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# Toward An Architecture (Getty Research Institute)



## Synopsis

Published in 1923, *Toward an Architecture* had an immediate impact on architects throughout Europe and remains a foundational text for students and professionals. Le Corbusier urges readers to cease thinking of architecture as a matter of historical styles and instead open their eyes to the modern world. Simultaneously a historian, critic, and prophet, he provocatively juxtaposes views of classical Greece and Renaissance Rome with images of airplanes, cars, and ocean liners. Le Corbusier's slogans—such as “the house is a machine for living in” and philosophy changed how his contemporaries saw the relationship between architecture, technology, and history. This edition includes a new translation of the original text, a scholarly introduction, and background notes that illuminate the text and illustrations.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

“A new translation by John Goodman with an introduction by the architectural historian Jean-Louis Cohen will allow architecture buffs to experience Le Corbusier's manifesto in its full glory. The New York Times Chosen as a Favorite Book of 2007 by the Art and Architecture Critics of The New York Times “If modern architecture has a bible, it is *Vers une Architecture*. Dwell “Bursting with passion, wit and aphorisms . . . this seminal polemic is well worth reading (or rereading) for Le Corbusier's incisive analysis of early 20th Century architecture . . . Jean-Louis Cohen's scholarly introduction sheds fresh light on what exactly Le Corbusier was up to when he juxtaposed pictures of the

Parthenon and modern roadsters on the book's lively pages. Chicago Tribune "The restoration of missing passages, of Le Corbusier's idiosyncratic use of language, of key terms, of typography, and even of the original title is refreshing and timely." Artforum

Jean-Louis Cohen is the Sheldon H. Solow Chair in the History of Architecture at New York University's Institute of Fine Arts. He has written extensively on Le Corbusier's work. John Goodman is a translator and art historian. He has rendered some thirty books from French into English.

Excellent Translation. Needed this for class and I was pleased that it has actually helped understand the influence of Le Corbusier on modern architecture.

This version of *Vers une architecture* translation in English is far superior to all others used in Architecture 101. The images alone are worth the book. Also, the book is nicely sized for visual clarity. Had I known, I'd have recommended this book for my Arch101 class. Of course, it was not printed when I did my Arch101 a few years back and used one that was all text and awful. The book is well designed and uses what the content teaches upon itself.

Great value on this 'classic' reference. Nicely bound and a very good interpretation of Le Corbusier. Would recommend this book as a foundation for all students of architecture.

Le Corbusier is an amazing architect. One, in which I learn from forever. This book is elegantly made by the Getty Research Center and is a treasure to have.

There are a few versions out there of *Towards An Architecture*, but this one seems to be fairly complete, easy to read and well translated.

Super.!!

A+

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