The Rietveld Schröder House

A presentation by Ken-Albert Orwa

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Built in 1924 by Gerrit Thomas Rietveld for Ms Truus Schröder-Schrader. Thus the name: ‘Rietveld-Schröder House’ in Utrecht, Netherlands.
Purpose

- A family house
- Rietveld and Schröder shared common interest in modern art and architecture
- Ms Schröder lived in the house for 60 years and died in 1985
- On 2nd December 2000, the house was declared a national heritage.
- It is currently a museum
The ground floor of the house in the first years.
The design kept changing depending on Ms Schröder’s preferences.
She basically wanted enough space to be able to relate with her 3 children.
Architectural Style

- Neo-Plasticism; also called the ‘De Stijl Movement’
- Gerrit Rietveld used concepts of The De Stijl Movement as inspiration for his works

De Stijl

- Founded by Piet Mondrian
- Its concepts are simplicity in design
- This gave rise to modern architecture
Rietveld applying Neo-Plasticism

The design of the house consists of straight lines, geometric shapes and the use of red, blue, yellow, black and white.
Structure of the house

- It has 2 floors
- The top floor is where the living room was, and the adjustable walls
- Its walls are brick covered with plaster
- Floors, roof and window frames are wood
- Concrete pillars support the house and its 3 balconies
This is the first floor of the house.

Neo-Plasticism also involved the economic use of space.
A ‘speaking chute’
One would speak into it from outside, and the sound goes reaches the house’s living room through the other end of the tube (shown below)
The Architect

Gerrit Rietveld was born in June 24, 1888 in Utrecht.
His father was a carpenter, so he practiced carpentry first.
He was already interested in the De Stijl.
One of his creations as a carpenter is the famous ‘Red and Blue chair’
The Architect

- He later began to study architecture
- The Rietveld Schröder House was his first building
- He still designed furniture after acquiring skills in architecture
- He died on 25th June 1964 aged 76 in Utrecht
The Architect – other works

The Van Gogh Museum

The zigzag chair
References

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