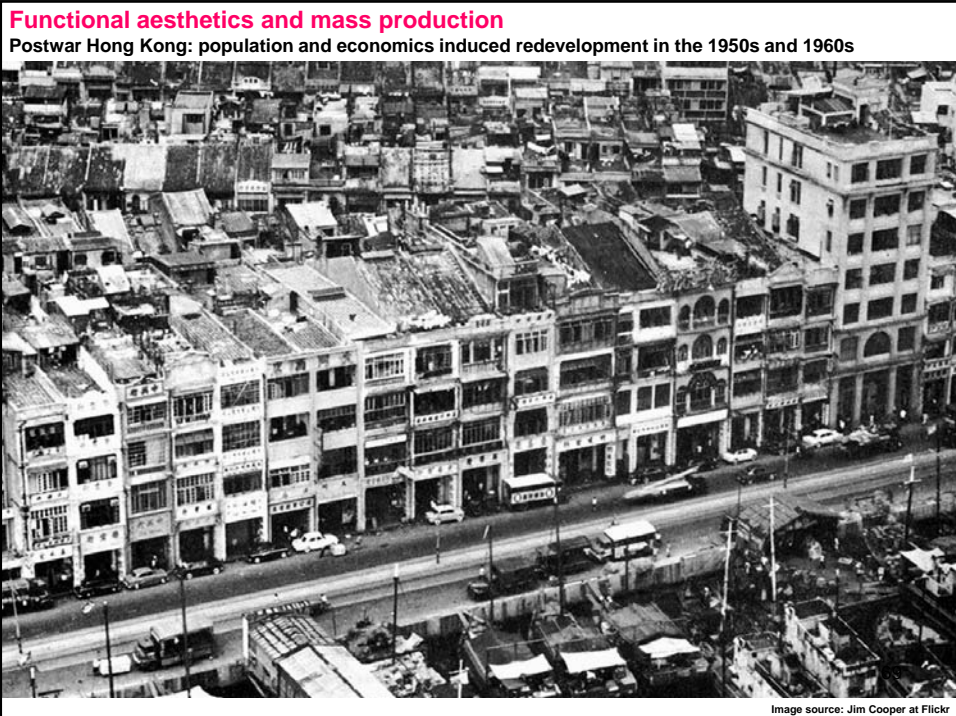


Image source: [www.skyscrapercity.com](http://www.skyscrapercity.com)





**Functional aesthetics and mass production**

Postwar Hong Kong: population and economics induced redevelopment in the 1950s and 1960s



Image source: Public Records Office

**Modern architecture: Functionalism**  
**"Form follows function"**

The 1930s: rise of streamlined machines and streamline aesthetics

Hispano-Suiza Minerva (1925) vs Adler Trumpf Le Mans (1937)



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Image source: www.fotozumbrunn.ch

Functionalist design 功能主義設計 – popular from the 1950s to the 1960s



Image source: www.sony.co.jp; www.shorpy.com; albumofawesomeness.com; sgarchperspectives.blogspot.hk; www.mad4wheels.com; www.midcenturia.com

**Functionalist architecture 功能主義建築 : Le Corbusier (1897-1965)**  
 (Swiss-born Charles-Édouard Jeanneret, became French citizen in 1930)

Image source: architah.com; (stamp) 123rf.com; (banknote) thebadatimes.blogspot.com

**Le Corbusier's Architecture: Potential UNESCO World Heritage Sites**

UNESCO » Culture » World Heritage Centre » The List » Global Strategy » Tentative Lists

Tentative Lists Search  Search Advanced search

## L'œuvre architecturale et urbaine de Le Corbusier

**Description**

- Maisons La Roche & Jeanneret
- Cité Frugès
- Villa Cook
- Villa Savoye & maison du gardien type CIAM
- Cité de refuge de l'Armée du Salut
- Pavillon Suisse à la Cité universitaire à Paris
- Immeuble locatif à la Porte Molitor
- Unité d'habitation à Marseille
- Usine Claude & Duval
- Chapelle Notre-Dame-du-Haut de Ronchamp
- Cabanon de Le Corbusier
- Couvent Sainte-Marie-de-la-Tourette
- Site de Firminy-Vert

