

INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION OF LE CORBUSIER'S ARCHITECTURAL WORK

KEY INFORMATION

World Heritage, Cultural Route: a practical guide

This resource is intended for teams at Le Corbusier sites (managers, guides, communications officers, elected representatives, partners, etc.), to provide them with a shared framework for understanding and explaining Le Corbusier's architectural work.

17 JULY 2016

INSCRIPTION ON THE UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE LIST

*of The Architectural Work of Le Corbusier,
an Outstanding Contribution to the Modern Movement*

The monitoring and management of this transnational property, consisting of 17 works spread across 7 countries and 3 continents, is carried out by an International Standing Conference composed of representatives from the 7 States Parties concerned.

OUTSTANDING UNIVERSAL VALUE (OUV)

*Outstanding Universal Value is the core concept
underpinning the World Heritage Convention.*

A property possesses an OUV when the values it embodies transcend borders, cultures and eras. Beyond languages, religions or countries, it symbolically belongs to the history of Humanity and the Earth, today and for future generations. This is why its preservation and transmission are collective responsibilities.

In the context of 20th-century architecture, Le Corbusier's architectural work breaks with academic styles to propose architecture and urban planning based on the needs of modern society, offering new responses to the social transformations of the century. Created over nearly fifty years and across several continents, these projects demonstrate a universal scope and a lasting influence on architecture, urban planning and ways of life. Together, they underpin the property's Outstanding Universal Value.

THE CRITERIA JUSTIFYING THE OUV OF LE CORBUSIER'S ARCHITECTURAL WORK

- It represents a major achievement of human genius,
- It bears witness to an unprecedented exchange of influences, that spread across the globe over half a century,
- It is an exceptional reflection of the Modern Movement's attempts to invent a new architectural language, to modernise techniques, and to meet the social and human needs of modern man.

29 MAY 2019

CERTIFICATION OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE'S CULTURAL ROUTE *Destinations Le Corbusier: Architectural Promenades*

The Association of Le Corbusier Sites, with the support of the Fondation Le Corbusier, organizes and develops, from France, cultural and tourism projects and exchanges between nearly 30 sites in Europe and beyond.

THE VALUES OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE IN THE WORK OF LE CORBUSIER

The humanist dimension is central to Le Corbusier's work. His projects seek to meet the fundamental needs of modern man: housing, work, mobility and cultural enrichment. This focus on living conditions is reflected in large-scale urban projects as well as in social or experimental schemes, such as the Unité d'habitation, the Cité de Refuge or the concept of minimal housing.

The international scope of his work also illustrates a universalist approach. As he traveled the world to disseminate his ideas, present his projects, write and build, Le Corbusier contributed to the major debates of the 20th century on cities and housing.

These principles echo the values upheld by the Council of Europe – respect for human dignity, access to culture, dialogue between peoples and international cooperation – which are expressed in the sites of the *Destinations Le Corbusier: Architectural Promenades* route. Visiting these sites allows the public to discover, compare and understand their history and their contribution to shaping the Europe of today and tomorrow.

52 CERTIFIED ROUTES BY 2026 COVERING 4 THEMES:

- History and civilisations, e.g. *The Liberation Route Europe* (2019)
- Arts and architecture, e.g. *Alvar Aalto Route, 20th-century architecture and design* (2021)
- Religious heritage, e.g. *Via Francigena* (1994)
- Landscape and crafts, e.g. *Iter Vitis, The Wine Routes* (2009)

FOCUS ON WORLD HERITAGE

1945

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) is a specialized agency of the United Nations. It runs several international programmes such as Intangible Cultural Heritage, Biosphere Reserves, Memory of the World and, of course, the World Heritage programme*.

1972

Through the World Heritage Convention, 196 countries commit to preserving, for the benefit of Humanity, the internationally recognized heritage properties located within their territories. This convention arose from the mobilization of states and experts worldwide to preserve the temples threatened by the construction of the Aswan Dam in Egypt. The World Heritage List is drawn up by the World Heritage Committee**, which meets once a year and decides whether a site is accepted for inscription on the List, following the advice of the advisory bodies***.

2000

In the early 2000s, the Fondation Le Corbusier and the French government initiated a nomination aimed at better representing 20th-century architecture, which was then under-represented, on the World Heritage List. It soon became clear that the global significance of Le Corbusier's work called for a transnational serial inscription, that is, a collective nomination of sites whose universal value lies in their overall coherence, in this case spanning several continents.

2010

The ASLC was established to bring together and mobilise local authorities and their elected representatives. The aim was to assist with the coordination and implementation of local management plans, which had become mandatory for inscription.

2016

Following around ten years of collaborative work between the Fondation Le Corbusier, experts from the States Parties and local authorities, the Series has been inscribed on the World Heritage List.

*So be careful not to confuse them! Referring to "UNESCO heritage" without specifying which programme is being discussed makes it unclear which one is being referred to.

**Not to be confused with the World Heritage Centre, which is responsible for the day-to-day management of the Convention!

*** ICOMOS for cultural properties, IUCN for natural properties.

2026 figures

1 273 properties

51
transnational
properties

240
natural properties

58
properties in danger

991
cultural
properties

42
mixed
properties

3
properties removed
from the List

BEWARE OF CONFUSION

Inscription is not guaranteed!

In 2021, for example, "Liverpool – Maritime Mercantile City" was removed from the List due to several developments within the property and its buffer zone (the adjacent area that contributes to the site's protection), which "undermined the authenticity and integrity of the site".

Inscription is not a certification or a label to attract tourists!

It is an international cultural recognition that follows a lengthy process aimed at preserving sites for present and future generations.

Inscription is not a promise of funding!

