

*Between an experiment and the idea: modernist architects' own houses.*

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The problem of the house is the problem of the epoch, as Le Corbusier once wrote in his manifesto. At the dawn of the new century, in the face of the industrial revolution taking place, modernist architects were looking for solutions corresponding to the new technological possibilities and social aspirations. For many of them, the realization of their own home was a place to test innovative, experimental solutions for the first time and to confront the assumed idea with the real world. Therefore, each work must be understood as a joint effort to establish a canon of new residential architecture - an adequate response to emerging needs and problems, the primary goal of which was to create a comfortable dwelling.

The work consists of seven chapters, forming a work structure of three volumes.

Volume one consists of a theoretical study, where the scope of the research was defined and the titular experiments and ideas in architecture were defined. The design method used by the five modernist architects was identified, illustrating the individual, characteristic attitudes that formed the basis for the formulation of principles that contributed to the further evaluation of the cases, inspired by Kandinsky's colour theory. The yellow colour was associated with the experimentation and work of Walter Gropius, while the blue was linked to the idea represented by Le Corbusier. The middle of the spectrum, green, corresponds to the balance achieved by the equal contribution of the two opposite determinants; at the centre of the scale is where the organic architecture of Frank Lloyd Wright is placed.

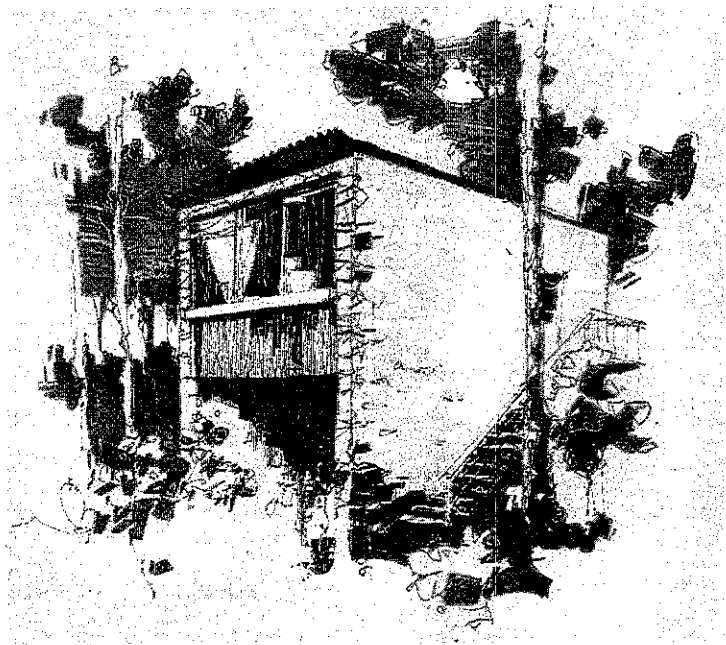
The fourth chapter - which at the same time represents the second volume of the work - is a catalogue of the modernist architects' own houses arranged according to a uniform, established scheme. The unification of the layout, descriptions and scale of the architectural drawings that form part of the study is a deliberate move to organise the collected material before proceeding to further research work and to facilitate analyses involving the demonstration of the validity of the assumptions

through graphic evaluation contained in volume three. The geometry of the house plans, the subject of further analysis, was explored through the process of hand-drawing original plans.

Chapters five, six and seven comprise the third and final volume of the dissertation. In sequence, they contain: graphic analyses of the material contained in volume two, an evaluation of the research findings and the conclusions drawn from them, concluded with a summary.

While understanding the essence of the element of innovation and the courage to question everything hitherto known as attitudes of particular importance in the modern era - the approach adopted in the thesis exhibits similar tendencies. The presentation of the author's understanding of the state of the art, and the use of the element of formal play within the framework of the dissertation, is an exploitation of the privileged position of the researcher at the beginning of an academic career.

In the course of the conducted research, the thesis was proven to be correct. Recognition of the complex topic of the architect's own home contributed to a better understanding of the topic and the development of principles that form the foundations of the author's own design practice.



*A. Jay - Powell*