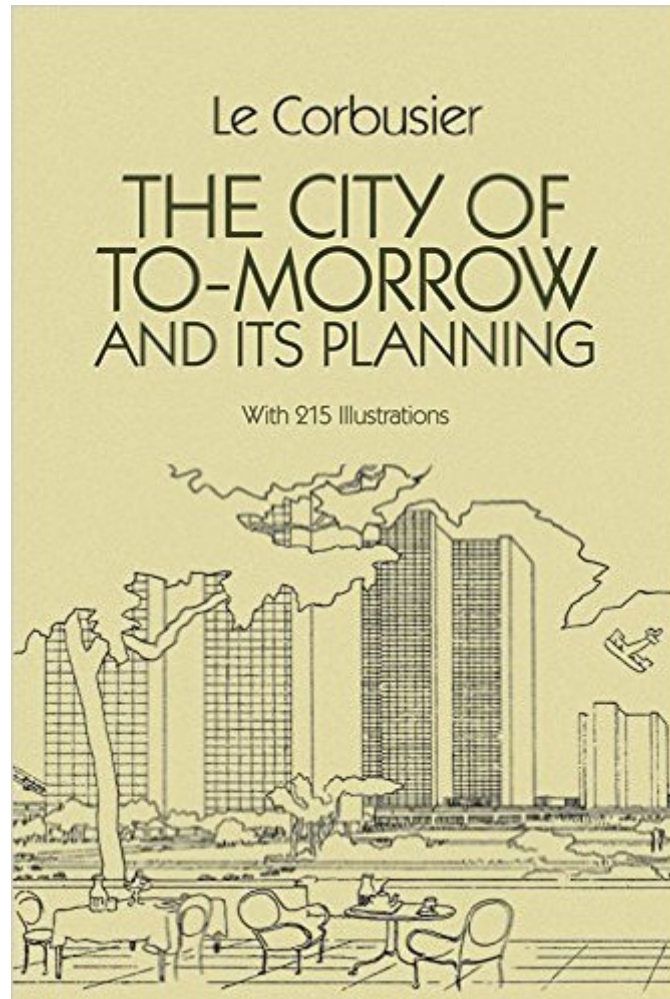


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The City Of To-morrow And Its Planning (Dover Architecture)



Synopsis

In this 1929 classic, the great architect Le Corbusier turned from the design of houses to the planning of cities, surveying urban problems and venturing bold new solutions. The book shocked and thrilled a world already deep in the throes of the modern age. Today it is revered as a work that, quite literally, helped to shape our world. Le Corbusier articulates concepts and ideas he would put to work in his city planning schemes for Algiers, São Paulo, Rio de Janeiro, Buenos Aires, Barcelona, Geneva, Stockholm, and Antwerp, as well as schemes for a variety of structures from a museum in Tokyo to the United Nations buildings. The influence it exerted on a new generation of architects is now legendary. *The City of Tomorrow and Its Planning* characterizes European cities as a chaos of poor design, inadequate housing, and inefficient transportation that grew out of the unplanned jumble of medieval cities. Developing his thesis that a great modern city can only function on a basis of strict order, Le Corbusier presents two imposing schemes for urban reconstruction — the "Voisin" scheme for the center of Paris, and his more developed plans for the "City of Three Million Inhabitants," which envisioned, among other things, 60-story skyscrapers, set well apart, to house commercial activities, and residential housing grouped in great blocks of "villas." For those who live in cities as well as anyone interested in their planning, here is a probing survey of the problems of modern urban life and a master architect's stimulating vision of how they might be solved, enlivened by the innovative spirit and passionate creativity that distinguished all of Le Corbusier's work.

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Customer Reviews

The French architect Le Corbusier (1887-1965; born in Switzerland as Charles Edouard Jeanneret) wrote this book in 1929, in which he proposed what he called the "Radiant City." Unlike Ebenezer Howard (Garden Cities of To-morrow) and Frank Lloyd Wright (The Natural House), Corbusier supported industrialization and the machine as inevitable, glorified plain skyscrapers ("New York is wrong, but the skyscraper remains a noble instrument"), while enthusiastically supporting modern engineering methods and the use of synthetic building materials. He begins the Foreword by stating, "A Town is a tool. Towns no longer fulfil this function. They are ineffectual... A city! It is the grip of man upon nature. It is a human operation directed against nature, a human organism both for protection and for work. It is a creation." He asserts that town planning "is bound to become one of the burning questions of the day." "The city of to-day is a dying thing because it is not geometrical. To build in the open would be to replace our present haphazard arrangements, which are all we have to-day, by a uniform lay-out. Unless we do this there is no salvation. The result of a true geometrical lay-out is repetition." He concludes, "Therefore the existing centres must come down. To save itself, every great city must rebuild its centre." Rather than wasting time by commuting to the city, each apartment block would contain services such as child care and food preparation.

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