Only emergency aid for threatened sites may be granted by the Rapid Response Facility (RRF).

THE SERIAL WORK, WHY THESE 17 SITES AND NOT OTHERS?

When compiling the nomination dossier, a set of requirements guided the selection of the 17 components:

- each component demonstrates a high level of authenticity and integrity,
- each component is in a good state of conservation,
- each component is protected under the national legislation of the country in which it is located,
- in the case of series (such as housing units, museums, etc.), only the prototype was selected,
- finally, each selected site makes a specific contribution to the Outstanding Universal Value (see the description of the sites on the reverse).



INSCRIPTION HAS BEEN GRANTED: WHAT NEXT? What it entails

Once the criteria for inscription have been met — demonstrating Outstanding Universal Value, ensuring the authenticity and integrity of the property, and presenting a suitable management plan — inscription on the World Heritage List becomes a long-term commitment. States Parties undertake to protect, conserve and pass on the inscribed properties to future generations, while balancing daily use, potential tourism activities and preservation.

In the case of a transnational serial property, these commitments rely on close cooperation between the different States and local managers, with each site contributing to the sustainability of the inscription as a whole.

FURTHER
READING!



FOCUS ON CULTURAL ROUTES

1949

The Council of Europe*, an intergovernmental organisation of 46 States, works to promote democracy, human rights and the rule of law throughout Europe and beyond. This legal framework is based on the European Convention on Human Rights.

1987

The Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe programme demonstrates, through journeys across time and space, how the heritage of different European countries contributes to our shared cultural heritage. Saint James Way was the very first certified Cultural Route.

2010

The Enlarged Partial Agreement (EPA)** was established to make Cultural Routes a tool for transnational cultural cooperation, intercultural dialogue and European citizenship. It brings together representatives from each member country of the agreement.

2016

The Architectural Work of Le Corbusier is inscribed on the World Heritage List. To build on this momentum beyond the 17 selected works, the Association of Le Corbusier Sites decides to submit an application to the European Cultural Routes programme, with the support of its members and the Fondation Le Corbusier.

2019

The *Destinations Le Corbusier: Architectural Promenades* route is certified to encourage students, families, enthusiasts and non-experts to discover Le Corbusier's architectural works in Europe and beyond.

* Do not confuse Council of Europe and European Union.

** Not to be confused with the European Institute of Cultural Routes, which is the programme's technical agency.

CRITERIA REQUIRED FOR CERTIFICATION AS A “COUNCIL OF EUROPE CULTURAL ROUTE”

Several criteria must be met in order to be certified (or recertified):

1. propose a theme that is representative of European values and shared by at least three countries,
2. be the subject of transnational and multidisciplinary scientific research,
3. promote European memory, history and heritage and contribute to the interpretation of Europe's diversity,
4. support cultural and educational exchanges for young people,
5. develop exemplary and innovative projects in the field of cultural tourism and sustainable cultural development,
6. develop tourism products and services.

BEWARE OF CONFUSION

Certification is not guaranteed! Every five years, the EPA assesses the routes. Almost every year, some routes lose their certification.

The terms “route” or “itinerary” can be misleading, because while there are “linear” routes such as Saint James Way, *Destinations Le Corbusier* is a “network-based” route.

WHAT EXACTLY IS THE PURPOSE OF CERTIFICATION?

A FRAMEWORK FOR COLLECTIVE ACTION

For member sites, certification primarily offers a European framework for cooperation. It enables stakeholders on the ground — elected representatives, site managers, mediation teams, communications officers, tourist offices, and local residents — to network around shared objectives.

This framework encourages professional exchanges, the sharing of experiences and the development of joint projects, while allowing each member the freedom to engage according to their own priorities and local context.

The ASLC General Assembly is an annual highlight for discussion and sharing among members.

A TOOL OF VISIBILITY AND COOPERATION

Certification enhances the visibility and legitimacy of the route and its members at European level. It makes it easier for European institutions, cultural networks and potential partners to identify them.

This framework can facilitate access to certain European funding schemes by making collective projects more visible and better aligned with European cultural and heritage priorities.

Thus, in recent years, the ASLC has on several occasions benefited from the support of the French Ministry of Culture for the development of collective projects.

CONCRETE PROJECTS IN THE SERVICE OF THE SITES

As part of the *Destinations Le Corbusier: Architectural Promenades* route, certification translates into concrete projects for cultural promotion, outreach and communication, collectively designed to benefit member sites and territories.

Some projects carried out in recent years:

- a travelling exhibition, *Destinations Le Corbusier: Architectural Promenades*, presented at nearly 10 sites over two years;
- shared outreach and communication tools (kits, educational resources);
- coordinated initiatives at European level (European Heritage Days).



The route thus provides a framework for shared projects, which sites can use to support and enrich their local initiatives. The development of these initiatives relies on the involvement of members. Without their initiative and motivation, the development of joint projects cannot succeed.

While the inscription on the World Heritage List recognises the Outstanding Universal Value of Le Corbusier's Architectural Work, to ensure its conservation and transmission to future generations, the Cultural Route of the Council of Europe certification provides an operational framework to promote it, share it and bring it to life at a local level.

FURTHER
READING!





The Association of Le Corbusier Sites was founded in Ronchamp in 2010 to bring together all the local authorities whose areas are home to Le Corbusier's architectural works.

ITS MISSIONS:

- To coordinate the network of local stakeholders committed to Le Corbusier's architectural work (local authorities, owners' and residents' associations, institutions that own or manage the sites, etc.);
- To encourage the sharing of experiences among members regarding the promotion, preservation and management of heritage;
- To develop and coordinate collective projects to promote the sites to the general public;
- To represent members' views to national and international World Heritage and Cultural Routes institutions (Fondation Le Corbusier, Ministry of Culture, Council of Europe, States Parties, etc.).

