KUN 2140 / 4140 International History and Theory of Architecture, 20th Century | Fall 2019

Exam questions

KUN 2140: Select and answer 8 questions out the following 12

KUN 4140: Select and answer 9 questions out of 12

1. In 1922, the newspaper *Chicago Tribune* launched a competition about its new headquarters. Several well-known architects participated. Here, you can see the entries by Walter Gropius and Adolf Meyer (left) and of Adolf Loos (right). Comment on their design in relation to the theoretical positions of their authors, and make concrete comparisons.





2. Do you think that the Bauhaus represents more an architectural style or an educational approach? Why? Choose an answer and argue on your selection.

3. Le Corbusier and Pierre Jeanneret published in 1927 the “5 points of Modern Architecture”. Which of the following belong to those? Choose the right answers and describe the chosen terms shortly. Then choose a Le Corbusier building where the selected points are manifest and shortly comment on their application.

a) The roof-terrace

b) The pilotis

c) The brise-soleil

d) The horizontal window

e) The raumplan

4. The industrialization of construction, standardization and mechanical reproduction changed the route of architecture in the 20th century. Choose a standardization system, or, an architectural text, or a project where standardization played an important role and discuss shortly.

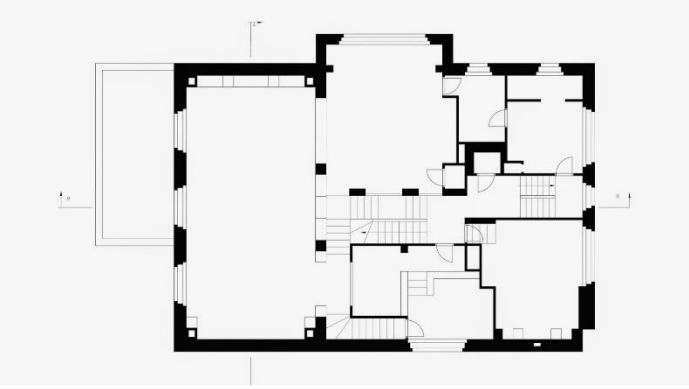
5. “Less is a bore,” wrote Robert Venturi in *Complexity and Contradiction in Architecture* (1966). What do you understand from his critique of “orthodox” modernism? Compare his *Vanna Venturi house* with Mies Van der Rohe’s *Farnsworth house*.

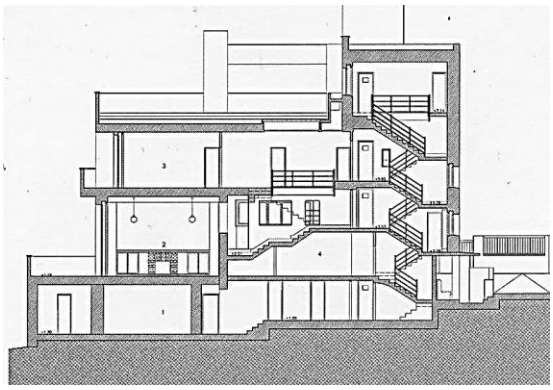
6. During the CIAM congress at Aix-en-Provence (1953), a newer generation of CIAM members expressed criticism against the CIAM urbanism of the first modern generation. How were they eventually called? Cite some of the basic members and shortly develop their critical positions.

7. Choose a building, designed and/or constructed between 1900-2000, which has impressed you or particularly intrigued you. Give reasons for your choice and discuss it briefly.

8. The houses that Frank Lloyd Wright designed in the early 20th century had a major impact on the modern movement. How was their style called? How did they revolutionize domestic space?

9. Which is the house depicted in the photograph, floor plan and section below? Who is the architect? Describe briefly the particularities and the arrangement of the interior space.



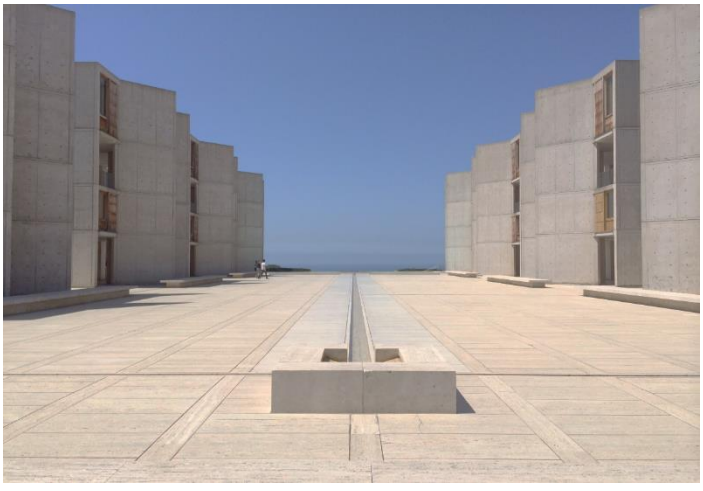




10. Le Corbusier's architecture started gradually to change in the late 1920s and during the 1930s. Choose one of his buildings from the post-WWII era and shortly discuss it, drawing similarities and differences with his Purist period.

11. This is the Salk Institute (below), designed by Louis Kahn in La Jolla, California (1965). Discuss some basic characteristics of Kahn's architecture and reflect on his approach to monumentality.





12. This is a photograph (below) of the monumental axis in Brasilia, planned as the capital of Brazil by Lucio Costa (with Oscar Niemeyer) in the lines of the Charter of Athens. What are the advantages and what are the failures of this kind of planning, compared to the traditional city? You can draw arguments from the criticism of modern urbanism and the new theories on the city that were developed in the 1960s and onwards.

