Le Corbusier
Polychromie Architecturale

Interactive seminar
Polychrome
Adolf Wilhelm Keim

Founder of Keimfarben

Born: 25th March 1851 Munich Germany

Died: 5th September 1913 Munich Germany

trained Potter and also scientist

was interested in pigments and developed an longer lasting colour used by Bauhaus and also Le Corbusier

how he made the colours Le corbusier used

Potassium silicate and water mixed with mixed with pigment such as alkaline potash and/or ammonia finished with waterglass (sodium silicate)
“The History of architecture is the history of the struggle for light.” Le Corbusier
“These Keyboards of Colour aim at stimulating personal selection, by placing the task of choosing on a sound systematic basis. In my opinion they offer a method of approach which is accurate and effective, one which makes it possible to plan, in the modern home, colour harmonies which are definitely architectural and yet suited to the natural taste and needs of the individual.” (Le Corbusier)
Le Corbusier - *Maison du Brésil*

Type: University Hall  
Location: Paris, France 1957 / Refurbished in 2000

"Architecture is a learned game, correct and magnificent, of forms assembled in the light." Le Corbusier
Compositions for tapisserie

Maquette pour tapisserie de la Haute-Cour de Chandigarh (à l'échelle), 1954

Maquette pour tapisserie de la Haute-Cour de Chandigarh (à l'échelle), 1954

Composition avec photo de la bombe H, 1952

Mathematics

http://www.fondationlecorbusier.fr
Multi-Media Artworks

Etude abstractisée à partir du portrait de femme. Etude pour mains croisées sur la tête, 1939

La main et la boîte d'allumettes, 1932

Deux bouteilles et le coquetier, 1939

Saint Sulpice, 1931

http://www.fondationlecorbusier.fr
Multi-Media Artworks


2. Composition avec photo de la bombe H, 1952

2. Etude tableau Divinités marines, 1933

1. https://the189.com/furniture/sculpture-by-le-corbusier/
“Space and light and order. Those are the things that men need just as much as they need bread or a place to sleep.” Le Corbusier
COMPOSITIONS
Le Corbusier`s colours are a matte, velvety surface, which grasps hold of an unimagined colour depth. These colours have been created with precision and skill, by utilising the perfect colour pigments to form 63 colours. Le Corbusier has formed two colour collections. One in 1931 and one in 1959. Amongst these two collections there are 63 colour shades which all embody specific spatial or human effects. His collection created in 1931, 43 colour shades were created which forms colour collection from the monochrome Salubra Wallpaper Collection. All of the colours that Le Corbusier utilises he considers them very architectural. In 1959 he formed 20 more colour shades to make up his total of 63 shades all shown here. You see these colours throughout Le Corbusier's projects where he used white, natural wood or concrete against saturated bright colours to enhance form, volume and space. In the following slide we see his two collections together forming the 63 colour shades.
DIFFERENT TINTS/TONES AND SHADES FROM LE CORBUSIER
COMPANIES/BRANDS

Over time the amount of companies/brands which have gained full permission to provide and reproduce Le Corbusier’s colour palette from the Salubra Wallpapers has increased. To be able to create Corbusier’s colour palettes, you must have a huge amount of skill and also be authorised by the Le Corbusier Foundation. Katrin Trautwein and her team at KT Color have mastered all of the paints, and made sure they are crafted very carefully to provide the best of qualities. They are made of natural, non-toxic ingredients which is copied and reflects Corbusier’s strategic techniques, as he ground his own minerals and pigments from scratch to form the perfect palettes. The thing which differentiates KT Color from other companies/brands is the way they also use natural mineral pigments which creates the perfect matte finish making the colour have a velvety look even in the deepest of colours which is hard to achieve. KT Color has created a range of 81 pigments which match Le Corbusier’s polychromatic colour palettes.

Another company which has been authorised to use Le Corbusier’s Architectural Polychromy colour palette is KEIM. They believe that only certain partners are able to join with Le Corbusier in providing these colours in order for it to be high-quality. KEIM has put this palette under the name of “poLyChro®”, and have also created a depth of colour which portrays a matte, velvety surface. While creating the collection “poLyChro®”, it was controlled by Les Couleurs Suisse AG as the authorised rep of the Foundation Le Corbusier, Paris. After researching different companies which provide Le Corbusier’s colour schemes, I have realised that it is very difficult to be accepted into providing the colours as it needs to be perfected in the most precise way. All the companies end up with the same outcome, but what sets them apart from everyone else is the fact that they got accepted in the beginning to work alongside a great man who has a lot of talent. This will set them aside to other paint suppliers on the market since it shows the quality of the product people will be receiving and how much work has gone into forming these perfect colours.
COLOUR HARMONY & ANALOGOUS COLOURS

The analogous colour scheme utilised colours which are placed next to each other on the colour wheel. Majority of the time these colours go well together, and therefore are able to form comfortable designs which are pleasing to the eye. You would usually find analogous colours throughout nature, and therefore reflects Le Corbusier's work both in drawings, paintings, models and also exterior/interior designs, as he focused intensely on the idea of bringing nature back into the developed world.

Le Corbusier believed that future generations “must keep in view the aim of taking man back to nature”, and therefore “bring new light into the individual’s life.” Emma Dummett explained throughout her thesis ‘Green space and cosmic order: Le Corbusier’s understanding of nature’ that Le Corbusier’s phrase of “taking the man back to nature” means that he noticed the natural world and human life were getting more and more alienated from one another from the 19th Century Industrial City developments. In this case he believed that the 20th Century is the make or break moment and is the only century which will ever be able to repair what has been lost. Le Corbusier found himself searching for the perfect formulas within modern urban living that could restore the lost harmony between nature itself and our human race.
Conceptual Models
Conceptual Models 2
PLans and Sections

“Le Corbusier could direct or correct the spatial effect on both the psychological and physiological levels of perception…. He refused to totally relinquish closed space; instead he constantly moved back and forth between the poles of spatial dissolvement and spatial enclosure…. Hence by using colour and form in this way, opposing positions are often presented and as a result the architecture is charged with tension.”

Le Corbusier designed 75 buildings in a dozen countries, but also devised his own ‘architectural polychrome’ – a series of colours based on the harmonious use of nature. Le corbusier used sky blue and light sienna at shadow area; bright red and dark black were applied at sun-exposed area. Those colours made a strong visual effect and created a warm atmosphere in this house. Le corbusier especially focused on the colour transition and harmonic in his designs. The integration of colour and light makes the whole space balanced. He used color difference to separate the space between public area and private area. Also, he simplified the details on the floors and walls. He combined different colour pieces and to be a polychromatic space. At the same time, he took full advantage of sunlights which aims to get closer to the natural and expand the space from interior to outside. It can be shown in his design of windows and roof terrace.
Colours of Internal space

picture of 'cite de refuge'
picture of living room in Jaoul house B

picture of 'cite de refuge'
References

IMAGES

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