After supporting the World Heritage nomination, the ASLC has been managing and coordinating, since 2019, the *Destinations Le Corbusier: Architectural Promenades* Cultural Route in partnership with the Fondation Le Corbusier.

Association of Le Corbusier Sites

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Established in 1968 at the architect's initiative, the Fondation Le Corbusier, in accordance with its statutes and mission, devotes all its resources to the preservation, understanding and dissemination of Le Corbusier's work. It thus holds the economic and moral rights to his entire body of work.

AMONG ITS MISSIONS:

- Ensuring the conservation of Le Corbusier's work worldwide, in collaboration with owners, government departments, developers, experts, project managers, etc.;
- Promoting research by opening the architect's archives to all: researchers, students, architects, owners, etc.;
- To promote and disseminate the entirety of Le Corbusier's work;
- Make the sites it owns accessible (the Maisons La Roche et Jeanneret, Le Corbusier's apartment-studio, and the Petite Villa au bord du Lac Léman);
- To support and contribute to the work of the ASLC.

Having led and coordinated the application for inscription on the World Heritage List, it now serves as the secretariat for the International Standing Conference responsible for managing the Property.

Fondation Le Corbusier

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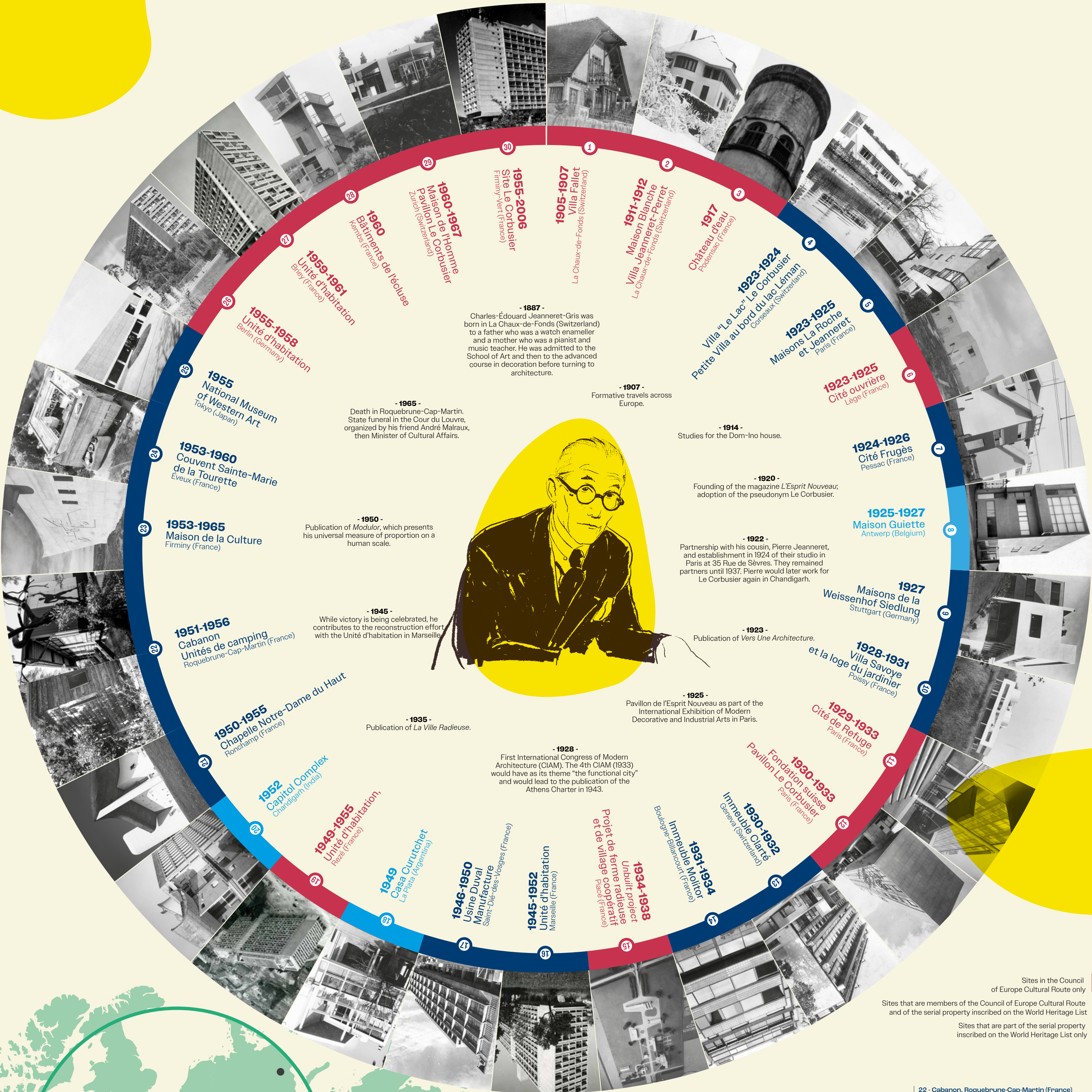
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PATIENT RESEARCH*

