

# 4: The Aesthetic Avant- Garde

*and its offshoots*

*1914 – 1930's*

Unusual use of  
**color and texture**  
In architectural composition

# Bacardi Building, Havana, Cuba



# Peter Eisenman



Wexner Center, Columbus, Ohio  
Photo: Siling

1985-1989

# Richard Meier



Getty Museum, Los Angeles, CA

1984-1997

Photo: Scott Francis, ESTO

# Schweitzer BIM



Monument at Joshua Tree, CA

1987-90

Photo: Timothy Hursley

Exquisite detailing

“God is in the details”

*Ludwig Mies van der Rohe*

# Mies van der Rohe



Seagram's Building, New York City

1954

Photo: (Siling)



# Richard Meier



Museum of Contemporary Art, Barcelona, Spain 1996

Photo: (Phaedon/Steele)

# The Futurists

based in Italy, developed a new look for the new century.

*They were modernists who envisioned architecture in the future.*

Most of their designs were never built, but still look good today, 100 years later

# Antonio Sant'Elia

*Sant'Elia was an Italian architect.*

*Associated with the movement known as futurism, he created visionary drawings of futurist buildings that he likened to gigantic machines.*

*His projects for urban complexes suggest the functional architecture of the 1920s. He died on the battlefield before his plans could be realized.*

Architectural vision, 1914

Photo credit: (Konemann)



# DE STIJL (the Style) [Holland]

-cubist interpretation

-ultra-rational, abstract and mechanistic

-palette of primary colors (*red, blue, yellow*)

-influential Dutch magazine

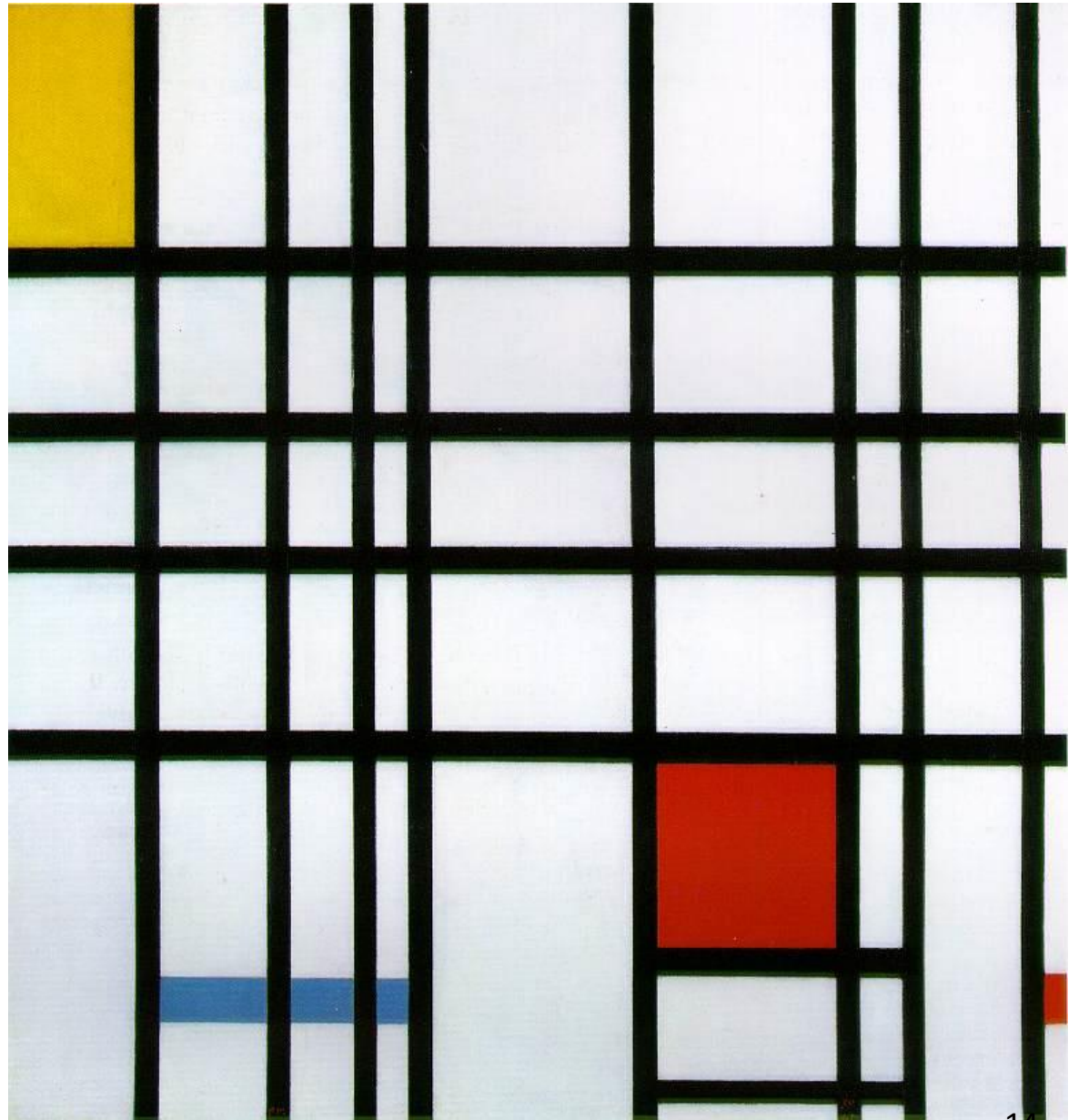
- very few buildings of their design
- functionalism
- rectilinear planes with no surface decorations
- influenced by early F. L. Wright and his Japanese sources

