

Faculti Summary

<https://faculti.net/mies-contra-le-corbusier/>

This video discusses the author's research journey into modern architecture, emphasizing the influence of three architects, Frank Lloyd Wright, Le Corbusier and Mies van der Rohe, on the understanding of architectural development. The author recounts how their interest began during graduate studies in Iran and evolved through a PhD at the University of Pennsylvania, where they explored the philosophical implications of technology in architecture, particularly through the writings of philosophers like Martin Heidegger and Walter Benjamin.

A significant aspect of the author's work is the examination of the structural concept of the "domino frame," popularized by architect Le Corbusier, and its impact on modernist architecture. The author underscores how this concept challenges traditional masonry construction and facilitates new tectonic relationships between columns and walls, similar to historical architectural practices, such as those seen in Greek temples.

This video also introduces the idea of a historiographical dimension, focusing on the notion of "delay" in the appropriation of technology in architecture, arguing that not all architects of the same era fully embraced contemporary engineering methods. This video delay is portrayed as a critical historiographical concept to resist the oversimplified narrative of a unified architectural zeitgeist.

The author contrasts the approaches of significant modern architects, illustrating how their different uses of the domino frame reflect broader implications for architecture's future. The discussion includes the commodification of aesthetics in contemporary architecture and a critique of how present architectural education increasingly aligns with industry demands, often neglecting historical scholarship.

Ultimately, the author aims to contribute to architecture's historiography by analyzing the temporal discrepancies between the works of various architects, thereby enriching the discourse on modern architecture and its evolution.