



The Architectural Work of Le Corbusier

AN OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION
TO THE MODERN MOVEMENT

Nomination to the World Heritage List

« His logical and ever fresh mind offered India answers similar to those of any of the great Indian Vastu Shastries (architects) of the ancient and medieval times. He perhaps was showing us a new way to see, feel and experience architecture. An expression and experience he created out of a few base elements, yet expressing a new vitality challenging the traditional as well as the modern. He made tangible from béton-brut, local stone, local crafts and exploited shadows, patterns, the breeze and the monsoon.

For him discovery had to happen at all scales, simultaneously and without constraints. References from earlier works were only references and the thrust was on an approach suitable to India where the vision had to match not only aspirations of a free India but also the availability of skills, techniques, resources and relate harmoniously to the eternal cosmic cycles, cosmic elements and the resulting life style that he had witnessed in his journeys.

To the professional fraternity and Indian society at large Le Corbusier through his works shows us how to rediscover our own identity, how to reconnect our works and the life styles and how to integrate natural laws, in our daily life. In short there is no style, nor time, nor product, it is a creation similar to nature, which evolves and simultaneously take roots. All the above signals are our guidelines and if we follow them we will remain as fresh as our very ancient monuments that we admire.

We would be privileged if such a way of thinking and designing enshrined in his buildings should be recognized not only as our heritage but our inheritance and legacy to be passed onto from generation to generation. »

Balkrishna Doshi
Mai 2011

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The nomination file for the inscription on the World Heritage List of a set of buildings belonging to the architectural work of Le Corbusier is the result of a joint undertaking begun more than ten years ago. It has been drawn up by Germany, Argentina, Belgium, France, India, Japan and Switzerland.

It is an application for Transnational Serial Nomination. The seventeen elements that make up the proposed series is a relevant group with regard to the influence of Le Corbusier's work on a worldwide level. The various constituent elements all contribute to the Outstanding Universal Value of the series in a clear and specific manner and give to it its internal coherence.

Numéro identification	Liste chronologique des éléments constitutifs		
1	1923	<i>Maisons La Roche et Jeanneret, Paris</i>	Île-de-France France
2	1923	<i>Petite villa au bord du lac Léman, Corseaux</i>	Vaud Suisse
3	1924	<i>Cité Frugès, Pessac</i>	Aquitaine France
4	1926	<i>Maison Guiette, Anvers</i>	Flandre Belgique
5	1927	<i>Maisons de la Weissenhof-Siedlung, Stuttgart</i>	Bade-Wurtemberg Allemagne
6	1928	<i>Villa Savoye et loge du jardinier, Poissy</i>	Île-de-France France
7	1930	<i>Immeuble Clarté</i>	Genève Suisse
8	1931	<i>Immeuble locatif à la Porte Molitor, Boulogne-Billancourt</i>	Île-de-France France
9	1945	<i>Unité d'habitation, Marseille</i>	Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur France
10	1946	<i>Manufacture à Saint-Dié, Saint-Dié-des-Vosges</i>	Lorraine France
11	1949	<i>Maison du Docteur Curutchet, La Plata</i>	Province de Buenos-Aires Argentine
12	1950	<i>Chapelle Notre-Dame-du-Haut, Ronchamp</i>	Franche-Comté France
13	1951	<i>Cabanon de Le Corbusier, Roquebrune-Cap-Martin</i>	Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur France
14	1952	<i>Complexe du Capitole, Chandigarh</i>	Pendjab Inde
15	1953	<i>Couvent Sainte-Marie-de-la-Tourette, Évieux</i>	Rhône-Alpes France
16	1955	<i>Musée National des Beaux-Arts de l'Occident, Taito-Ku</i>	Tokyo Japon
17	1953	<i>Maison de la Culture de Firminy, Firminy</i>	Rhône-Alpes France

« Le Corbusier a posé les fondations du Mouvement Moderne au cours de la première moitié de sa vie, en construisant les maisons de la période dite « blanche » et en réalisant les éléments d'urbanisme comme l'Unité d'habitation de Marseille. Après la Seconde Guerre mondiale, pendant sa période de maturité, sa créativité sans limites explosa totalement et produisit des objets extraordinaires comme la Chapelle Notre-Dame du Haut de Ronchamp, démonstration exemplaire des possibilités infinies de l'architecture moderne.