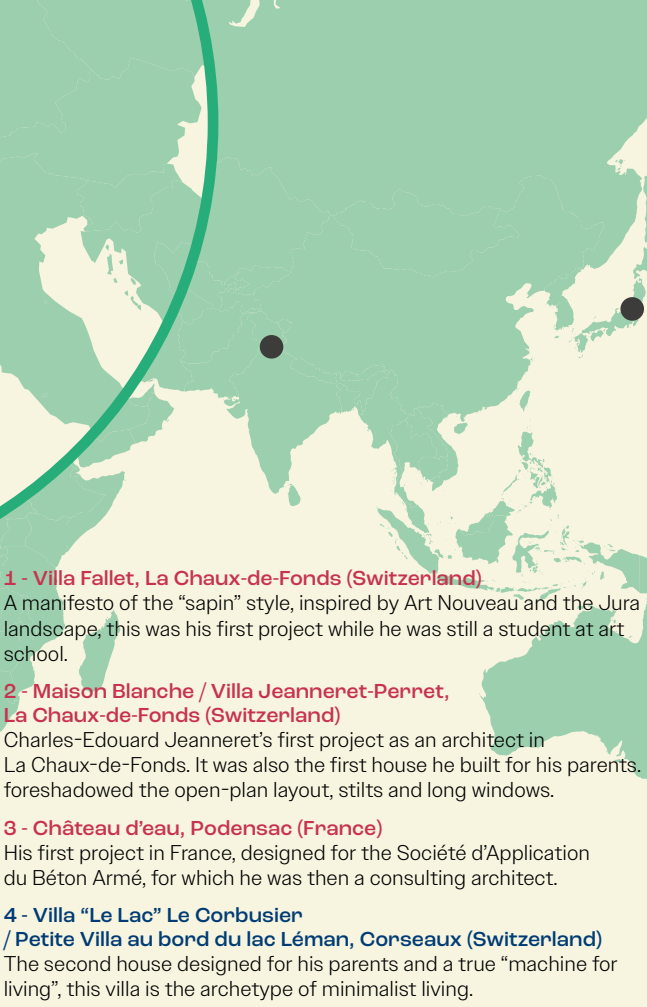
Between 1907 and 1965, Le Corbusier designed nearly 80 buildings around the world.

About 30 architectural works and complexes feature in the *Destinations Le Corbusier: Architectural Promenades* route, certified as a Cultural Route by the Council of Europe.

The serial property inscribed on the World Heritage List consists of 17 architectural works.



THE PLANET AS A CONSTRUCTION SITE**



- 5 - Maisons La Roche et Jeanneret, Paris (France)
Two terraced houses with very different designs express Purism in architecture for the first time, heralding the "five points" and the use of forms and color to structure space. The term "architectural promenade" is used for the first time.
- 6 - Cité de Lège et maison commune, Lège (France)
A complex of six houses and a building commissioned by Henry Frugès for the seasonal workers at his factory.
- 7 - Cité Frugès, Pessac (France)
A prototype of a standardised housing estate (50 detached houses commissioned by the industrialist who gave it its name), of a scale unmatched at the time, combining economy with spatial innovation.
- 8 - Maison Guiette, Antwerp (Belgium)
Commissioned as a studio-home by an avant-garde artist, it defies constraints and embodies the five principles of new architecture.
- 9 - Maisons de la Weissenhof-Siedlung, Stuttgart (Germany)
The architect Mies van der Rohe organized an exhibition dedicated to modern housing, bringing together 17 architects from the European avant-garde, including Le Corbusier, who published the "five points of a new architecture" for the occasion.
- 10 - Villa Savoye et la loge du jardinier, Poissy (France)
An absolute icon of the Modern Movement, immediately recognised as such, this private commission remains the one that best illustrates the Five points for a new architecture.
- 11 - Cité de Refuge, Paris (France)
The Salvation Army's first commission (following the extension to the Maison du Peuple and the refurbishment of the "Louise Catherine" barge) for the reception, accommodation and reintegration of homeless people.
- 12 - Fondation Suisse / Pavillon Le Corbusier, Paris (France)
A true laboratory of modern architecture combining both private and communal living for students at the Cité internationale universitaire de Paris.
- 13 - Immeuble Clarté, Geneva (Switzerland)
Stemming from Le Corbusier's reflections on the "villa-block" this building presents, for the first time, a prefabricated complex of modern luxury housing.
- 14 - Immeuble locatif à la Porte Molitor, Boulogne-Billancourt (France)
The world's first residential building with fully glazed façades and an innovative layout. Le Corbusier overturned the Haussmannian model by installing his own apartment on the top two floors.
- 15 - Unbuilt project "La Ferme radieuse et le village coopératif", Placé (France)
A project arising from a study of agrarian reorganisation, proposing a village and a "radiant farm" based on a cooperative model to regulate and rationalise production and rural life.
- 16 - Unité d'habitation, Marseille (France)
The culmination of over twenty years of research into housing, the links between the individual and the collective, and the role of nature in architecture and urban planning. A seminal work of architectural Brutalism.
- 17 - Manufacture, Saint-Dié-des-Vosges (France)
A prototype of the "Green Factory" that revolutionised working conditions (optimal organisation of work that respects employees' well-being).
- 18 - Casa Curutchet, La Plata (Argentina)
This house is designed to reconcile professional and private life. It reflects the global influence of the movement and bears witness to the internationalisation of the Modern Movement after the Second World War.
- 19 - Unité d'habitation, Rezé (France)
Born out of a spontaneous request from residents, organised as a private cooperative, for a 100-unit housing block, modeled on the one in Marseille, and meeting the standards for affordable housing.
- 20 - Capitol Complex, Chandigarh (India)
A masterpiece of monumental and sculptural architecture celebrating the independence of a nation that is simultaneously embracing freedom and modernity.
- 21 - Chapelle Notre-Dame du Haut, Ronchamp (France)
An icon of the renewal of Christian sacred architecture, the chapel is a true synthesis of the arts and an example of architectural sculpture.

