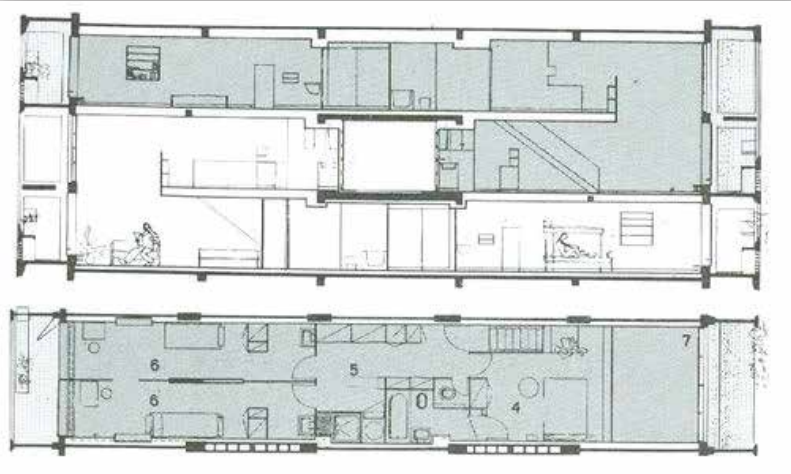


Unite d'Habitation



was cheap at the time of its construction after the war, and adds to its particularly brusque nature. It is regarded, all over the internet, as a "arguable the greatest Modernist building of the past century," which is interesting, many articles talk about Le Corbusier's implementation of his principle that every person should have access to light, space, and greenery. One article also went as far as to say the Unite d'Habitation stands in stark contrast to the "souless" concrete blocks erected in his vision.



I found an article about Le Corbusier's "Unite d'Habitation" in Marseille, France, very interesting, because it describes his ideas and how they were translated into architecture rather than the planning of a city. After WWII he was commissioned to build a massive housing unit to provide as much housing as possible during that time of housing shortage. Thus he created a "vertical garden city," where the building itself was almost a fully contained city where inhabitants could "shop, play, and live." I wonder of the influence and relation of the bombings in France during the war to this kind of design. The article notes that, rather than spreading his complex out horizontally along the landscape, he chose to expand it vertically, where even the living quarters were doubled in vertical height. There are horizontal "streets" – like the cross avenues of his city designs – that wrap around the vertical spaces. The room houses a garden, shops, restaurants, gyms, and other recreational places. The author also likens the housing complex to a piece of mechanization or machinery, like the ones Le Corbusier was particularly interested in. It is made of breton-brut concrete, which

Pan Gyo Housing / MACK Architect(s)



Mack Architect(s) won first prize in the Korea National Housing competition to develop a new model of low-density residential and sustainable community living near Seoul, Korea. The program requires 102 units of housing. While retaining and enhancing existing site features this design aims to create the smallest ecological footprint

possible. The majority of units have their own private gardens in addition to the large shared green areas of the site which help keep temperatures low in the summer. Taller buildings block cold northern winds, while southern exposure for all units provides free solar energy. Buildings come equipped with natural ventilation, stack ventila-

tion systems (through stairways), radiant heat, efficient roof insulation and extensive green roofs to contribute to the overall system of low energy use.

Izola Social Housing / OFIS arhitekti

located in Izola, Slovenia

The brief required 30 apartments of different sizes and structures, varying from studio flats to 3-bedroom apartments. The apartments are small, with minimum-sized rooms according to Slovenian standards. There are no structural elements inside the apartments, thus providing flexibility and the possibility of reorganising things.

The blocks are set out on a hill with a view of Izola Bay on one side and of the surrounding hills on the other. Since the blocks are subject to a Mediterranean climate outdoor space and shade are important elements. The project proposed a veranda for each apartment, thus providing an outdoor space that is intimate, partly connected with the interior, shady and naturally ventilated.

A textile shade protects the balcony and apartment from prying eyes, yet due to its semi-transparency allows the owner to enjoy the views of the bay. Perforated side-panels allow summer breeze to ventilate the space. The strong colours create different atmospheres within the apartments. Boxes at the side of each balcony provide room for air-conditioning units.