Vivre c'est créer, et créer c'est prendre des risques. »

Ando Tadao
Tokyo, mai 2011

Present State and Complexity of the Work

The corporate solidarity expressed by the stakeholders of the project reflects the reality of Le Corbusier's work, the force and intelligence of which rest upon the cohesion between all the parts. These demonstrate the "unity of thought" that, despite the contradictions inherent in any creative work, governs the various aspects of their creator's work.

With about 65 buildings or groups of buildings surviving today, the architectural work is relatively modest in quantity. It presents in addition the following characteristics:

- it is highly extensive in spatial terms, distributed in eleven countries on four continents. While the majority of the works are situated in Europe, particularly in France and Switzerland, some of the buildings – and not the least among them – are located in India, Tunisia, Japan, Iraq, Argentina and the United States;
- these buildings differ greatly in nature and size: villas and individual houses, places of worship, multi-dwelling units, office buildings, a gymnasium, a stadium, etc. The status of the owners also differs greatly: public authorities, associations, private owners, joint ownerships, etc.;
- legislation or practices on heritage protection are known to differ greatly between the various countries.

Each building is a prototype, a unique experiment, a link in the creative process as well as a link in the time frame of restoration projects. Each of the buildings comprising the series is a work of art in itself and represents an outstanding performance in the field of architecture. These are moreover "high risk" performances, whether we consider the interpretation of the programmes or the design of these buildings, which is both architecturally and technically experimental.

An International Management Plan

This complexity is at the heart of the work's richness. It is what largely justifies the proposal for a serial inscription. It also justifies the establishment of an International Management System which, like the working method that has served for ten years in preparing the file, will enable monitoring of the works' conservation and the sharing of best practices. It will likewise enable proposals for extensions to the series, to accommodate buildings that it has not been opportune to include in the present file.

The Standing Conference

Management and monitoring of the constituent elements of the series of Le Corbusier's architectural works will be ensured by the Heritage Authorities of each State Party. To ensure consistency and transnational monitoring of selected components of the Property without supplanting the prerogatives of each signatory State, the International Committee has proposed the setting up of a Standing Conference. This principle has been adopted by the seven States Parties and the first meeting of the Conference will be held in Paris in the first half of 2015. This meeting is a continuation of all the meetings held since the file was launched in 2012 (ten international meetings per year, in addition to the regional or local meetings).

The Standing Conference coordinates the management of the Property, advises States Parties and implements actions for promotion and enhancement of the Property.

The experience of the International Committee, set up at the launching of the proposed candidature, guarantees the quality of work undertaken by the Standing Conference. Despite the vicissitudes of the application, solidarity and cooperation among the members have never been put in question, and the countries that were present in 2003 are all involved in this new application, thus demonstrating exceptional solidarity around the work of an architect.



Maisons doubles de la Weissenhof-Siedlung, Stuttgart. Ph. Cemal Emden



Chapelle Notre-Dame-du-Haut, Ronchamp. Ph. Lucien Hervé

Towards a New Architecture

Finally, it should be noted that the joint serial application, undertaken of necessity by the seven partner countries, has led to an unprecedented realization of the work's importance as a theoretical and artistic benchmark for 20th and 21st century architecture and equally to the realization that its representation on the UNESCO World Heritage List as a concrete, material achievement was a matter of urgency, this being in their eyes the best guarantee of its preservation over the long term.

The pursuit of this objective has enabled the stakeholders directly involved in the application to further their knowledge and requirements in respect of buildings under their responsibility, by sharing information and experience and discovering evaluations by experts. The immediately perceived educational and social ambition of the undertaking has also proved an effective motivation for those owners or managers of Le Corbusier's architectural works not appearing on the list submitted to the World Heritage Committee but expressing their continuing support for the project. Lastly, beyond this inner circle of stakeholders, it has contributed to raising the awareness and interest of many partners with initially limited concern for Le Corbusier's work, or to changing the merely stereotyped image held by others.

It has facilitated relations between the countries concerned, federated initiatives within the countries themselves, brought together the men and women who are daily involved in it, the owners and managers and all those, whether specialists or enthusiasts of this living work, who are eager to share their knowledge and enthusiasm.

