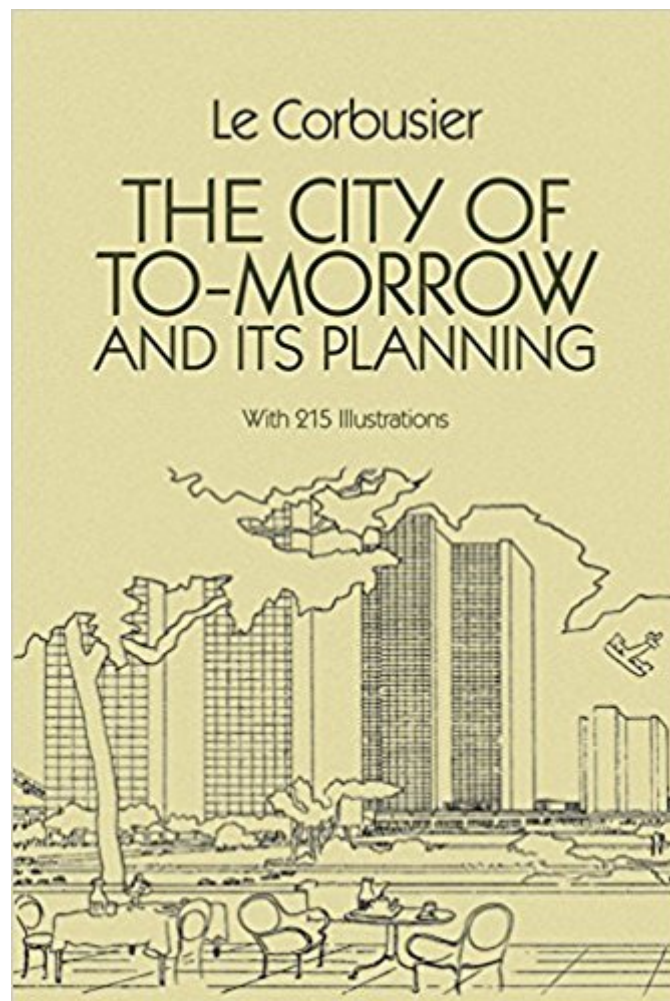




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The City Of To-morrow And Its Planning (Dover Architecture)



Synopsis

In this 1929 classic, the great architect Le Corbusier turned from the design of houses to the planning of cities, surveying urban problems and venturing bold new solutions. The book shocked and thrilled a world already deep in the throes of the modern age. Today it is revered as a work that, quite literally, helped to shape our world. Le Corbusier articulates concepts and ideas he would put to work in his city planning schemes for Algiers, São Paulo, Rio de Janeiro, Buenos Aires, Barcelona, Geneva, Stockholm, and Antwerp, as well as schemes for a variety of structures from a museum in Tokyo to the United Nations buildings. The influence it exerted on a new generation of architects is now legendary. The City of To-morrow and Its Planning characterizes European cities as a chaos of poor design, inadequate housing, and inefficient transportation that grew out of the unplanned jumble of medieval cities. Developing his thesis that a great modern city can only function on a basis of strict order, Le Corbusier presents two imposing schemes for urban reconstruction – the "Voisin" scheme for the center of Paris, and his more developed plans for the "City of Three Million Inhabitants," which envisioned, among other things, 60-story skyscrapers, set well apart, to house commercial activities, and residential housing grouped in great blocks of "villas." For those who live in cities as well as anyone interested in their planning, here is a probing survey of the problems of modern urban life and a master architect's stimulating vision of how they might be solved, enlivened by the innovative spirit and passionate creativity that distinguished all of Le Corbusier's work.

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Customer Reviews

Text: English, French (translation)

Swiss-born architect, urban planner, sculptor, painter, and writer Le Corbusier (1887-1956), born Charles-Édouard Jeanneret, was one of the most influential architects of the twentieth century and one of the leading figures of architectural modernism.

I am glad LeCorbusier never built a city where all the roads would be underground and watering cans would be illegal. A very strange man.

The French architect Le Corbusier (1887-1965; born in Switzerland as Charles Edouard Jeanneret) wrote this book in 1929, in which he proposed what he called the "Radiant City." Unlike Ebenezer Howard (Garden Cities of To-morrow) and Frank Lloyd Wright (The Natural House), Corbusier supported industrialization and the machine as inevitable, glorified plain skyscrapers ("New York is wrong, but the skyscraper remains a noble instrument"), while enthusiastically supporting modern engineering methods and the use of synthetic building materials. He begins the Foreword by stating, "A Town is a tool. Towns no longer fulfil this function. They are ineffectual... A city! It is the grip of man upon nature. It is a human operation directed against nature, a human organism both for protection and for work. It is a creation." He asserts that town planning "is bound to become one of the burning questions of the day." "The city of to-day is a dying thing because it is not geometrical. To build in the open would be to replace our present haphazard arrangements, which are all we have to-day, by a uniform lay-out. Unless we do this there is no salvation. The result of a true geometrical lay-out is repetition." He concludes, "Therefore the existing centres must come down. To save itself, every great city must rebuild its centre." Rather than wasting time by commuting to the city, each apartment block would contain services such as child care and food preparation. His philosophy of efficiency and simplicity in form and functionality (perhaps exemplified in his prefabricated apartment buildings, and predilection for reinforced concrete) were highly influential in the United States (he was one of the architects who designed the United Nations building, for example), as well as elsewhere. He observes, "immense industrial undertakings do not require great men. Such works are carried out in the same way as rain fills a water-butt, drop by drop; and the men who bring them to completion are small, like raindrops, and not great like torrents.... The torrent

is in MANKIND, it is not the individuals themselves."In conclusion, he writes, "I invent no utopia in which to build my city. I assert that its proper place is here, and nothing will remove it. If I affirm this so categorically it is because I am aware of our human limitations, aware that we have not the power to begin all over again build our City as we will elsewhere. To desire such a thing is to be reactionary, and to persist in it would make the whole scheme an impossibility. Therefore it must be here."

Very interesting. Must read and must have for planners.

This book written in 1924, shows you how cities came about, how they evolved over time. how architecture evolved from roman, threw the middle ages to what we have to day. The single best "over view" book on what cities are, and should be mandatory in all high school and collage civics / government / world history classes. The illustrations in this book look like modern sky scrapers... till you notice the WWI biplane flying past. A man ahead of his time and still ahead of our modern cities.

When i bought the book i didnt realize it was so old (it was 42 years old!!!!) I love surprises!!! The book was in AWESOME condition, no scratches, not dents, no anything!!! I'm extremely happy with what i received!

Very nice & easy to read & informative

good price, fast delivery

Le Corbusier has a dream for Paris, and it is a really interesting and unusual one. He creates a model for the cities, and his model has been living for almost a century. Although, you may reject to see it built, put aside living in it, it is a complete (well, almost complete) model. In this book, Le Corbusier presents his model city in detail from streets to building codes. He not only talks about the physical structure, but also the life style it would create. The mass of the city scares you, but you admire how he defends his vision, which is strong and bold, just like the book itself.

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