- 22 - Cabanon, Roquebrune-Cap-Martin (France)
A total work of art, the culmination of research into minimalist living, based on an ergonomic and functionalist approach, designed according to the proportions of the Modulor over 15 m², opening out onto the landscape.
- 23 - Campings units
Construction of five holiday homes built on the principles of modular, economical minimalist housing, suited to seaside tourism.
- 24 - Couvent Sainte-Marie de la Tourette, Evéux (France)
An innovative project drawing on the concepts of the "Ville Radieuse" and the Athens Charter, which anticipates modern sculptural forms in architecture.
- 25 - National Museum of Western Art, Tokyo (Japan)
A prototype for a museum of unlimited growth, adaptable worldwide. It bears witness to the long-standing recognition of Le Corbusier's work in Japan and to the global spread of the Modern Movement.
- 26 - Unité d'habitation, Berlin (Germany)
In the context of reconstruction, this project follows the broad outlines of the Unité d'habitation on a commensurate scale.
- 27 - Unité d'habitation, Briey (France)
Population growth linked to the mining industry prompted plans for a new town and a commission for a housing unit of comparable scale to those already developed in Marseille or Rezé, with similar dimensions.
- 28 - Bâtiments de l'écluse, Kembs (France)
Located at the Rhine-Rhône crossing on the route to Marseille, this architectural complex is Le Corbusier's only project in the Alsace region.
- 29 - Maison de l'Homme / Pavillon Le Corbusier, Zurich (Switzerland)
Commissioned by gallery owner Heidi Weber, this cultural centre with a steel structure is built in Zurichhorn Park. It was designed and built after Le Corbusier's death.
- 30 - Site Le Corbusier at Firminy-Vent (France)
Following the Maison de la Culture, the Stadium (1955-1969), the Unité d'habitation (1959-1968) and Saint-Pierre Church (1960-2000) complete the town's project in accordance with the principles of the Athens Charter.

*In reference to Le Corbusier's book *L'Atelier de la recherche patiente*, Éditions Vincent, Frial et Cie, Paris, 1960.

**In reference to Jean-Louis Cohen's book *Le Corbusier, La planète comme chantier*, Librairie Eyrolles, 2015.

THE QUIZ

INSCRIPTION



unesco

The architectural work
of Le Corbusier
An outstanding
contribution to
the Modern Movement
World Heritage since 2016

WHICH STATEMENT IS CORRECT?

- 1.** The Immeuble Clarté is a UNESCO World Heritage Site
- 2.** The Immeuble Clarté has been awarded UNESCO status
- 3.** The Immeuble Clarté is inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List as part of The Architectural Work of Le Corbusier

Answer 3

The Immeuble Clarté is indeed inscribed on the World Heritage List as part of a serial property, "The Architectural Work of Le Corbusier, an Outstanding Contribution to the Modern Movement", which comprises 17 sites in 7 countries.

Please note that the inscription on the World Heritage List is neither a ranking, in the sense of a hierarchy or a list of the "best heritage", nor a tourist label. It is an international recognition of a property's Outstanding Universal Value. Inscription is therefore more akin to a collective commitment, whereby States take responsibility for protecting the property and passing it on to future generations.

Using the correct terminology in communication helps to avoid misunderstandings and convey the right messages about World Heritage.

THE QUIZ

INSCRIPTION



unesco

The architectural work
of Le Corbusier
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OUTSTANDING UNIVERSAL VALUE (OUV) IS:

1. a distinction reserved for monuments
2. the fundamental principle of World Heritage
3. a tool for promoting tourism

Answer 2

OUV is when the value of a property, whether cultural or natural, is so significant that it transcends national borders and is of inestimable value to all of humanity. It is the cornerstone of the Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, signed by 196 States in 1972.

The collection comprising Le Corbusier's 17 architectural works therefore embodies exceptional and universal values to be passed on to present and future generations, just like the Acropolis in Athens (Greece), Island of Gorée (Senegal), the Great Barrier Reef (Australia) and so many others.

Find more information and resources (justification for the OUV, nomination dossier, management plans, etc.) on the website dedicated to the Series.

Find out
more!



THE QUIZ

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CAN A SITE ON THE WORLD HERITAGE LIST BE REMOVED?

- 1.** No, once inscribed, a property remains on the World Heritage List in perpetuity.
- 2.** Yes, if the characteristics that constitute its Outstanding Universal Value are permanently altered.

Answer 2

To be inscribed on the World Heritage List, a property must demonstrate that it embodies Outstanding Universal Value, that it meets requirements for conservation, integrity and authenticity, and that an effective management system is in place to ensure its preservation...

However, if the site undergoes significant development or destruction that undermines its OUV, it may no longer meet these criteria. Thus, the construction of the Waldschlösschen Bridge profoundly altered the cultural landscape for which the Dresden Elbe Valley (Germany) was inscribed in 2004. The World Heritage Committee therefore decided to remove this property from the List in 2009.

THE QUIZ

INSCRIPTION



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HOW IS THE INSCRIPTION OF A SITE ON THE WORLD HERITAGE LIST DECIDED?

1. By an automatic decision of UNESCO
2. Through an expert assessment followed by a World Heritage Committee decision
3. By a public vote

Answer 2

Inscription is the result of a lengthy and structured process, based both on scientific expertise and on a collective decision by the States:

- Each State compiles a tentative list and may submit a candidate file.
- Candidate properties are assessed by experts from independent advisory bodies: the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) for cultural properties, and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) for natural properties.
- Based on these evaluations, the World Heritage Committee, composed of representatives from 21 States Parties, decides at its annual session whether to inscribe, reject, defer or refer the nomination.

Some properties take decades to be inscribed. It took more than 10 years of international collective effort to achieve the inscription of Le Corbusier's architectural works!

Find out more!