Maisons Jaoul  
 Proposition pour une série trans-nationale

**France**  
 Date of Submission: 31/01/2006  
 Criteria: (i)(ii)(vi)  
 Category: Cultural  
 Submitted by: Direction de l'architecture et du patrimoine, Ministère de la Culture et de la Communication  
 State, Province or Region: Aquitaine ,Franche-Comté ,Provence-Alpes-Côte-d'Azur (PACA); Lorraine ; Rhône-Alpes  
 Ref.: 1666

Property names are listed in the language in which they have been submitted by the State Party.

**Global Strategy**

- Criteria
- Tentative Lists
- World Heritage List Nominations
- World Heritage List
- New Inscriptions
- Interactive Map
- World Heritage in Danger
- The List in Danger
- Success Stories

**Donate Now**  
 Donate now and help preserve World Heritage sites

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Image source: whc.unesco.org

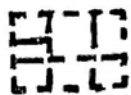
**Le Corbusier's influence on architects' fashion**



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Image source: re404.tumblr.com; architecturalatmosphere.tumblr.com

**Le Corbusier's "counter-Classicism" 5 points of (Modern) architecture**



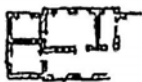
**Pilotis**

Instead of thick, heavy walls that take up much of the interior space, why can't we have small point-like columns and free up more space?



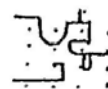
**Roof Garden**

Instead of a house anchored to a garden ground, why can't we have a house elevated from the ground for more garden place, and a roof garden over the footprint of the building?



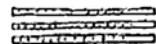
**Open Plan**

Instead of having the layout of a building pre-determined by the structural walls, why can't we have flexible planning of the layout using non-structural partition walls?



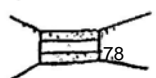
**Free Facade**

Instead of a facade controlled by the pre-determined location of windows, why can't we have a facade in which the location of windows is flexible?



**Ribbon Window**

Instead of small narrow windows, why can't we have long ribbon windows that admit more light and offer more view?



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**Le Corbusier's "counter-Classicism" 5 points of (Modern) architecture**

Villa Savoye, Poissy, France (1929)

1 5 2 3 4

79

Image source: esthersscrapbook.com; Wikipedia; archidialog.com

**Le Corbusier's "counter-Classicism" 5 points of (Modern) architecture**

Villa Savoye, Poissy, France (1929)

1 5 2 3 4

80

Image source: Wikipedia; archidialog.com



Le Corbusier's architectural ideas

Le Corbusier's Unité d'Habitation, Marseille, France (1952)



Illustration from Le Corbusier's book-cum-manifesto, *Vers une Architecture* (translated as *Towards a New Architecture*) (1927)



"The house is a **machine** for living in."

Le Corbusier, in *Vers une Architecture*, 1923

81

Image source: kostisvelonis.blogspot.hk; thisistotaltrash.blogspot.com

Le Corbusier's architectural ideas

Le Corbusier's Unité d'Habitation, Marseille, France (1952)



"The house is a **machine** for living in."

Le Corbusier, in *Vers une Architecture*, 1923

82

Image source: www.greatmodernpictures.com; thisistotaltrash.blogspot.com

**Le Corbusier's architectural ideas**

Le Corbusier's Unite d'Habitation, Nantes-Reze (1955)



Lower Ngau Tau Kok Estate, Hong Kong (1967)



**"The house is a **machine** for living in."**

Le Corbusier, in *Vers une Architecture*, 1923

83

Image source: [fondationlecorbusier.fr](http://fondationlecorbusier.fr); [dchome.net](http://dchome.net)

**Functionalist architecture:  
character-defining elements**

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**Functionalist architecture CDEs: high-low block composition**