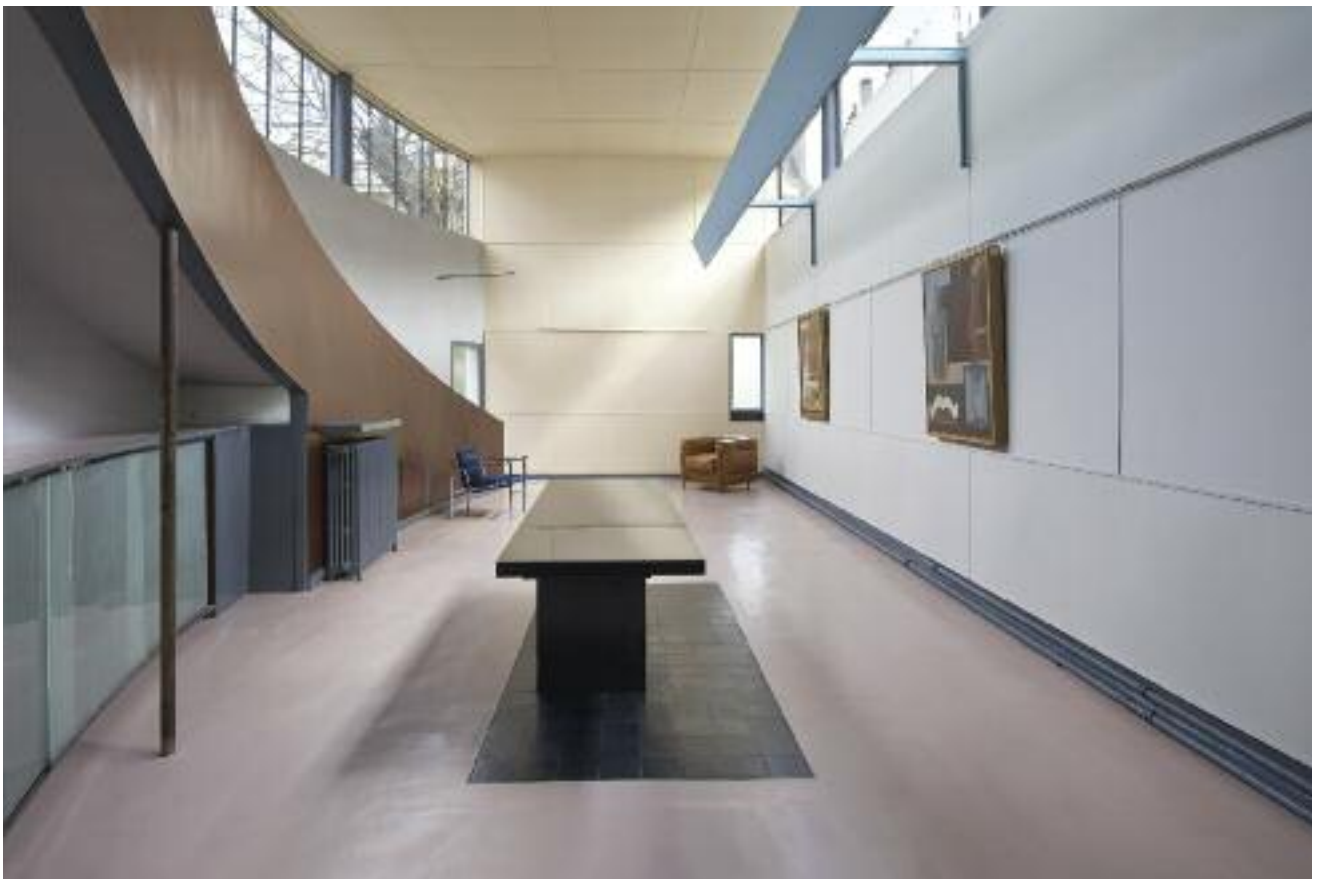
« L'œuvre de Le Corbusier constitue la clé de notre modernité. Tout ce qu'il a construit continue à être une source d'émotions pour l'ensemble des générations et demeure un objet d'apprentissage irremplaçable.

Il est indispensable de maintenir son œuvre dans toute sa pluralité, où qu'elle se trouve. »

