The Rationalist Reader

Architecture and Rationalism in Western Europe 1920-1940/1960-1990

Edited by Andrew Peckham and Torsten Schmiedeknecht
Contents

Preface xiii
Acknowledgements xiv

INTRODUCTION 1
The rationalist legacy: complement and contradiction 2
Andrew Peckham and Torsten Schmiedeknecht
Rationalism: a philosophical concept in architecture (1987) 15
Alan Colquhoun
Rationalist tendencies in nineteenth-century architecture 24
Charles Rattray

DOCUMENTS ONE 1920–1940 31
The architects of modernism and their texts: an introduction to the
history of modern architecture 1922–1934 32
Thilo Hilpert

Rationalist Architecture: Type-Form and History 47
1 H. P. Berlage
The foundations and development of architecture (1908) 48
2 Adolf Loos
Architecture (1910) 51
3 Le Corbusier
Toward an architecture (1923) 54
4 Adolf Loos
Regarding economy (1924) 57
5 J. J. P. Oud
Yes and no: confessions of an architect (1925) 61
6 Le Corbusier
Type-needs type-furniture (1925) 64
7 Gruppo 7
Architecture (1926) 65
8 August Perret  
The modern museum (1929)  

9 Carlo Enrico Rava  
The mirror of rational architecture (1931)  

10 Piero Bottoni . . .  
An architectural programme (1933)  

11 August Perret  
Collective needs and architecture (1935)  

12 Guiseppe Pagano and Guarniero Daniel  
Rural architecture in Italy (1936)  

13 Hans Schmidt  
Architecture's relationship to typification (1956)  

The New City  

14 Otto Wagner  
Die Großstadt (1911)  

15 Le Corbusier  
The city of tomorrow and its planning (1925)  

16 Ludwig Hilberseimer  
Großstadtarchitektur (1927)  

17 CIAM / Le Corbusier  
From the Athens Charter (1933)  

18 CIAM / Le Corbusier  
The Athens Charter: conclusions (1933)  

The Logic of Construction – Rationalization  

19 Otto Wagner  
Modern architecture (1896)  

20 Adolf Behne  
The modern functional building (1923)  

21 Mies van der Rohe  
Office building (1923)  

22 Mies van der Rohe  
Building (1923)  

23 Ludwig Hilberseimer  
Construction and form (1924)  

CONTENTS
24 Le Corbusier and Pierre Jeanneret  
*Five points towards a new architecture* (1926)  
25 Mies van der Rohe  
*Remarks on my block of flats* (1927)  
26 CIAM (Congrès Internationaux d'Architecture Moderne)  
*La Sarraz Declaration* (1928)  
27 Mies van der Rohe  
*What would concrete, what would steel be without mirror glass* (1933)  
28 Giuseppe Pagano  
*Structure and architecture* (1935)  
29 Walter Gropius  
*The new architecture and the Bauhaus* (1935)  

**Industrial Production and the Collective**  
30 Le Corbusier  
*Mass produced buildings* (1924)  
31 Mies van der Rohe  
*Industrial building* (1924)  
32 Mart Stam  
*Collective design* (1924)  
33 Walter Gropius  
*Principles of Bauhaus production* [Dessau] (1926)  
34 Hannes Meyer  
*The new world* (1926)  
35 Hannes Meyer  
*Building* (1928)  

**Rationalism in Retrospect**  
36 Reyner Banham  
*Theory and design in the first machine age* (1960)  
37 Hans Schmidt  
*Modular co-ordination in architecture* (1964)  
38 Vittorio Gregotti  
*The fine red thread of Italian rationalism* (1978)  
39 Dennis Doordan  
*Building modern Italy* (1988)
40 Richard Etlin  
*Modernism in Italian architecture, 1890–1940* (1991) 162

41 Michelangelo Sabatino  
*The politics of mediterraneità in Italian modernist architecture* 166

42 Pier Vittorio Aureli  
*Architecture for barbarians — Ludwig Hilberseimer and the rise of the generic city* (2011) 170

43 David Rifkind  
'*Everything in the state, nothing against the state*: corporative urbanism and Rationalist architecture in fascist Italy* (2012) 174

Addendum 179

Architecture, rationalism and reconstruction: the example of France 1945–55 180

Nicholas Bullock

**DOCUMENTS TWO 1960–1990** 187

The Neo-Rationalist perspective 188

Henk Engel

**Neo-rationalism: Type and Typology** 199

44 Giulio Carlo Argan  
*Architecture and ideology* (1957) 200

45 Giulio Carlo Argan  
*On the typology of architecture* (1962) 203

46 Giorgio Grassi  
*The question of style* (1969) 208

47 Massimo Scolari  
*The new architecture and the avantgarde* (1973) 214

48 Anthony Vidler  
*The third typology* (1978) 221

49 Bernard Huet  
*Small manifesto* (1978) 228

50 Gianfranco Caniggia and Gian Luigi Maftei  
*Introduction: motives and propositions* (1979) 230

51 Ignasi Sola-Morales  
*Neo-rationalism and figuration* (1984) 234
CONTENTS

52 Werner Oechslin
   Premises for the resumption of the discussion of typology (1986) 242

53 Micha Bandini
   Typological theories in architectural design (1993) 248

54 Guido Francescato
   Type and the possibility of an architectural scholarship (1994) 256

Architecture and the City 261

55 Aldo Rossi
   The architecture of the city (1966) 262

56 Leon Krier
   The reconstruction of the city (1978) 269

57 Rob Krier
   Typological and morphological elements of the concept of urban space (1979) 274

58 Carel Weeber
   Formal objectivity in urban design and architecture as an aspect of rational planning (1979) 277

Logical Construction and Autonomy 283

59 Giorgio Grassi
   The logical construction of architecture (1967) 284

60 Ezio Bonfanti

61 Aldo Rossi
   Introduction (1974) 292

62 Luigi Snozzi
   Design motivations (1975) 298

63 Giorgio Grassi
   Architecture as craft (1979) 300

64 Oswald Mathias Ungers
   Architecture's right to an autonomous language (1979) 304

65 Livio Vacchini

66 Hans Kollhoff
   The myth of construction and the architectonic (1991) 312
Reproduction and Tradition

67 O. M. Ungers
What is architecture? (1964)

68 Aldo Rossi
Architecture for museums (1968)

69 Leon Krier
The age of reconstruction (1980)
The reconstruction of the European city (1980)

Neo-rationalism in Retrospect

70 Manfredo Tafuri
History of Italian architecture, 1944–1985 (1982)

71 Fritz Neumeyer
A return to humanism in architecture (2002)

72 Mary Louise Lobsinger
The new urban scale in Italy – On Aldo Rossi’s L’architettura della città (2006)

73 Pier Vittorio Aureli
Rossi: the concept of the locus as a political category of the city (2008)

74 Angelika Schnell

POSTSCRIPT

The heroism of rationalism?
Hans van der Heijden

Rationalism
David Dunster

Tectonics
Hans Kollhoff

Leon Krier

List of contributors
List of document credits
Index