Walter Gropius' Bauhaus complex, Dessau, Germany (1932)

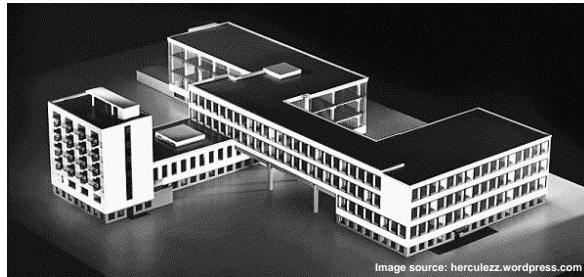


Image source: herculezz.wordpress.com

City Hall, Central, Hong Kong (1962)



Image source: www.singtao.com

Former CGO, Central, Hong Kong (1957-1959, completed in three phases)



Image source: Architectural Services Department

**Functionalist architecture CDEs: high-low block composition**

Le Corbusier's UN Headquarters, New York (1952)



People's Park Complex, Singapore (1973)



Hong Kong City Hall, Hong Kong (1962)



86

Image source: Padraic Ryan at Wikipedia; dpa.com.sg; richlander at Flickr

**Functionalist architecture CDEs: "egg-crate" sun-shading fins**

Le Corbusier's Unite d'Habitation, Marseille (1952)



Central Government Offices West Wing, Hong Kong (1959)



Image source: Hoyin Lee; Chong Fat at Wikipedia; Hoyin Lee; Hoyin Lee

**Functionalist architecture CDEs: "egg-crate" sun-shading fins**

Ministry of Education & Health, Rio de Janeiro (1942)



HKU Knowles Building, Hong Kong (1973)



Image source: www.tumblr.com; Hoyin Lee

**Le Corbusier's architectural influence:  
"egg-crate" sun-shading fins & raised ground floor**

Unite d'Habitation, Marseille (1952)



Shau Kei Wan Government Secondary School, Hong Kong (1961)



89

Image source: natashanelina.blogspot.com; Wikipedia

**Le Corbusier's architectural influence:  
"egg-crate" sun-shading fins & raised ground floor**

Unite d'Habitation, Firminy, France (1965)



Central Government Offices West Wing, Hong Kong (1959)



90

Image source: house42.com; Flickr

### Functionalist architecture in Hong Kong

Wong Ming Him Hall, Bonham Road, Hong Kong (1952)



St. Anthony's School, Pokfulam Road, Hong Kong (1963)



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Image source: Hoyin Lee; Chong Fat at Wikipedia

### Functionalist architecture in Hong Kong

Bridges Street Market, Bridges Street, Hong Kong (1951)



92

Image source: Hoyin Lee

**Functionalist architecture in Hong Kong**

Tang Lung Chau Market, Jardine's Bazaar, Hong Kong (1964)



Hotung Secondary School, Ka Ning Path, Hong Kong (1953)



Image source: Hoyin Lee

**Functionalist architecture in Hong Kong**

Tang Lung Chau Market, Jardine's Bazaar, Hong Kong (1964)



Sony TFM-110 transistor radio (1965)

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Image source: Hoyin Lee; www.sony.co.jp

Functionalist architecture in Hong Kong



95

Image source: Hoyin Lee; Chong Fat at Wikipedia; Hoyin Lee; Hoyin Lee

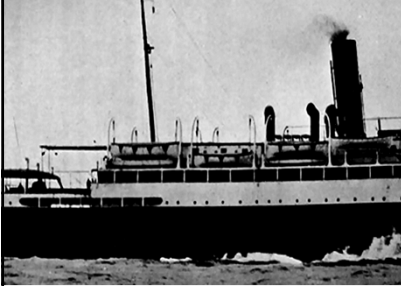
**Modern architecture: Functionalism + Socialism**  
**Le Corbusier's ideas for a city of tomorrow**

