

Zeitschrift: The Swiss observer : the journal of the Federation of Swiss Societies in the UK
Herausgeber: Federation of Swiss Societies in the United Kingdom
Band: - (1960)
Heft: 1354

Artikel: A great architect
Autor: [s.n.]
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-686762>

Nutzungsbedingungen

Die ETH-Bibliothek ist die Anbieterin der digitalisierten Zeitschriften auf E-Periodica. Sie besitzt keine Urheberrechte an den Zeitschriften und ist nicht verantwortlich für deren Inhalte. Die Rechte liegen in der Regel bei den Herausgebern beziehungsweise den externen Rechteinhabern. Das Veröffentlichen von Bildern in Print- und Online-Publikationen sowie auf Social Media-Kanälen oder Webseiten ist nur mit vorheriger Genehmigung der Rechteinhaber erlaubt. [Mehr erfahren](#)

Conditions d'utilisation

L'ETH Library est le fournisseur des revues numérisées. Elle ne détient aucun droit d'auteur sur les revues et n'est pas responsable de leur contenu. En règle générale, les droits sont détenus par les éditeurs ou les détenteurs de droits externes. La reproduction d'images dans des publications imprimées ou en ligne ainsi que sur des canaux de médias sociaux ou des sites web n'est autorisée qu'avec l'accord préalable des détenteurs des droits. [En savoir plus](#)

Terms of use

The ETH Library is the provider of the digitised journals. It does not own any copyrights to the journals and is not responsible for their content. The rights usually lie with the publishers or the external rights holders. Publishing images in print and online publications, as well as on social media channels or websites, is only permitted with the prior consent of the rights holders. [Find out more](#)

Download PDF: 13.08.2025

ETH-Bibliothek Zürich, E-Periodica, <https://www.e-periodica.ch>

A GREAT ARCHITECT

(This interesting article, which appeared in the "Sunday Times", is herewith reproduced by courtesy of the Editor.)

Youth is the age of certainty. For most of us age is apt to bring doubts. We begin to think that there may be something in the other fellow's ideas. No more than a glimmer, perhaps, but something.

Not so for the genial septuagenarian Le Corbusier. Yearly he grows more assertive and self-confident, and, unlike most elderly pontificators, who are apt to get short shrift from the young, Le Corbusier's admirers got younger and more numerous. For them he is "the incomparable Corb." And because he is the most didactic architect alive, and seems to know all the answers — and all the epithets — they have made him their symbol of revolt against what they consider fuddy-duddy architecture.

But few reputations grow by words alone, and Le Corbusier's achievements have been considerable. He contributed a major part towards the final plans for the United Nations headquarters in New York, yet wasn't involved in the final building, reputedly because he was intractable. He has designed, at Marseilles and Nantes, mammoth blocks of his "Unité" flats, which are, for thousands of architectural students, blueprints of an urban "utopia" (his own words) and, for others, the supreme housing follies of our

time. With two English architects, Maxwell Fry and Jane Drew, he has designed a brand new capital city, Chandigarh, for East Punjab. At Ronchamp, in Eastern France, he has designed the strangest post-war chapel in Europe — to some, a holy use of mundane concrete, sheer blasphemy to other.

Scarcely more than fifty of his reputed 1,500 projects have been built, yet he has never been busier than now, and never had so wide an influence.

Le Corbusier was born in La Chaux-de-Fonds, a Swiss watch-making centre, in 1887, and forsook his name of Charles Edouard Jeanneret for that of Le Corbusier when he began his professional career. He has been artist, publisher, editor, writer, pamphleteer, propagandist, but his world-fame rests securely on the fact that he is the most controversial architect and theorist since Palladio.

THE FLORAL HOUSE

ELSIE FINGER (SWISS)

237 JUNCTION ROAD, TUFNELL PARK, LONDON, N.19
Phone: ARChway 3711 (NORTH 5942 out of business hours)

FLOWERS FOR ALL OCCASIONS

As a member of Interflora, we can arrange for Flowers to be delivered any time, anywhere in the World.



Illustration shows part of Rolstore installation at Northern Assurance Co's Record Office, at Moorgate, London

**Up to 50% more
profitable space
by putting your
Storage on Wheels**

— YES, that's what
ROLSTORE Mobile Unit Storage
can give you, by reducing wasted gangway
space to the barest minimum while giving
instant access to every bin or rack.

POST THIS COUPON NOW!

SEND ME FULLY DESCRIPTIVE LITERATURE
ON ROLSTORE MOBILE UNIT STORAGE.

Name

Company

Address

ACROW ROLSTORE
DIVISION

SOUTH WHARF, LONDON, W.2.

AMBassador 3456 (20 lines)