THE QUIZ

INSCRIPTION



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World Heritage since 2016

WHICH COUNTRIES ARE INVOLVED IN THE INSCRIPTION OF THE ARCHITECTURAL WORK OF LE CORBUSIER, AN OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION TO THE MODERN MOVEMENT?

- 1.** Switzerland, Le Corbusier's country of birth
- 2.** Argentina, Belgium, France, Germany, India, Japan, Switzerland
- 3.** All the countries in which Le Corbusier built his works

Answer 2

The inscription decision concerns a transnational series comprising 17 sites spread across 7 countries and 3 continents, illustrating the universal significance of his work. Each component represents a specific aspect of the architect's work, and together they bear witness to Le Corbusier's exceptional contribution to the Modern Movement over a period of 50 years.

In other words, if one component is altered, the entire series is threatened.

THE QUIZ

INSCRIPTION



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the Modern Movement
World Heritage since 2016

WHAT IS A “BUFFER ZONE”?

1. A 2km zone around a listed property
2. The zone separating two components of the same series
3. A zone of vigilance

Answer 3

Each property inscribed on the World Heritage List is defined by a specific perimeter, known as the core zone, which corresponds to the protected structure or complex. Around this perimeter, a buffer zone may be defined. It is not part of the inscribed property, but it plays an essential role: preserving the urban or landscape environment that enables the work to be understood and protected (views, perspectives, relationships with the site, natural or built context).

The World Heritage Programme involves a great deal of specific technical jargon: criteria, OUV, advisory bodies, buffer zone, ICOMOS...

Find out
more!



THE QUIZ

INSCRIPTION



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World Heritage since 2016

WHAT IS THE ROLE OF THE INTERNATIONAL STANDING CONFERENCE IN THE GOVERNANCE OF THE SERIES DEDICATED TO THE ARCHITECTURAL WORK OF LE CORBUSIER?

- 1.** To ensure the monitoring and management of the Series as a whole
- 2.** To promote the serial property for tourism
- 3.** To manage the sites on a day-to-day basis

Answer 1

The management of the Series as a whole is carried out by representatives of the 7 States Parties involved: Argentina, Belgium, France, Germany, India, Japan and Switzerland. This body was established to ensure transnational monitoring of the property, without superseding the prerogatives of each State, and to ensure collaboration between the States Parties.

Some useful information:

- This International Standing Conference (ISC) meets at least once a year under a rotating presidency.
- Its Secretariat is provided by the Fondation Le Corbusier.
- The Association of Le Corbusier Sites is a permanent associate member of this body.

THE QUIZ

INSCRIPTION



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The architectural work
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World Heritage since 2016

WHY IS THE CITÉ RADIEUSE IN MARSEILLE THE ONLY UNITÉ D'HABITATION IN THE SERIES?

- 1.** Because it is the largest
- 2.** Because it is the prototype for the Unités d'habitation and subsequent collective housing projects
- 3.** Because it is the best known

Answer 2

The 17 architectural works included in the Series were selected because they each illustrate, in an exemplary and innovative way, Le Corbusier's major concepts: the Chapelle Notre-Dame du Haut marks a turning point in 20th-century religious architecture, the Immeuble locatif de la Porte Molitor pioneered fully glazed façades, the National Museum of Western Art illustrates the concept of the museum with unlimited growth, etc.

The full-scale Unité d'habitation in Marseille was chosen because it constitutes the prototype of the Unités d'habitation: it synthesises for the first time the principles of collective housing developed by Le Corbusier and served as a reference for subsequent projects, both in France and internationally.

The aim of the Series is therefore not to present all variations of a single architectural type, but to highlight the seminal works that enable an understanding of Le Corbusier's contribution to modern architecture.

THE QUIZ

CERTIFICATION



Architectural Promenades
DESTINATIONS LE CORBUSIER
Promenades architecturales

Cultural route
of the Council of Europe
Itinéraire culturel
du Conseil de l'Europe



WHICH FORMULATION IS CORRECT?

1. The Couvent de la Tourette is part of the European cultural route Destinations Le Corbusier: Architectural Promenades
2. The Couvent de la Tourette is listed as a Le Corbusier cultural route
3. The Couvent de la Tourette is certified as part of the European cultural route Destinations Le Corbusier: Architectural Promenades

Answer 1

The Couvent de la Tourette, just like the Villa "Le Lac", the Unité d'habitation in Berlin, the Kembs-Niffer lock and many other sites, is part of the European cultural route *Destinations Le Corbusier: Architectural Promenades*. This cultural route, comprising a collection of sites, is certified under the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe.

Please do not confuse "inscription" (on the UNESCO World Heritage List) with "certification" (of the Council of Europe's Cultural Route).

THE QUIZ

CERTIFICATION



Architectural Promenades
DESTINATIONS LE CORBUSIER
Promenades architecturales

Cultural route
of the Council of Europe
Itinéraire culturel
du Conseil de l'Europe



WHAT IS A COUNCIL OF EUROPE CULTURAL ROUTE?

- 1.** A European network of cultural sites and stakeholders working together around a common theme
- 2.** A tourist guide to accompany walkers from site to site
- 3.** A treasure hunt to learn more about Le Corbusier's work

Answer 1

The "Council of Europe Cultural Route" certification is awarded to transnational networks of sites, stakeholders and partners united around a theme that represents European values. It therefore refers neither to a simple tourist trail nor to a single physical route, but above all to a framework for cultural cooperation on a European scale.

A cultural route is thus a structured network that promotes exchanges, joint projects, events and partnerships among its members, while contributing to the promotion of heritage and local areas, within a framework of sustainable cultural tourism that respects the sites and their inhabitants.

In practical terms, it can therefore take many forms depending on the projects developed collectively: travelling exhibitions, tourist guides, educational resources, publications, cultural or tourist events, lectures...