96

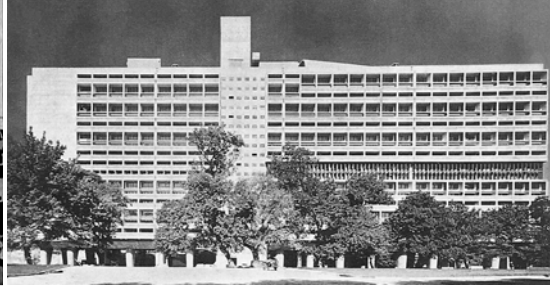


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Le Corbusier, in *Vers une Architecture*, 1923

97

Image source: kostisvelonis.blogspot.hk; thisistotaltrash.blogspot.com

### Le Corbusier's influence in Hong Kong's public housing

Le Corbusier's Unité d'Habitation blocks: Marseille (1952), Nantes-Reze (1955), Berlin-Westend (1957), Briey (1963), Firminy (1965)



Queenstown HDB Housing Estate, Singapore (1960s blocks)



Shek Kip Mei Estate, Hong Kong (1970s blocks)



Image source: archdaily.com; www.fondationlecorbusier.asso.fr; Singapore Housing Development Board; www.panoramio.com

**Le Corbusier's influence in Hong Kong's public housing**

The urban sprawl - high population in low-rise housing, resulting in little public open space



Image source: www.theprotocity.com

**Le Corbusier's influence in Hong Kong's public housing**

Le Corbusier's *Plan Voisin* for central Paris (1925) – high-population in high-rise housing, freeing up public open space

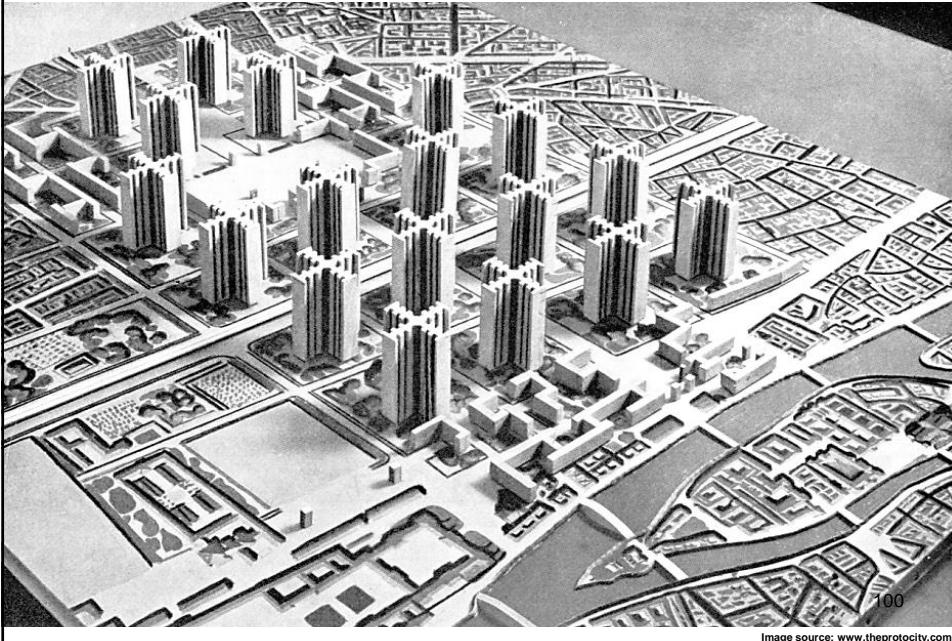


Image source: www.theprotocity.com

**Le Corbusier's influence in Hong Kong's public housing**

Le Corbusier's *Plan Voisin* for central Paris (1925) – high-population in high-rise housing, freeing up public open space



Image source: [hanser.ceat.okstate.edu](http://hanser.ceat.okstate.edu)

**Le Corbusier's influence in Hong Kong's large housing estates**

Le Corbusier's *Plan Voisin*, Paris (1925)



