

White box

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ABSTRACT

The Villa Savoye was the culmination of many years of design, and the basis for much of Le Corbusier's later architecture. The plan of the building is square; one of the ideal shapes which the architects so admired. Within this strict geometry, dynamic curved forms are added, like the staircase and the solarium on the roof screened by curved walls. Interlocking ribbon windows are repeated on all sides of the building providing openness and light. The whole structure is painted in pure colour - white on the outside, a colour with associations of newness, purity, simplicity, and health and planes of subtle colour in the interior open living areas. One is never clear as to what is outdoors and what is indoors: the villa is a homage to light, and air, as well as a complex geometry and plan that can be quite baffling on first encounter.