# Robert van't Hoff



Villa Nora (Villa Henny), Huis ter Heide (NL) 1914-16

# Piet Mondrian



Composition with Red,  
Yellow and Blue, 1921

# Gerrit Rietveld (1888-1964)



Schroeder House, Utrecht, the Netherlands 1924

Photo credit: P. Sperling

# Gerrit Rietveld



Schroeder House, Utrecht, the Netherlands

1924

Photo credit: (Prestel:Icons)



# Gerrit Rietveld



Schroeder House, Utrecht, the Netherlands

1924

# Theo van Doesburg (1883-1931)



Studio House, Meudon (near Paris, FR) 1929-31

# ART DECO

1910 – 1930's

*L'art moderne*

Super elegant

Fascination with motion

# *ART DECO CHARACTERISTICS*

- Eclectic form of elegant and stylish modernism.
- Celebrates the machine age with use of industrial age materials (marble, stainless steel, aluminum, glass, etc.)
- Rich, festive character (use of chevron patterns, stepped forms, sweeping curves, sunburst motifs, symmetry, repetition).
- Mixture of cubism, futurism, expressionism.
- Inspiration from African, Egyptian, Mayan, Chinese forms.
- Largest districts: Miami Beach, Napier (New Zealand), some examples in new York, Manila, Havana, etc.

# Art Deco



## Miami Beach Hotels

Photo credit: Per Aron/Esto and H. Sands

1936 - 1939

# Art Deco



Miami Beach Hotels

Photo credit: H. Sands

1936 - 1939

# William van Alen

(1883-1954)



Chrysler Building, New York City

1928

Photo credit:

# CHRYSLER BUILDING

- A celebration of self-advancement within the American economic system.
- A masterpiece in Art Deco architecture.
- The world's tallest building from 1930 to 1931.
- Steel frame with silvery-gray glazed brick cladding.
- Stainless steel cladding for the pinnacle.

