

Six Modern Architects

Architects of the twentieth century faced the challenge of designing new forms for new functions, new materials and new cultural conditions. They found very different ways of meeting this challenge, while also re-creating architecture into a wholly modern art form. This course examines the work of six great architects: Louis Sullivan, Frank Lloyd Wright, Le Corbusier, Ludwig Mies van der Rohe, Louis Kahn, and Aldo Rossi ("memory theatre"). The female architects who worked with them will also be part of our story. We will meet in person to encourage class discussion.

September 24. Introduction and Louis Sullivan: "form follows function."

Readings (open links in reading list on course website) : Sullivan, "Ornament in Architecture," *The Engineering Magazine*, 1892.

"The Tall Office Building Artistically Considered," *Lippincott's Magazine*, 1896.

October 1. Frank Lloyd Wright's "organic architecture."

Readings: Excerpts from "Organic Architecture," 1910

"The New Architecture Principles," 1960

"In the Cause of Architecture," 1908

October 8. Le Corbusier's « machines for living. »

Reading : Excerpts from *Towards a New Architecture*, 1923:

pp. 1-8. Argument

21-64. Three Reminders to Architects

263-289. Architecture or Revolution

October 15. Ludwig Mies van der Rohe, "less is more."

Reading: pp. 181-196 from 1947 MOMA catalogue

Address to Armour Institute, 1938

October 22. Louis Kahn's silence and light.

Readings: Kahn, "Architecture is the Thoughtful Making of Spaces," 1957

Vincent Scully, "Louis Kahn and the Ruins of Rome," 1993

October 29. Aldo Rossi's memory theatre.

Reading: Rossi, *A Scientific Autobiography*, 1981, pp. 1-30.