48-747 Shape Grammars

TERRAGNI’S CASA GUILIANI FRIGERIA
A pioneer of the modern movement in Italy

A founding member of the fascist Gruppo 7 and a leading Italian Rationalist, Terragni fought to move architecture away from neo-classical and neo-baroque revivalism.

In 1926 he and other progressive members of Gruppo 7 issued the manifesto that made them the leaders in the fight against revivalism.

In a career that lasted only 13 years, Terragni created a small but remarkable group of designs; nearly all of them are in Como which was then the center of modern Italian architecture.

These works form the nucleus of the language of Italian rationalist or modernistic architecture. In his last designs, Terragni achieved a more distinctive Mediterranean character through the fusion of modern theory and tradition.

**Giuseppe Terragni** (b. Meda, Italy 1904; d. Como, Italy 1943)
Casa Guiliani Frigeria
Eisenman spent 40 years studying Terragni and produced a book *Giuseppe Terragni: Transformations, Decompositions, Critiques*

In 1971 tried to describe the building using rules of syntax and later in 1978 declared the enterprise hopeless.
step 1: defining columns
step 2: wall definition
step 3: wall labeling
step 4: wall development
step 5: wall connection
step 6: window designs
Vertical walls reach down to ground level and rise above ceiling of third floor.

Horizontal walls cannot reach below the first floor or above the ceiling of the third floor. Windows must have sills above floor level. Protruding alcoves do not touch alcoves above or below.

Columns reach down to ground level and rise above ceiling of third floor. If bay between columns is filled by a vertical wall, both columns must extend above that wall.

**three dimensional realization**
ulrich’s comments on p 96