Álvaro Siza
Porto, avril 2011



Ph. Olivier Martin-Gambier



Ph. Olivier Martin-Gambier

2 Petite villa au bord du lac Léman, Corseaux | SUISSE



Ph. Patrick Moser



Ph. Olivier Martin-Gambier

3 Cité Frugès, Pessac | FRANCE



Ph. Cemal Emden



Ph. Cemal Emden



Ph. Cemal Emden

4 **Maison Guiette**, Anvers | BELGIQUE



Ph. Cemal Emden



Ph. Cemal Emden



Ph. Cemal Emden



Ph. Cemal Emden



Ph. Cemal Emden



Ph. Cemal Emden



Ph. Cemal Emden



Ph. Cemal Emden



Ph. Bénédicte Gandini



Ph. Cemal Emden



Ph. Cemal Emden

9 Unité d'habitation, Marseille | FRANCE



Ph. Cemal Emden



Ph. Cemal Emden



Ph. Olivier Martin-Gambier



Ph. Olivier Martin-Gambier



Ph. Olivier Martin-Gambier



Ph. Olivier Martin-Gambier



Ph. Olivier Martin-Gambier



Ph. Olivier Martin-Gambier

12 Chapelle Notre-Dame-du-Haut, Ronchamp | FRANCE



Ph. Cemal Emdin



Ph. Cemal Emdin

14 Complexe du Capitole, Chandigarh | INDE



Ph. Cemal Emden



Ph. Cemal Emden



Ph. Cemal Emden



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Ph. Michel Richard



Ph. Cemal Emdin



Ph. Lucien Hervé



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Ph. Olivier Martin-Gambier

Draft Statement of Outstanding Universal Value

(a) Brief Outline



Archives FLC

a (i) Factual Description

The Architectural Work of Le Corbusier was designed and built between a pioneering period in the birth of the Modern Movement – the early 1920s – and the mid 1960s, when this architecture had begun to be challenged, having passed from avant-garde status to that of a globally dominant architectural style. *The Architectural Work of Le Corbusier* reflects the history of the Modern Movement through half a century. It demonstrates a radical break with the styles, design methods, technologies, and construction practices of previous centuries.

The Architectural Work of Le Corbusier is a Serial Property, as defined by Article 137 of the guidelines of the World Heritage Convention.

It comprises 17 component parts, distributed among seven countries on three continents: Germany, Argentina, Belgium, France, India, Japan and Switzerland. The Property has been part of a globalized geographical zone since 1972, a unique situation, which illustrates the profound transformation of contemporary architecture and the architectural profession in the twentieth century. The constituent parts of *The Architectural Work of Le Corbusier* belong to the same historico-cultural group, that of the Modern Movement.

(b) Justification of Criteria

1] Criterion (ii)

The Architectural Work of Le Corbusier exhibits an unprecedented interchange of human values and a remarkable debate of ideas, on a worldwide scale lasting half a century, on the birth and development of the Modern Movement. Faced with a world dominated by academicism, *The Architectural Work of Le Corbusier* revolutionized architecture by demonstrating, in an exceptional and pioneering manner, the invention of a new architectural language that made a break with the past. *The Architectural Work of Le Corbusier* marks the birth of three major trends in modern architecture: Purism, Brutalism and sculptural architecture. The global influence reached by *The Architectural Work of Le Corbusier* on four continents is a new phenomenon in the history of architecture and demonstrates its unprecedented impact. The influence of the buildings comprising this series is all the more powerful as *The Architectural Work of Le Corbusier* was further propagated by the architect's many writings, immediately disseminated and translated throughout the world. This unique complementarity between the built work and the publications made Le Corbusier the main spokesman for the new architecture and *The Architectural Work of Le Corbusier* a subject of endless observation, analysis and commentary as well as a worldwide source of either inspiration or constant opposition.



Haute-Cour de Justice, Chandigarh.
Ph. Lucien Hervé

2] Criterion (vi)

The Architectural Work of Le Corbusier is directly and materially associated with the ideas of the Modern Movement, of which the theories and works possessed outstanding universal significance in the twentieth century. The Property proposed represented a "New Spirit" and tended towards a synthesis of the arts that was at a crossroads between architecture, painting and sculpture. *The Architectural Work of Le Corbusier* is an outstanding contribution to the solutions that the Modern Movement sought to apply to the major challenges of the twentieth century:

- invent a new architectural language;
- modernize architectural techniques;
- respond to the social and human needs of modern man.

The Architectural Work of Le Corbusier materializes Le Corbusier's ideas, powerfully relayed by the International Congress of Modern Architecture (CIAM) from 1928. The contribution made by *The Architectural Work of Le Corbusier* to these major challenges of the twentieth century is not merely the result of an exemplary achievement at a given moment, but the outstanding sum of built and written proposals steadfastly disseminated worldwide through half a century.

(c) Statement of Integrity

The task of selecting the parts making up *The Architectural Work of Le Corbusier* led to retaining those which, taken together as a group, contribute significantly to the attributes that constitute the O.U.V. of the Property. *The Architectural Work of Le Corbusier* supplies a unique set of responses to the major issues addressed by the Modern Movement over a period of half a century.