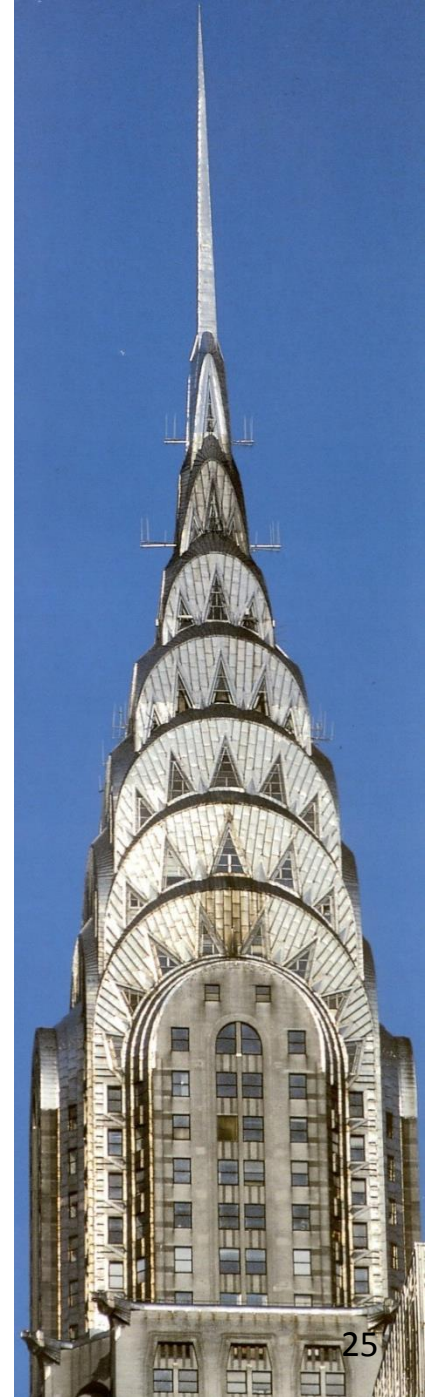


# William van Alen



Chrysler Building, New York City 1928

credit:

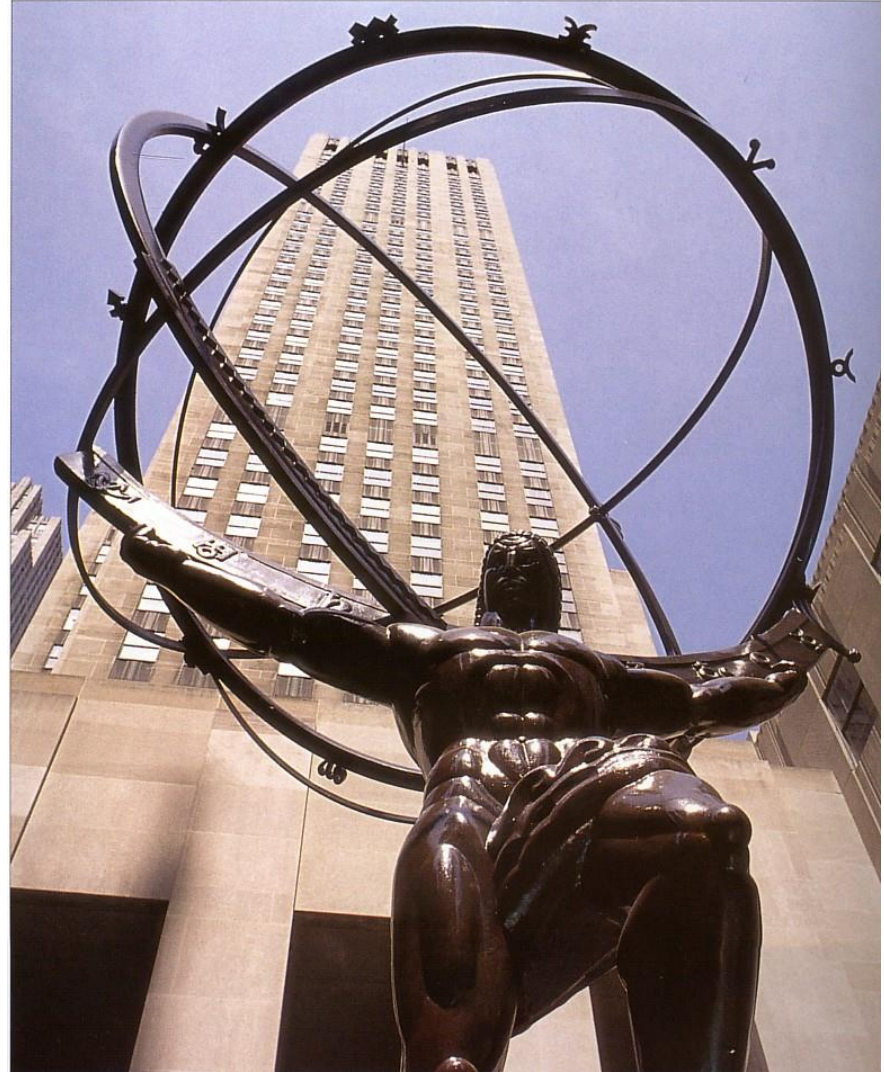


# Raymond Hood, etc

(1881-1934)



