



John Summerson

THE CLASSICAL
LANGUAGE
OF ARCHITECTURE

Revised and enlarged edition

Classical Language Of Architecture

John Summerson



Classical Language Of Architecture:

The Classical Language of Architecture John Summerson, 1966-12-15 The author's purpose is to set out as simply and vividly as possible the exact grammatical workings of an architectural language. Classical architecture is a visual language and like any other language has its own grammatical rules. Classical buildings as widely spaced in time as a Roman temple, an Italian Renaissance palace, and a Regency house all show an awareness of these rules, even if they vary, break them, or poetically contradict them. Sir Christopher Wren described them as the Latin of architecture, and the analogy is almost exact. There is the difference, however, that whereas the learning of Latin is a slow and difficult business, the language of classical architecture is relatively simple. It is still to a great extent the mode of expression of our urban surroundings, since classical architecture was the common language of the western world till comparatively recent times. Anybody to whom architecture makes a strong appeal has probably already discovered something of its grammar for himself. In this book, the author's purpose is to set out as simply and vividly as possible the exact grammatical workings of this architectural language. He is less concerned with its development in Greece and Rome than with its expansion and use in the centuries since the Renaissance. He explains the vigorous discipline of the orders and the scope of rustication, the dramatic deviations of the Baroque, and in the last chapter, the relationship between the classical tradition and the modern architecture of today. The book is intended for anybody who cares for architecture, but more specifically for students beginning a course in the history of architecture, to whom a guide to the classical rules will be an essential companion.

The Classical Language of Architecture John Summerson, 1982

The Classical Language of Architecture John Summerson, 1963

The Classical Language of Architecture John Summerson, Alan Powers, 2023-09-07 Derived from the principles of Greek and Roman architecture in antiquity, the classical style has long dominated the history of western architecture from the Renaissance to the present. Sir John Summerson's timeless text, as relevant today as it was when first published, distills the visual language of architecture into its core classical elements and illustrates that building throughout the ages expresses an awareness of the grammar of style and its rules, even if they vary, break, or poetically contradict them. From the original edifices of Greece and Rome to the recapitulations and innovations of the Renaissance, the explosive rhetoric of the Baroque to the grave statements of Neo-classicism, and finally the exuberant eclecticism of the Victorians and Edwardians to the stripped Neo-classicism of some of the moderns, Summerson explains how every period has employed classical language to make their statement. With a new introduction by academic and architectural historian Alan Powers, this introduction continues to be one of the defining texts on the subject and is essential reading for all students of architecture.

The Classical Language of Architecture. [By] John Summerson ... An Introduction and Accompaniment to Six Broadcast Talks, Etc. [With Illustrations.] British Broadcasting Corporation, 1963

The Classical Language of Architecture Sir John Newenham Summerson, 1966

The Classical Tradition Anthony Grafton, Glenn W. Most, Salvatore Settis, 2010-10-25

Preface List of Articles The Classical Tradition Contributors *The Classical Language of Architecture* Sir John Newenham Summerson,1980 Contemporary Perspectives on Architectural Organicism Gary Huafan He,Skender Luarasi,2023-06-07 This project is born out of similar questions and discussions on the topic of organicism emergent from two critical strands regarding the discourse of organic self generation one dealing with the problem of stopping in the design processes in history and the other with the organic legacy of style in the nineteenth century as a preeminent form of aesthetic ideology The epistemologies of self generation outlined by enlightenment and critical philosophy provided the model for the discursive formations of modern urban planning and architecture The form of the organism was thought to calibrate modernism s infinite extension The architectural organicism of today does not take on the language of the biological sciences as they did in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries but rather the image of complex systems be they computational informational geo ecological or even ontological aesthetic networks What is retained from the modernity of yesterday is the ideology of endless self generation Revisiting such a topic feels relevant now in a time when the idea of endless generation is rendered more suspect than ever amid an ever increasing speed and complexity of artificial intelligence AI networks The essays collected in this book offer a variety of critiques of the modernist idea of endless growth in the fields of architecture literature philosophy and the history of science They range in scope from theoretical and speculative to analytic and critical and from studies of the history of modernity to reflections of our contemporary world Far from advocating a return to the romantic forms of nineteenth century naturphilosophie this project focuses on probing organicism for new forms of critique and emergent subjectivities in a contemporary post pandemic constellation of neo naturalism in design climate change complex systems and information networks This book will be of interest to a broad range of researchers and professionals in architecture and art history historians of science visual artists and scholars in the humanities more generally *A History of Western Architecture* David Watkin,2005 The history of Western architecture from the earliest times in Mesopotamia and Egypt to the dramatic impact of CAD on architectural practice at the beginning of the 21st century The birth of modern London ,2021-02-23 The period 1660 1720 saw the foundation of modern London The city was transformed post Fire from a tight warren of medieval timber framed buildings into a vastly expanded regularised landscape of brick houses laid out in squares and spacious streets This work for the first time examines in detail the building boom and the speculative developers who created that landscape It offers a wealth of new information on their working practices the role of craftsmen and the design thinking which led to the creation of a new prototype for English housing The book concentrates on the mass produced houses of the middling sort which saw the adoption of classicism on a large scale in this country for the first time McKellar shows however that the new city maintained a surprising degree of continuity with existing patterns of urban used and traditional architecture The book presents the late seventeenth and the early eighteenth century as a distinct phase in London s architectural development and offers a radical reinterpretations of the adoption of Renaissance styles and ideas at

the level of the everyday challenging conventional interpretations of their use and reception in this country **Summerson and Hitchcock** Frank E. Salmon,2006 Publisher description Ritual and Response in Architecture Malcolm Quantrill,1974
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