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Le Corbusier Redrawn: The Houses



Synopsis

Le Corbusier (1887-1965) was the most significant architect of the twentieth century. Every architecture student examines the Swiss master's work. Yet, all too frequently, they rely on reproductions of faded drawings of uneven size and quality. *Le Corbusier Redrawn* presents the only collection of consistently rendered original drawings (at 1:200 scale) of all twenty-six of Le Corbusier's residential works. Using the original drawings from the Le Corbusier Foundation's digital archives, architect Steven Park has beautifully redrawn 130 perspectival sections, as well as plans, sections, and elevations of exterior forms and interior spaces. These remarkable new drawings—which combine the conceptual clarity of the section with the spatial qualities of the perspective—not only provide information about the buildings, they also help students experience specific works spatially as they learn to critically examine Le Corbusier's works.

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Customer Reviews

" Steven Park absolutely nails a graphic language of simple, elegant architectural rendering. The book is filled with page after page of three-dimensional digital renderings that actually speak to a timeless craft of draftsmanship. Subtle coloring at glazing and shadow lines at relief allow the drawing to pop off the page. The text establishes a graphic language that is everything it needs to be and nothing more. This is our new favorite book and we highly recommend picking up a copy." --Build blog"Park's book is extremely valuable for collecting 26 of the architect's houses in one place, with orthographic drawings all to the same scale. The sectional perspectives are extremely well

done, but they would be incomplete without these 2-D drawings, especially the floor plans. Of course, as Park points out in his preface, the drawings cannot be a substitute for "walking through a building, measuring its dimensions with hands and arms ... [grasping] the relationship between the representation and reality." Yes, such is the case with all architecture, but even for moments after one has been able to visit one of Corbusier's houses, this book is a great collection of his great houses." -- Archidose.org "Park uses sectional perspectives of 22 houses by the Swiss icon to convey the evolution of his design philosophy. The book's concept sounds simple, and indeed its black-and-white design is pleasingly streamlined. But it actually accomplishes several tasks at once. Concise descriptions of the projects help place them in the continuum of Corbu's work, and provide readers with an abbreviated but informative outline of his career. And the combination of sectional perspectives for the 22 chosen houses, along with plans, sections, and elevations for these and 4 more residences, really deepens the reader's experience. It focuses our attention on the homes' spatial complexities and their dexterous detailing." -- Residential Architect

Steven Park studied architecture at the Illinois Institute of Technology and the University of Pennsylvania. He is an architect at Solomon Cordwell Buenz in Chicago.

The drawings are essentially perfect (except for shadows, which I will get to), almost too perfect. They clearly have been done on a computer, I would guess using Sketchup or equivalent. There are no dimensions. Rooms are not labeled but are keyed using single digits. Glazed surfaces are stippled in orthographic views and carry the slightest blue shading in oblique views. Most of the oblique views are perspectives from an unrealistic (but intended to be informative) overhead viewpoint. Generally, the introductory image for each house is an eye height perspective from an imagined street location. I would have liked to see more of these eye height perspectives of the other sides of the houses. The sectional views should give one a clearer understanding of the interiors, but they really don't; it's as if the viewer is standing outside a doll house looking in. The sections give no feeling of what it would be like to be inside any of these spaces. And that is where the shadows come in: as another reviewer has mentioned, the shadows are drawn as if they are cast by the sectioned view not by the intact structure. So, once again, the shadows detract from any possible sense of what the interior spaces were actually like.

I first read about Le Corbusier many years ago in architecture school and loved his work as a young architect. Over the years, I have lost that connection to his work but this book has renewed my love

of his work especially the houses depicted in this book. Each of the 26 houses are beautifully drawn so that you can see the beautiful spaces the Le Corbusier created. Steven Park's multiple isometric views, building sections and floor plans bring his homes to life and captures the volume of the homes. This book will be a wonderful addition to any architect or architecture students library. This is one of my most favorite books. Each house is presented with accurately scaled drawing which is graphically consistent at each house. Beautifully presented in Black and White drawings. Wow!

A surprisingly powerful tool- this book reveals Corb's works in a way we could only have dreamed of when my generation was in school. Of course, walking through the actual buildings is the ultimate way to understand Corb- but this is the best I've seen in the pages of a book. Even a quick glance through this study shows how extraordinary and unmatched Corb's level of architectural thinking was. Analysis, perhaps in line with the methods of Simon Unwin, accompanying these images would have been a marriage made in heaven. Nevertheless, this is a quiet, "visual" analysis that tries to let the High Priest of Modern Architecture speak for himself.

I gave this to my wife, who's an architect. I always heard her talking about him and his style, and I found this for her birthday. She was astonished to see the drawings of the houses and everything. A gift worth to give to someone who knows about the stuff.

nicely drawn plans, sections and axonometrics, right to the pointit gives you the information you are looking for without explanations you are not looking for...

Nice Drawings, but the research was vague....

A very interesting book, the drawings are really the main thing about this book

Very good drawings.

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