

MODERNISM

DESIGNING A NEW WORLD 1914 - 1939

Essential Modernism

Never before have the conditions of life changed so swiftly and enormously as they have changed for mankind in the last fifty years. We have been carried along... [and] we are only now beginning to realize the force and strength of the storm of change that has come upon us.—H. G. WELLS

Essential Modernism chronicles how artists, responding to the violence of World War I and the unprecedented modernization of the world, tried to change society during the first half of the twentieth century.

Written as a guide to the Corcoran Gallery of Art's presentation of the groundbreaking exhibition *Modernism: Designing a New World 1914-1939*, *Essential Modernism* brings into focus the foundation and meaning of Modernism—the defining movement of twentieth-century art, design and culture. It clarifies many of the ideas behind the appearance of much art, architecture, graphic and product design, film and theater design created in the first half of the twentieth century.

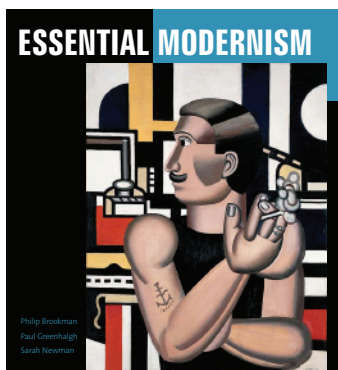
Essential Modernism traces the historic development of modern form, starting with the post-World War I philosophical and artistic search for Utopia. It investigates the role of the factory and mass production in modernization, as well as the social and political agendas of different art movements, including Cubism, Futurism, De Stijl, Purism, Suprematism, Constructivism and Precisionism. Its chapters examine themes of the modern world, Utopia, the modern art movements and the modern look, the International Style, modern photography and film, Modernism in America and the end of Modernism. The importance of the Bauhaus is also addressed, along with the spread of Modernism from its origins in Europe to the United States.

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Modernism: Designing a New World

Modernism: Designing a New World first book to explore Modernism in the designed world from a truly international perspective, and across all the arts. Featuring contributions from leading scholars in the field and over 400 stunning illustrations, it offers a reassessment of the idea of Modernism and reveals the fundamental ways in which it has shaped our own world and its visual culture. The range of objects illustrated—including painting, sculpture, film, photography, prints and collage as well as architecture, interiors, furniture, manufactured products, graphic and fashion design—reflect the period's emphasis on the key role of the fine arts in shaping contemporary visual culture.

For more information, media may contact PR@corcoran.org or 202 639 1867.

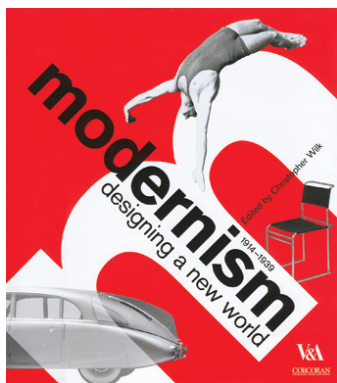


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