Rockefeller Center, New York City



1932

Photo credit: P. Sperling and AA Photo Library

# Raymond Hood, etc



Rockefeller Center, New York City

1932

# Raymond Hood, etc

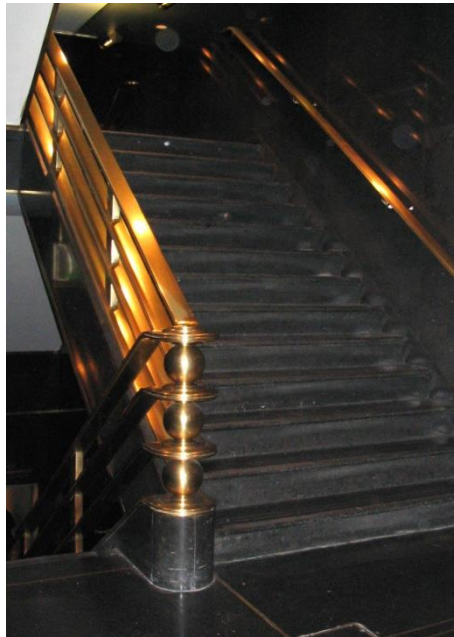


Rockefeller Center, New York City

1932

Photo credit: P. Sperling

# Raymond Hood, etc



Rockefeller Center, New York City

1932

Photo credit: P. Sperling

# International Style Advance

Ludwig Mies van der Rohe

Seagram Building, NYC, 1954

Photo credit: (Prestel:Icon)



# Mies van der Rohe



“God is in the details.”



Lake Shore Drive Apartments, Chicago, Ill. 1950

Photo credit:

# (SOM) Skidmore, Owens and Merrill

Lever House, NYC 1951

Photo credit:





# Corbu, Harrison and Abramowitz



United Nations Headquarters, New York City 1947-50

Photo credit: UN Archives and Great Buildings.com

# **The International Style:**

Le Corbusier

Richard Neutra

Mies van de Rohe

Pietro Belluschi

# The International Style

The International Style, in architecture, refers to the modern movement that emerged in Europe and the United States during the 1920s. The term was first used in connection with a 1932 architectural exhibition held at the Museum of Modern Art, New York City.

**Architects working in the International style gave new emphasis to the expression of structure, the lightening of mass, and the enclosure of dynamic spaces.**

Architects working in the International Style gave new emphasis to:

1. ***Volume*** (space enclosed by thin planes or surfaces) as opposed to mass/solidity.

2. ***Regularity as opposed to symmetry***

3. ***Dependence on the intrinsic elegance of materials, technical perfection, and fine proportions, as opposed to applied ornament.***

***The International Style was an outgrowth of the Bauhaus at Dessau by Walter Gropius (1925–26) and Le Corbusier's villas, such as the Villa Savoye, Poissy-sur-Seine (1929–30).***

Post-functionalism was suggested as a new name for the style, since aesthetics were given at least equal weight to functionalism among the architects creating works within the International Style.

***The true aim of the International Style was to “invent and create forms symbolizing the world of the Machine Age.”***

# Walter Gropius



Bauhaus School, Dessau, Germany

1926

Photo credit: internet

# Le Corbusier



Villa Savoye, Paris

1929

Photo: Louis Gasson

# Richard Neutra (1892-1970)

[p://architecture.about.com/library/bl-neutra.htm](http://architecture.about.com/library/bl-neutra.htm)



