



## Le Corbusier: Ideas & Forms

By William J R Curtis

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**An expanded edition on the master of Modernism, *Le Corbusier*, by award-winning architectural historian William J. R. Curtis.**

Originally published in 1996 to critical fanfare, scholar William J.R. Curtis has reissued his classic text with extensive new scholarship and contemporary research that continues the high standard of the original. Presented chronologically with a clear narrative, Curtis has worked tirelessly not only to document Le Corbusier's key projects in detail but to contextualize them within the architect's overarching philosophy of urbanism and art and the pervading culture of Le Corbusier's time. With full access to the renowned Le Corbusier archive, Curtis' text is lavishly illustrated with new photographs, plans and original sketches and a fresh new design.

*Praise for the first edition:*

"This is not only the best single work on Le Corbusier – a model of scholarship, erudite yet eminently readable – it is also an invaluable analysis of the creative architectural process. It should be read and re-read by every student of architecture." – **Building Design**

"William J. R. Curtis is the best architectural historian writing in the English language." – **Chicago Tribune**

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## Le Corbusier: Ideas & Forms By William J R Curtis Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #1426031 in Books
- Brand: imusti
- Published on: 2015-04-20
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 12.50" h x 1.75" w x 10.00" l, 4.88 pounds
- Binding: Hardcover
- 512 pages

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## Editorial Review

From Library Journal

This thorough review of Le Corbusier (1887-1965), an inescapable force in 20th-century architecture, draws on masses of documentation now available and on a close viewing of the buildings themselves. Curtis has published several works on the architect, and this is a largely successful overview of the entire oeuvre, linking Le Corbusier's ideas and philosophy to the buildings. It is a carefully considered book, based on extensive thought and study of the vast documentation, addressed to the advanced student of modernism. Though the text at times is dense, the structure of the book is very clear and the design and layout are thoughtful and sympathetic. Highly recommended. Jack Perry Brown, Art Inst. of Chicago Libs. Copyright 1987 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Review

"Impressive ...Any committed bibliophile should splash out on this new, seductively hefty tome. ...A succinct over-view of one mans' determination to change the world ...We are fortunate to have Curtis' considered critique to vouchsafe Corb's rightful place in the architectural pantheon." —*RIAS Quarterly*

About the Author

William J. R. Curtis is an award-winning historian, critic, curator, painter and photographer. Educated at the Courtauld Institute of Art, London, and at Harvard University, he has taught the history of art, theories of design, and architecture at several universities worldwide: among others, Harvard; the Architectural Association, London; UNAM, Mexico City; ETSADB, Barcelona; Helsinki Institute of Technology; the Accadmeia, Mendrisio, Switzerland; and the University of Cambridge where he was Slade Professor of Fine Art from 2003–4. In addition to teaching history and theory, Curtis has been directly involved in architectural education in the studio and in juries. He has written historical, critical and theoretical texts on subjects as varied as modern objects, the process of design, historiography, visual education and criticism. His best known books include: the best-selling *Modern Architecture since 1900* (Phaidon 1982, second ed. 1987; fully revised third ed. 1996), and *Le Corbusier: Ideas and Forms* (Phaidon, 1996).

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