Mei Foo Sun Chuen, Hong Kong (in phases, 1965-78)



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Image source: [samuelsherman.tumblr.com](http://samuelsherman.tumblr.com); [www.skyscrapercity.com](http://www.skyscrapercity.com)

**Le Corbusier's influence in Hong Kong's large housing estates**

Le Corbusier's *Plan Voisin*, Paris (1925)



Taikoo Shing, Hong Kong (in phases, 1977-87)



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Image source: samuelsherman.tumblr.com; www.scmp.com

**Modern architecture: Minimalism  
"Less is more"**

104

**Functionalist design 功能主義設計 – popular from the 1950s to the 1960s**



**Minimalist design 極簡主義設計 – continues to today**

More difficult in the past with analogue mechanical control, more feasible today with automatic digital control



**Minimalist architecture 極簡主義建築: Ludwig Mies van der Rohe (1886-1969)**

"Less is more." 「簡約見精華」  
"God is in the details" 「精緻顯神通」

Famous quotes of **Mies van der Rohe**  
Last Director of the Bauhaus School of Design

S. R. Crown Hall,  
Illinois Institute of Technology, Chicago (1956)  
Now a U.S. National Historic Landmark



Image source: theredlist.fr

**Mies van der Rohe's Minimalist glass box**

Neue Nationalgalerie (New National Gallery), Berlin (1968)




Image source: preservationresearch.com

**Mies van der Rohe's Minimalist glass boxes**

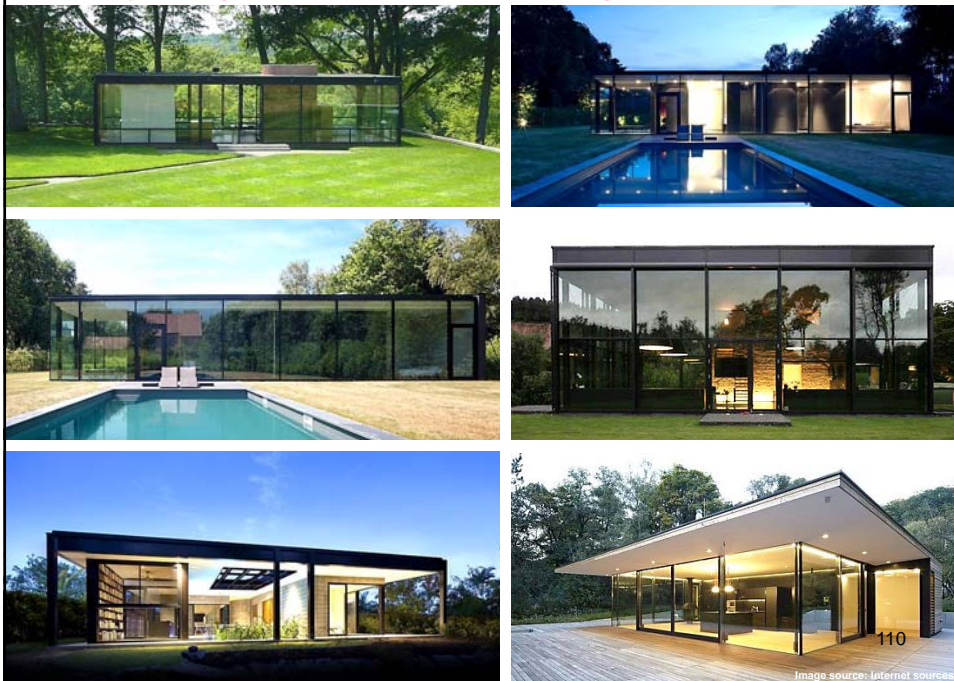
Barcelona Pavilion, Barcelona, Spain (first built 1929, demolished 1930, reconstructed 1986) – a protected historic monument



Farnsworth House, Plano, Illinois, USA (1951) – a National Historic Landmark



**Inspired by Ludwig Mies van der Rohe's Minimalist glass boxes**



**Ludwig Mies van der Rohe's really big Minimalist glass boxes**

Seagram Building, New York, USA (1958)



