

3rd INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF ART CRITICS

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" THE SOURCES OF ABSTRACT ART AND OF MODERN ARCHITECTURE IN HOLLAND "

Report of S. Giedion :

" THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STIJL MOVEMENT "

Architectural situation between 1910 and 1920 :

England, France, Germany, Northern Countries. Romantic trend going through Europe. Germany, Holland (represented by the School of Amsterdam). The outstanding role of architectural development in Holland : social laws and housing development. The influence of Berlage and F.L. Wright.

The Stijl :

Theo van Doesburg's function : An analytic spirit with a talent to express his ideas by new artistic means.

The magazine "Stijl" : Since 1917. Simultaneously with the Dada manifestations but giving place to all creative movements.

"L'Esprit nouveau" by Corbusier and Ozenfant (since 1919). More ambitious in size but the small leaflets of the Stijl of a more far reaching influence.

Architecture and Painting : The Stijl Review was one of the first which proclaimed the Oneness of art. Significance of the Exposition of the Stijl Group in Paris, October 1923. Doesburg and Van Eesteren showed a new spaceconception in architecture by means of models and by a new kind of representation. Never before it became so evident that this conception is based on the use of planes - accentuated by the use of different colours. The house is conceived as a flowing space, composed of interrelated and interpenetrated planes. Invention of the "X-Ray" representation of the house : Theoretical Backbone of Contemporary architecture. The relations of the Stijl movement with Mies van der Rohe, Corbusier, Neutra. Significance of experiment on theoretical foundation in present day architecture. Relation with painting. Presentday attitude towards the Stijl Movement.