

**International—1935 to present**

International style architecture was part of the Modern Art movement, and evolved from the Bauhaus School during the 1920s and 1930s. It relied on pure geometric forms, with ornamentation stripped from facades to reveal the essential line and curve that defines space. The International style is predominantly found in the large-scale commercial application of skyscrapers and office buildings, and less often in residential architecture (as pictured left and below).

Buildings constructed in this style are characterized by flat, unadorned planes for roofs, walls, and windows. Composition is often asymmetrical, with interesting contrasts between flat planes and curved elements. Strong horizontal lines are apparent in the arrangement of windows and other design features.

The building materials used were utilitarian, typically incorporating concrete, glass, and aluminum. Revealing the skeleton frame of a building was commonly used as an integral part of the building design. Windows were often metal framed casements, arranged in horizontal bands. Where color was used, it was subtle; many buildings were designed to be white or neutral, with black or gray contrasting elements.



Originally started in Europe, primarily with the Bauhaus School, the style had many significant architects. European architects included Le Corbusier, Mies van der Rohe, and Walter Gropius. Significant American architects include R.M. Schindler, Richard Neutra (the VDL Research house shown above, located at 2300 Silverlake Boulevard, was Neutra's own home), and Phillip Johnson. Many of the famous skyscrapers in the United States are in the International style, including the Sears Tower and the John Hancock Center in Chicago, and the Transamerica Building in San Francisco.

***Common Features***

- Utilitarian materials such as concrete, steel, and glass
- Flat, smooth surfaces, and flat unadorned planes
- Use of ribbon windows, often meeting at corners
- Rounded corners incorporated
- Metal frame fixed and casement windows

- No window or door trim

**Windows**

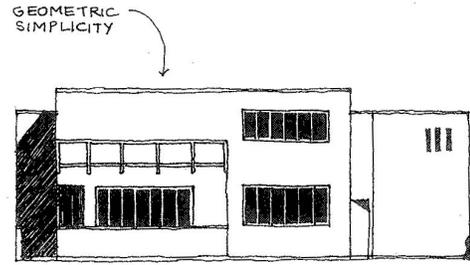
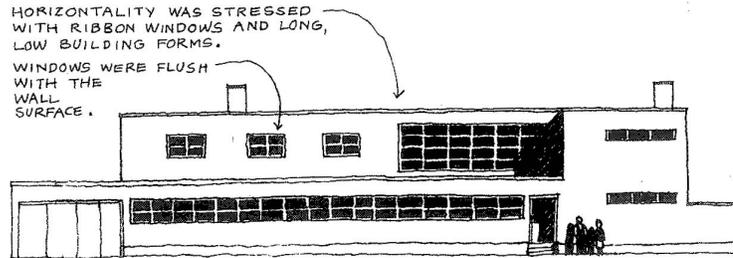
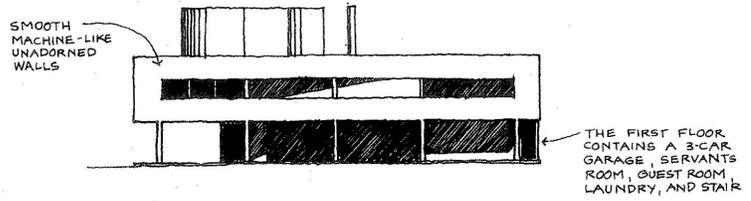
Windows were typically individual casement, or fixed glass single-paned windows, with metal frames.

**Doors**

Doors were typically simple, and could include glass panels.

**Colors**

Homes were typically painted white with either a second color or no color (factory finish, usually anodized aluminum) on the window frames.



**Typical International Architectural Features**