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ABSTRACT

CONTINUED
below

LE CORBUSIER'S "REGULATING LINES" FOR THE VILLA AT GARCHES (1927) P. O
AND OTHER EARLY ARCHITECTURAL WORKS

Roger Herz-Fischler

In a previous article the author discussed the theoretical basis for Le Corbusier's early "Purist" paintings and pointed out that he did not use the "golden number" at that time. On the other hand, Le Corbusier indicates in his Oeuvre complète that he used the "golden number" for the villa at Garches and thus this paper addresses itself to the question of determining what exactly were Le Corbusier's methods of proportion in his architectural works and in particular what he did at Garches.

By the use of documents at the Fondation Le Corbusier it is shown that the "regulating lines" for Garches indicated in the Oeuvre complète date from at least one and one half years after the period when Garches was designed and do not agree with those in the only early drawing which has regulating lines. This contradiction led to an examination of other drawings with regulating lines and in several examples we again found a discrepancy between versions.

It is to Le Corbusier's writings that we must turn to understand his method. From them we conclude that the regulating lines were not used to design buildings but rather as a method for modifying or confirming his original plans. Further, Le Corbusier did not feel that only one set of lines would fit a given structure. The plans for Garches must be understood in this light. When Le Corbusier took up the "golden number" he simply used it, after the fact, to further confirm his work at Garches. It is this later confirmation that we see in the Oeuvre complète.

darker on the photocopies made from the original photos. In particular in figure 4 (#10505), which represents the original "regulating line" drawing for Garches, many of the original lines were very faint or invisible in parts.

Herz-Fischler - "Le Corbusier"

List of illustrations

Fig. 1. Le Corbusier's system of equilateral triangles with the "place of the right angle".

Fig. 2. Le Corbusier. Villa at Garches. Northern elevation. Atelier number 1086. Drawing made in September 1928. (Le Corbusier Foundation, Paris).

Fig. 3. Le Corbusier. Villa at Garches. Southern elevation. Atelier number 1087. Drawing made in September 1928 (Le Corbusier Foundation, Paris).

Fig. 4. Le Corbusier. Villa at Garches. Northern and southern elevations. Sketch made in the second half of 1926 (Le Corbusier Foundation, Paris).

Fig. 5. Le Corbusier. Villa at Garches. Northern and southern elevations. Sketches made in late 1929 or 1930 (Le Corbusier, Précisions sur un état présent de l'architecture et de l'urbanisme, Paris, 1930, 72).

Fig. 6. Le Corbusier's three types of systems of regulating lines.

PUBLISHED EXAMPLES OF REGULATING LINES

(A blank space means the work is not mentioned, a dash means that no regulating lines are shown. For TR1, TR2, TR3 see fn. 20. for L'Architecture Vivante, fn. 26)

WORK	DATE	OC	ARCHIVES	TR1	TR2	TR3	Arch. Vivante
Capital - Rome	1914(?)			p.571	p.60		
Petit Trianon - Versailles	?			p.571	p.61		
Villa Schwab	1916		-	p.572	p.61		
Villa à Vaucresson	1922	-	N° 9225, 9238				
Maison Ozenfant	1922	-	N° 7848, 7849, 7850		p.62		
Maisons La Roche-Jeaneret	1923	p.68	N° 15183, 15232, 15255		p.64		Automne-hiver 1926, 11
Maison Ribot	1923		N° 19149				
Petite maison d'artistes à Boulogne	1926	-	?				Automne-hiver 1926, 14
Villa à Garches	1927	p.144	N° 10453, 10454, 10505			p.17	TR3
Deux maisons à Stuttgart	1927 1927			?		p.12, 19	TR3
Mundaneum	1929			?		p.21	TR3