“Health House” for Lovell, Los Angeles, CA 1927

Photo: Great Buildings.com



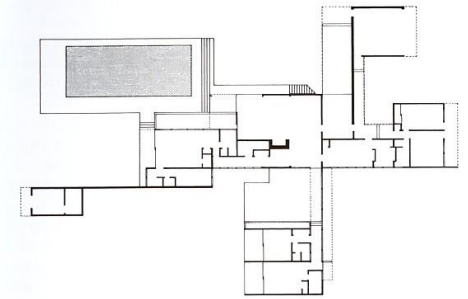
# Richard Neutra



“Health House” for Lovell, Los Angeles, CA 1927

Photo: Great Buildings.com

# Richard Neutra



Kaufman House, Palm Springs, California

Photo: Julius Shulman

1946

# Pietro Belluschi

(1899-1994)



Equitable Savings, Portland, Oregon

Photo credit: (Glancey)

1948

# The International Style

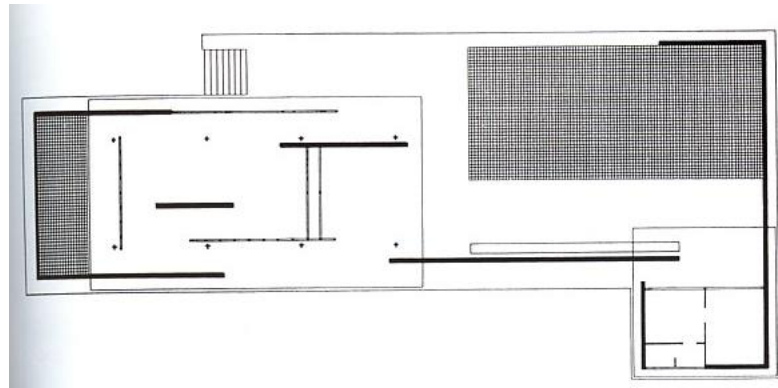
One of the key elements of the International Style *is that it was not site or function related.* The buildings could be put anywhere and could serve a variety of purposes.

*The International Style became popular for office buildings;* it became a 'corporation' style and was exported from America to the rest of the world.

Many critics characterized International Style buildings as *"boxes for living and working."*

# Mies and The International Style

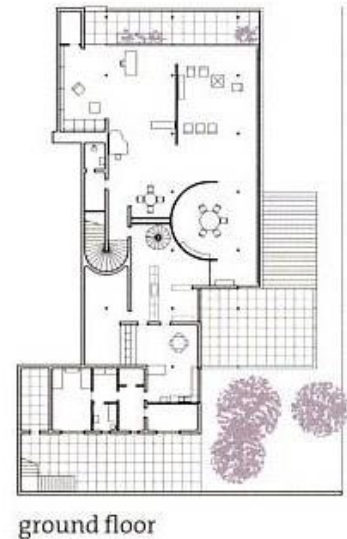
# Ludwig Mies van der Rohe ( 1886-1969)