860-880 Lake Shore Drive Apartments, Chicago, USA (1951)



Image source: designkultur.wordpress.com; chuckmanchicagonostalgia.wordpress.com

**Inspired by Ludwig Mies van der Rohe's really big Minimalist glass boxes**



Image source: Hoyin Lee; Baycrest at Wikipedia





**Iconic Modern architecture in Central, Hong Kong:  
Functionalism and Minimalism**

Iconic Modern architecture in Central, Hong Kong: Central Market (1939)



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Image source: uwants.com; HK Place

Iconic Modern architecture in Central, Hong Kong: Old CGO (1957-59)



116

Image source: Laura Mazzeo

Iconic Modern architecture in Central, Hong Kong: City Hall (1962)

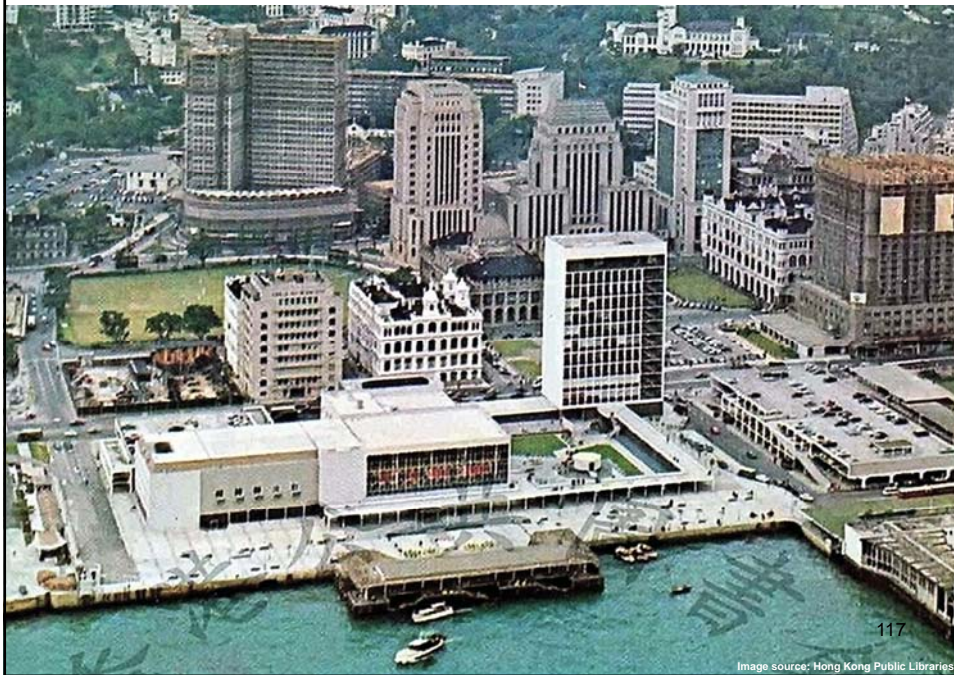


Image source: Hong Kong Public Libraries

Iconic Modern architecture in Central, Hong Kong: Jardine House (1972)



Image source: www.docomomo.hk; John Ho at www.ibiblio.org

Iconic Modern architecture in Central, Hong Kong: Statue Square (1965)

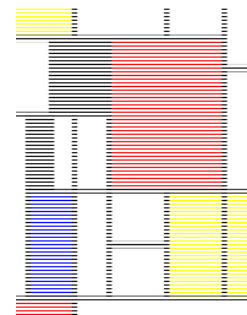
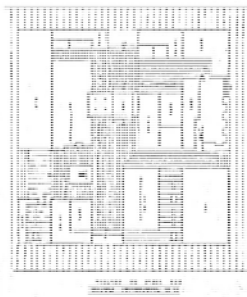


Image source: (top) Public Records Office; www.glogster.com

Image source: Public Records Office