Find out more!



THE QUIZ

CERTIFICATION



Architectural Promenades
DESTINATIONS LE CORBUSIER
Promenades architecturales

Cultural route
of the Council of Europe
Itinéraire culturel
du Conseil de l'Europe



HOW ARE CULTURAL ROUTES FUNDED?

- 1.** Each route is self-financing
- 2.** Each Member State of the Council of Europe funds the routes on its territory
- 3.** The programme has an annual budget and funds specific projects

Answer 1

Once certified, a cultural route does not receive a dedicated budget from the Council of Europe. It must therefore organise its activities by mobilising its own resources, whether internal (membership fees, member contributions) or external (grants, partnerships, sponsorships).

Being certified as a “Council of Europe Cultural Route” does not therefore entail direct funding. However, this recognition brings greater visibility and credibility with national and European institutions, as well as public and private partners.

It can thus facilitate access to grants and funding programmes. According to the Council of Europe, certified cultural routes have secured, over the last five years, around €17 million in European funding through various projects.

Find out
more!



THE QUIZ

CERTIFICATION



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WHICH STATEMENTS ARE CORRECT?

1. The Council of Europe's certification is awarded for life.
2. Certain criteria must be met for the certification to be maintained.
3. The certification is subject to an evaluation every five years.

Answers 2 & 3

Council of Europe Cultural Route certification is not granted permanently. To be maintained, it must meet quality criteria (European dimension of the theme, functioning of the network, cultural and educational activities, governance, communication, sustainability).

In practice, each route is subject to a five-yearly evaluation report to verify that the network is active, that projects are carried out collectively, and that the programme's objectives are being met. It is the Enlarged Partial Agreement (EPA) that decides whether the certification is renewed, accompanied by recommendations, or withdrawn if the criteria are no longer met.

The *Destinations Le Corbusier: Architectural Promenades* cultural route, certified in 2019, had its certification renewed following an evaluation in 2023 and will be evaluated again in 2027. (The evaluation cycle was extended from 3 years to 5 years in 2023).

THE QUIZ

CERTIFICATION



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WHAT ARE THE DIFFERENT TYPES OF ROUTES?

1. Linear routes and network routes
2. Poetic routes and architectural routes
3. Transnational routes and themed routes

Answer 1

The Council of Europe's cultural routes can take various forms. The main distinction is between linear routes and network routes.

A linear route is a structured path along a continuous geographical axis, whether physical (a path, a road) or symbolic. For example, Saint James Way is a walking route crossing several European countries, marked by stages that are historically and culturally connected.

A network route, on the other hand, functions as a collection of sites, stakeholders or cultural points linked by a theme, without the need for a single, physically continuous route. For example, the *Destinations Le Corbusier: Architectural Promenades* route is a network of about 30 sites and architectural complexes emblematic of Le Corbusier's work, spread across several countries in Europe and beyond.

This diversity of forms allows the route to be adapted to the specificities of the theme and to the arrangements for cooperation between the sites.

THE QUIZ

CERTIFICATION



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HOW TO JOIN THE DESTINATIONS LE CORBUSIER: ARCHITECTURAL PROMENADES CULTURAL ROUTE?

- 1.** By submitting an application to the Council of Europe
- 2.** All Le Corbusier sites are automatically included
- 3.** A body or institution must represent the site within the Association of Le Corbusier Sites

Answer 3

For a site to be part of the *Destinations Le Corbusier: Architectural Promenades* cultural route, it must be represented by an organisation or institution within the Association of Le Corbusier Sites (ASLC), which manages the route. To become a member, one must follow the administrative procedures set out in the ASLC's statutes.

For example, Villa Savoye and the Maisons La Roche et Jeanneret are represented respectively by the Centre des Monuments Nationaux and the Fondation Le Corbusier, both of which are members of the ASLC.

Consequently, the list of members of the route may change depending on new memberships of the ASLC.

THE QUIZ

CERTIFICATION



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DOES A SITE HAVE TO BE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC TO BE PART OF A CULTURAL ROUTE?

- 1.** Yes, always
- 2.** No, not necessarily

Answer 2

A site does not need to be open to the public to be part of a Council of Europe Cultural Route, but it must meet certain criteria relating to its contribution to the network. For a site or an organisation, being part of a route is not simply a matter of physical presence: its contribution must take the form of active cooperation, which manifests itself in projects, joint action programmes, and shared scientific or cultural contributions.

THE QUIZ

CERTIFICATION



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IS A SITE ADDED IN THE CULTURAL ROUTE ALWAYS INSCRIBED ON THE UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE LIST?

1. Yes, it is automatic
2. No, you must choose one of the two programmes
3. No, it has nothing to do with it

Answer 3

The World Heritage List and the Council of Europe's Cultural Routes are two separate programmes, run by different institutions and pursuing specific objectives.

Inscription on the UNESCO World Heritage List recognises the Outstanding Universal Value of a property and commits States to ensuring its protection and transmission.

The "Council of Europe Cultural Route" certification, on the other hand, promotes cooperation between sites and stakeholders united around a common theme, through cultural, educational and tourism initiatives.

These two forms of recognition can, however, be complementary. In the case of Le Corbusier's architectural work, it was following the inscription of the Series on the World Heritage List in 2016 that stakeholders wished to extend their collaboration on a larger scale, beyond the 17 inscribed sites, by developing a cultural route.

Today, the *Destinations Le Corbusier: Architectural Promenades* route brings together nearly 30 sites and architectural ensembles, while the Series inscribed on the World Heritage List comprises 17 components.

THE QUIZ

CERTIFICATION



Architectural Promenades
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WHAT ORGANISATION COORDINATES CULTURAL EXCHANGES BETWEEN THE LE CORBUSIER SITES?