Barcelona Pavilion, Barcelona, Spain 1924

Photo credit: Liao Yusheng

# Ludwig Mies van der Rohe

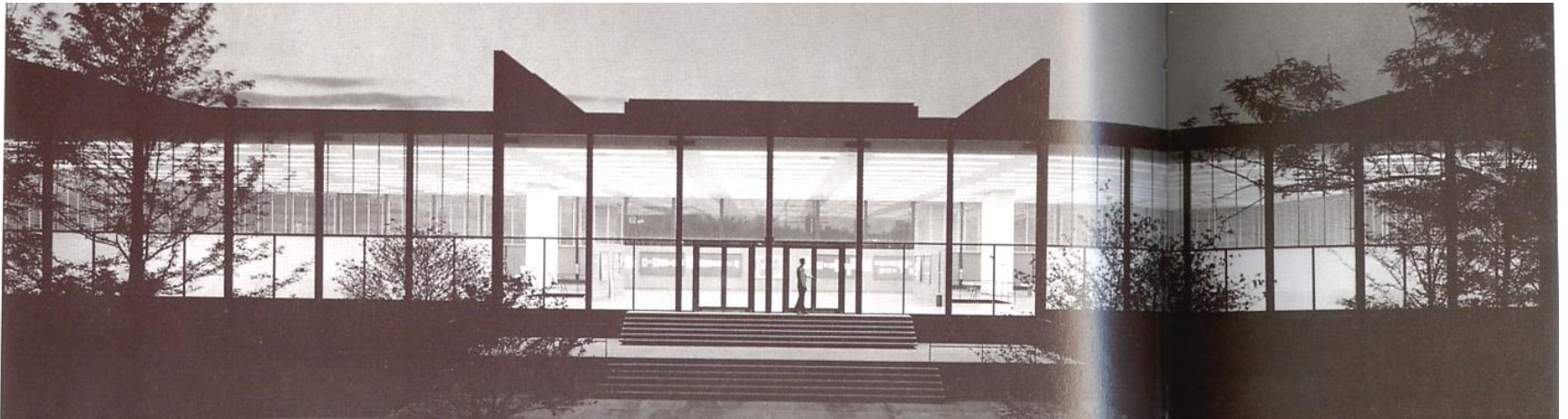


Tugendhat House, Brno, Czechoslovakia

1928

Photo: Lynne Bryant

# Ludwig Mies van der Rohe



Crown Hall at IIT, Chicago, Ill.

1950-1956<sub>48</sub>

Photo credit: (Gossel)



# MIES van der ROHE

- One of the pioneering masters of modern architecture.
- Sought to establish a new architectural style that could represent modern times just as Gothic and Classical did in their own time.
- Developed the use of exposed steel structure and glass to enclose and define space, striving for an architecture with a minimal framework of structural order, balanced against the implied freedom of open space.
- Called his buildings “skin and bones” architecture.
- Its impact was so great, that further imitations saturated New York city.

# Mies van der Rohe



*“God is in the details.”*

*“Less is more”*



Lake Shore Drive Apartments, Chicago, Ill. 1950

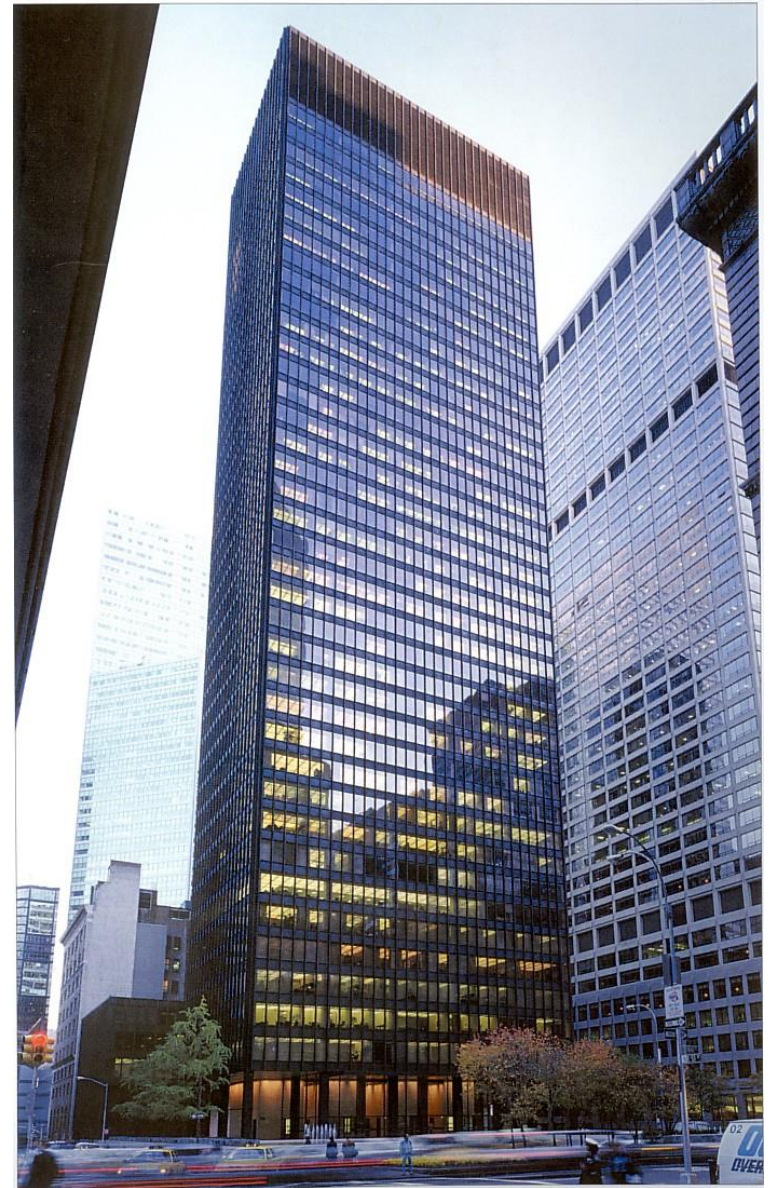
Photo credit:

