

PICTURESQUE MODERNITIES

ARCHITECTURAL REGIONALISM AS A GLOBAL PROCESS (1890-1950)

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Primitivism and Contemporary in the Works of Le Corbusier

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Abstract

My contribution is focused on the concept of 'picturesque'. For such concept it is natural to remark the central importance of the architectural movement 'Arts and Crafts'. Contemplating to the most recent past is possible to turn the attention to the interest of Le Corbusier for the aspects 'picturesque' and 'modernism'. In the specific one importance will be given to the experience of the architect done during its trips to Greece, that gave a very careful observations of the place. The first one was that related to the residences

'Mediterranean' (of the people of the Mediterranean), the second was that inherent to the manufactured articles of such populations. From this Le Corbusier drew numerous considerations: the most important was the conception of the so-called human scale that declined then in various ways, for then to reach the Modulor. Besides, this attention for the 'Mediterranean' it was fundamental to deepen and begin his studies on Algiers and the relative urbanistic plan. This reflexion puts some questions, that the paper tries to resolve: as the 'picturesque' has been the essential base for the future concept of minimal. How and how much the preclassical and primitive cultures have defined the essence of the architecture of Le Corbusier, before with Villa Savoye and then with the Unitè d'habitation.



Architecture and decoration in the work of Le Corbusier