1. The Fondation Le Corbusier
2. The Association of Le Corbusier Sites
3. The Association of Le Corbusier Sites in partnership with the Fondation Le Corbusier

Answer 3

From an operational and administrative perspective, it is the Association of Le Corbusier Sites (ASLC) that runs, manages and coordinates the *Destinations Le Corbusier: Architectural Promenades* cultural route, certified by the Council of Europe since 2019.

The Fondation Le Corbusier, as Chair of the cultural route's Scientific Committee, supports its development, notably through its expertise and by providing the resources necessary to promote and raise awareness of Le Corbusier's architectural work.



GENERAL

THE QUIZ

WHICH FORMULATION IS CORRECT?

- 1.** Villa Jeanneret-Perret
- 2.** The Maison Blanche

Answers 1 & 2

For many of Le Corbusier's sites, there is both a project name, used in the architect's archives and academic publications, and one or more common names, used in everyday or local language.

Thus, the Chapelle Notre-Dame du Haut (project name) and the Chapelle de Ronchamp refer to one and the same site. Similarly, the full-scale Unité d'habitation in Rezé is better known to the general public as the Maison Radieuse.

The choice of terminology may therefore vary depending on the context and the audiences being addressed (research, outreach, communication, residents, etc.), without this calling into question the site's identity.

Find out
more!





GENERAL

THE QUIZ

WHY DO WE TALK ABOUT AN “ARCHITECTURAL PROMENADE” IN LE CORBUSIER’S WORK?

1. Because his buildings are designed as promenades
2. Because they are set within a natural environment
3. Because they are open to the public

Answer 1

The concept of the architectural promenade, first used in the Maison La Roche, represented a new focus for Le Corbusier that he would develop throughout his career. For him, “it is by walking, by moving, that one sees the order of architecture unfold”.

For example, the entrance and the path leading to the Chapelle Notre-Dame du Haut in Ronchamp are designed as a contemplative journey, punctuated by visual surprises. Le Corbusier’s architecture is experienced, rather than merely contemplated.

By extension, the phrase is taken up in the title of the Council of Europe’s certification programme, *Destinations Le Corbusier: Architectural Promenades*.

Find out
more!





GENERAL

THE QUIZ

WHO IS THE HOLDER OF THE RIGHTS RELATED TO LE CORBUSIER'S WORK?

1. A communications agency
2. The National Institute of Intellectual Property
3. The Fondation Le Corbusier

Answer 3

It is the Fondation Le Corbusier, the sole beneficiary of the architect's moral and economic rights, which safeguards the rights and ensures the proper promotion of the architect's image and ideas.

If, in order to create an educational or communication tool, you wish to use an existing photograph or one taken specifically for this purpose, a drawing or a logo associated with Le Corbusier's work, we invite you to contact the Fondation Le Corbusier.

Find out more!



There is, however, one exception: Le Corbusier transferred the economic rights to the Chapelle Notre-Dame du Haut to the Association Oeuvre Notre-Dame du Haut, the site's owner.



GENERAL

THE QUIZ

FROM THE FOLLOWING ANSWERS, WHAT ARE THE FIVE POINTS FOR A NEW ARCHITECTURE?

- 1.** The pilotis
- 2.** The Modulor
- 3.** The roof-garden
- 4.** The open floor plan
- 5.** The Dom-ino
- 6.** The long horizontal window
- 7.** The open façade

Answers 1, 3, 4, 6 & 7

Although published in 1927, the five points had already appeared in 1923–1925 during the construction of the La Roche and Jeanneret Houses.

- The pilotis allow free movement beneath the building;
- The open floor plan offers complete freedom for the interior layout and makes the layout of each level independent;
- The free façade forms an envelope independent of the structure;
- The long horizontal window runs uninterrupted along the façades, which are non-load-bearing elements;
- The roof garden replaces the traditional attic, offering a suspended garden at the top of the house.

As for the Modulor and the Dom-ino, these are also elements of Le Corbusier's vocabulary that you can discover here:

Find out more!



GENERAL

THE QUIZ



WHO SHOULD YOU CONTACT TO USE THE LOGOS OF THE WORLD HERITAGE PROPERTY OR THE EUROPEAN CULTURAL ROUTE?

1. Directly to UNESCO and the Council of Europe
2. The Fondation Le Corbusier and the Association of Le Corbusier Sites
3. The Ministry of Culture

Answer 2

The use of logos associated with inscription on the World Heritage List or the European Cultural Route is strictly regulated.

For the logo relating to the inscription on the World Heritage List of the series *The Architectural Work of Le Corbusier, an Outstanding Contribution to the Modern Movement*, please contact the Fondation Le Corbusier, which acts as the Secretariat of the International Standing Conference and ensures compliance with the rules of use defined by UNESCO.

Contact: secretariat@lecorbusier-worldheritage.org.

For the logo of the European cultural route *Destinations Le Corbusier: Architectural Promenades*, requests should be addressed to the Association of Le Corbusier Sites, the body managing the route certified by the Council of Europe.
Contact: association@sites-le-corbusier.org.



GENERAL

THE QUIZ

WHO SHOULD YOU CONTACT FOR INFORMATION ON ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS AT THE LE CORBUSIER SITES?

- 1.** UNESCO and the Council of Europe
- 2.** The States Parties
- 3.** The Fondation Le Corbusier and the Association of Le Corbusier Sites.

Answer 3

Through websites, newsletters and social media, the Association of Le Corbusier Sites and the Fondation Le Corbusier can help to share your information. Please feel free to send details to association@sites-le-corbusier.org and communication@fondationlecorbusier.fr.

ASLC



FLC