Some of these constructions are formally unique while others, in contrast, show by their modesty the preoccupations of modern architecture with the question of the greatest number; some are aimed at standardized type of architecture, others are works of synthesis or prototypes. The diversity and heterogeneity of the series cannot be interpreted as a weakness, since these qualities are intrinsic to the architectural revolution of the twentieth century. On the international level, this architectural revolution was creatively orientated as much toward the everyday life of modern man as to the traditional sphere of large public or private commissions. The uniqueness of this architecture lies precisely in this revolution of values. This is a world heritage of a radically new kind, which has acquired a long term character .

In this respect, *The Architectural Work of Le Corbusier*, with its exceptional level of integrity and authenticity, reflects much better the profound changes in twentieth century architectural creation than a mere adding-up of iconic achievements by great names of twentieth century architecture, with the elitist aesthetical approach that this implies.



Couvent Sainte-Marie-de-la-Tourette, Eveux. Ph. Cemal Emden

(d) Statement of Authenticity

The authenticity of the Serial Property *The Architectural Work of Le Corbusier* hinges on its capacity to express its universal value when seen as a group. The series comprises pioneering and forward-thinking solutions to the major challenges of architecture and society, put forward on a global scale through half a century with energy and fortitude. For a period of this length, and on such a historically unparalleled scale, the series is unquestionably of outstanding universal impact. Within the group, each construction makes a powerful and exemplary contribution. Their being brought together in a complementary relationship amounts to an exceptional testimony to the development of the Modern Movement.

All the component parts of the Property are constructions by Le Corbusier, designed and completed during his lifetime in his studio.

At the present time, they all display a high level of internal and external conservation. The forms, distribution, spatial composition, colour and materiality of the works present a high level of fidelity. Moreover, with few exceptions, these constructions have retained their original use, thereby favouring the proper care and maintenance of both the interior spaces and the facades. Many have recently undergone restoration campaigns based on extensive preliminary studies: these are *Maisons La Roche et Jeanneret*, *Maisons de la Weissenhof-Siedlung*, *Immeuble Clarté*, *Unité d'habitation de Marseille*, *Couvent Sainte-Marie-de-la-Tourette*, *Maison de la Culture de Firminy*. The environment of some elements in the series has changed since their construction but, on most sites, urban and landscape control procedures have been implemented or are under consideration.



Petite villa au bord du Lac, Corseaux. Ph. Cemal Emden

(e) Protection and Management Requirements

All the component parts of the Property were at an early date afforded protection under the national legislation of the countries in which they are situated; an exceptional fact is that some were actually given protection during the architect's lifetime. Some benefit from several levels of protection. The majority of them belong to private owners and have retained their original function, this being in many cases a guarantee of good management. Most have already undergone restoration campaigns under the supervision of the authorities for the protection of Historic Monuments in their respective countries.

Finally, in each country, preparation of the nomination file for *The Architectural Work of Le Corbusier* has led to reinforcement of the level of protection and monitoring of Le Corbusier's works and the drawing up of local management plans. These have been implemented on a partnership basis between owners and the cultural, heritage and planning departments of the local authorities on whose land the works are situated.

Protection and Management, Long Term Goals

The task of preparing the nomination file of *The Architectural Work of Le Corbusier* has greatly strengthened links between public and private owners and managers of the constituent parts of the Property, but also with those of buildings not selected. Key players in this continuing process are the Le Corbusier Foundation, the Association of Le Corbusier Sites and the Standing Conference. Since 1968, the date of its creation, the Fondation Le Corbusier, an organization wished for by the architect himself, constitutes not only a well stocked resource centre that is indispensable for the knowledge and management of the Property, but also an efficient network connecting up the various sites containing works by Le Corbusier.

As part of the preparation for this application, the network was considerably reinforced by the creation in 2009 of the International Association of Le Corbusier Sites, comprised of local authorities on whose land are situated the component parts of the Property and whose primary objective has been to facilitate the coordinated implementation of local management plans.

Finally, with a view to better management of the Property, a Standing Conference between the seven States Parties has been set up to ensure efficient management coordination of the different parts making up the series, while at the same time showing all respect for the prerogatives of each country in terms of protection, conservation and heritage management. The work group set up to prepare this nomination in 2003 prefigured the Standing Conference.

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Ph. Cemal Emden



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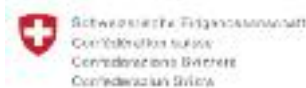
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