New Books on Le Corbusier


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There is life in the old dog yet. Forty years after the death of the author, and that of the architect Le Corbusier (1887–1965), weighty volumes are still emerging on the man labelled ‘architect of the century’ by the Arts Council in 1987.1 The disturbance caused by Le Corbusier to his contemporaries and succeeding generations lends an edge to much of the writing. The beauty and audacity of some of his buildings still have the power to muffle criticism. Above all, his refusal to stand still has made him an awkward target for all but the most ignorant critics.

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The sheer quantity and complexity of the archives are also significant. Despite the significant existing literature on Le Corbusier (more than on any other twentieth-century architect), the books considered here include...

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