# Mies van der Rohe



Seagram Building, New York City

Photo: (Siling)



1954-57

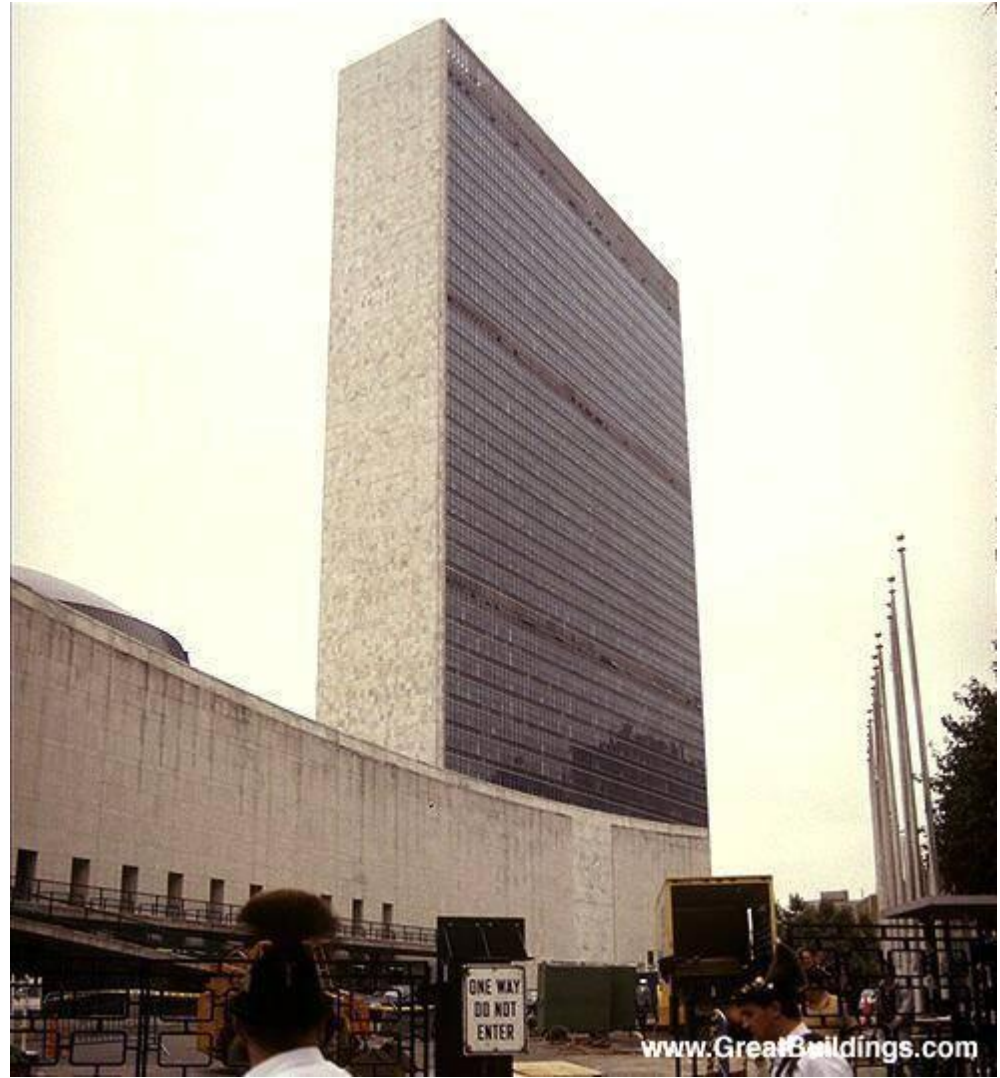
# (SOM) Skidmore, Owens and Merrill



Lever House, NYC 1951

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United Nations Headquarters, New York City 1947-50

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