



Architectural Styles: Modernism

In the early twentieth century, **functionalism** swept the architectural world. Architects adopted the phrase “**form follows function**” as a design principle. They favored stark, **efficient** designs. These ideas fueled **Modernism**.

Architects like Frank Lloyd Wright and Le Corbusier embraced simplicity and function in their designs.

Le Corbusier famously said, “A house is a **machine** for living in.” In other words, a building’s primary function is to be useful, much like a car or telephone.

Indeed, the new technology of the day inspired modern designs. Materials were very **industrial**. Architects used iron, steel, concrete, **sheet glass**, and **monolithic** stone. They believed in the principle of **truth to materials**. They didn’t try to hide the natural appearance of their materials. As such, many modern structures are beige, gray, white, or black.

Bauhaus was one of the earliest and most influential architectural schools. Throughout the 1920s and 1930s, Bauhaus architects created buildings with simple shapes and flat surfaces. They featured **open plans** that lacked **decoration**.

Bauhaus later evolved into **International Style**. This style employed frequent use of **transparency**. Architects created “curtain walls” out of glass. In the 1950s, **Brutalism** would reject this trend. Instead, Brutalist architects used concrete and brick. They wanted their work to feel heavy and substantial, not light and airy.

- 1 What are some design characteristics of modern architecture?
- 2 What are some materials used in modern architecture?

2 Read the textbook chapter. Then, complete the table.

Architectural Style	Design feature
Bauhaus	1 _____
2 _____	Frequent use of transparency
Brutalism	3 _____

Vocabulary

3 Match the words (1-8) with the definitions (A-H).

1	efficient	5	transparency
2	machine	6	functionalism
3	decoration	7	Brutalism
4	monolithic	8	International Style

- A a mechanical device that is designed to perform a particular function
- B not wasteful of materials or energy
- C a style that used substantial materials and repetitive shapes
- D design element that makes something more visually appealing
- E the quality of being easy to see through
- F an architectural principle that focuses on purpose rather than appearance
- G made or appearing to be made with a single, large stone
- H a school that rejected designs linking a structure to a specific location

4 Write a word or phrase that is similar in meaning to the underlined part.

- 1 The architect’s motto is “the building’s shape should be based on how it is used.”
____r____o l____s ____u____t i____
- 2 The school that combined art and technology started in Germany in 1919.
____u a____
- 3 The designer prefers bare, minimal designs instead of elaborate ones.
____t____
- 4 The movement that emphasized function and simplicity lasted until the 1960s.
____d e____s____
- 5 The single large space instead of numerous small rooms makes the building feel bigger.
____e____p____
- 6 Architects believed in the notion of “using materials in their natural form.”
____u t____a e____a____

Choose the correct answer. (Escribir la letra minúscula de la respuesta correcta en el espacio dado)

1. I'm afraid it seems that the pipe has _____ and that's what caused the leak.
a) corrupted b) corroded c) counteracted d) corrected
2. In order to build the bridge, the company had to _____ quite a bit of land from the sea.
a) disperse b) return c) construct d) reclaim
3. More than 30 million working days _____ in this country last year because of staff illness.
a) lost b) were lost c) were losing d) have lost
4. The sub-sea engineers _____ down to the seabed tomorrow to examine the oil pipes.
a) are will dive b) will dive c) is diving d) will diving
5. The motorbikes _____ by robots, but hand-painted by craftsmen.
a) are assembled b) assemble c) assembled d) are assembling
6. In a warehouse, hand trucks must never _____ behind you if you are walking down a ramp. The truck might roll down the ramp and injure you.
a) to pull b) be pulling c) pull d) be pulled
7. If your mobile phone has lost its signal, why _____ it outside the tunnel?
a) you are not use b) you don't use c) do you use d) don't you use
8. "Have you written your safety inspection report yet?" "Yes, _____ it."
a) I now write b) I'm still writing c) I've already written d) I'm plan to write
9. The safety inspectors _____ your oil platform tomorrow.
a) will visited b) will be visited c) to visit d) will visit
10. Nowadays, car bodies _____ by robots, but checked by human workers.
a) paint b) painted c) are painting d) are painted