

MATERIALS & ARCHITECTURE:

"You employ stone, wood, and concrete, and with these materials you build houses and palaces. That is construction. Ingenuity is at work. But suddenly you touch my heart, you do me good, I am happy and I say: 'This is beautiful.' That is architecture. Art enters in. -- Le Corbusier

"The business of architecture is to establish emotional relationships by means of raw materials." Le Corbusier

"The building is exactly what we feel and touch, exactly what we feel beneath our feet: a cast concrete, stony body" - P. Zumthor

"There are two ways to make use of materials: by simplifying complex forms, or enriching simple one." - C. Moore

"The effort to yield truly innovative forms and spaces can only be achieved if the design process involves knowledge offered by the sciences and engineering of mechanics, materials, and structures." C.D. Elliot

An architect must begin at the beginning... Architects must exercise well trained imagination to see in each material, either natural or compounded plastics, their own inherent style. All materials may be beautiful, their beauty much or entirely depending upon how well they are used by the architect." F.L. Wright

"Thus we may claim that the built invariably comes into existence out of the constantly evolving interplay of three converging vectors, the *topos*, the *typos*, and the *tectonic*." - K. Frampton

"The refinement and transformation of raw materials are essential signs of civilization... our cultural evolution has brought us to a world where material innovation is the major symbol of progress." G. Beylerian

"When a material is used in new and unexpected ways, or where its characteristics are presented in an unconventional condition, the level of design is raised." - V.B. Bell

"As new materials are invented and technological advances made, architectural process has moved from working within the limits of static materials to transforming them into dynamic elements by combining, laminating, casting, and weaving. We can vicariously experience the fantasy of immortality through technological innovation, as it is conceivable that we will soon be able to create invincible materials." - T. Mori

"After a century largely dominated by discussions of space and form, there is now renewed interest in material and tectonic aspects of architecture." - R. Weston

"Every work of art should reflect in its appearance the material as physical matter... In this way we may speak of a wood style, a brick style, an ashlar style, and so forth." - G. Semper.

"We expect nothing from materials in themselves, but only from the right use of them. Even the new materials give us no superiority. Each material is only worth what we make of it." - Mies van der Rohe

"Each material has its own message, and to the creative artists, its own song....Every new material means a new form, a new use if used according to its nature." - F.L. Wright

"For all their radicalism, Modern architects were avowedly traditional in their commitment to 'honest' expression of structure and materials... they eagerly embraced new materials... radically new kinds of space emerged, but... the aim was always to make of them a new vernacular." - R. Weston

"The new Student Center at IIT marks a transition from the era of 'God is in the details,' to that of 'No money, no details.'... from a fetishism about appearance of construction... [to] buildings that are appropriate and critical condensers of existing technologies and social relations... from structure to image, from solution to open-ended situation." - A. Betsky

"The material qualities of contemporary surfaces that are most intriguing are precisely those that are the most unstable, that put into question the singularity of material properties and the absoluteness of material definitions." - S. Kennedy

"The antagonism between new and old materials, or between high and low technologies of production, may be dispelled through strategies that deliberately mis-use materials as a form of political action in architecture." Sakula

"You can have a conversation with **concrete**... the beauty of what you create comes if you honor the material for what it really is" - L. Kahn

"**Concrete** is mud. I work *with* concrete, not against it. I like mud." P. Rudolph

"In **wood**'s multiple situations, we see imitations of our own mortality, in its infinitely variable grain patterns, we see artistry by nature itself." - O.R. Ojeda

"These **rocks**... waiting to be split, ripped, pounded, reborn: waiting for the shape my hands will give them..." - H. Roark, in Ayn Rand, The Fountainhead

"For me, **metal** is the material of our time. It enables architecture to become sculpture." - F. Gehry

"[**Plaster** is] the material with a memory. The very texture of time becomes part of its enrichment." - C. Moore

"So, more than a substance, **plastic** is the very idea of its infinite transformation; as its everyday name indicates, it is ubiquitously made visible. And it is this, in fact, which makes it a miraculous substance: a material is always sudden transformation of nature. Plastic remains impregnated throughout with this wonder: it is less a thing than a trace of a movement." - R. Barthes

Reinforced **concrete** is the best structural material yet devised by mankind. Almost by magic, we have been able to create 'melted' stones of any desired shape, structurally superior, because of their tensile strength, to natural stone." - P.L. Nervi

"**Glass** is noticeable yet not quite visible. It is the great membrane, full of mystery yet tough... It is evident that a material of such qualities requires the building itself to be remodeled, conceived in a revolutionary way." - A. Korn

"When you are designing in **brick**, you must ask the brick what it wants or what it can do. Brick will say: 'I like an arch'." - L. Kahn

"The **brick** is another teacher. How sensible this small, handy shape, so useful for every purpose. What logic in its bonding, what liveliness in the play of patterns." - Mies van der Rohe

ARCHITECTURE

"Architecture is at one and the same time a science and an art. As a science, it demands knowledge; as an art it requires talents. Talent is accuracy and facility in the application of knowledge; and such accuracy and facility can only be acquired only through sustained practice and repeated application... To become perfectly acquainted with a science, it is enough to listen, to understand, and to remember; but to possess an art, what is known must be applied; and the degree of talent, or the greater or lesser facility in applying one's knowledge, depends on the number of applications that one has made.... For any art to be practiced with success, it must be practiced with relish, with love; and this presupposes some notion of what it is. You cannot love what you do not know, as a poet said. It is necessary to know why it is practiced: to know in other words, the end that it sets itself and the means that it employs to that end." - J.N.L. Durand

"Architecture is the unavoidable art." - L. Roth

"Architecture is what nature cannot make." - L. Kahn

"Architecture is the preservation of body temperature combined with the quest for ritual behavior" -- Hollein

"Architecture immortalizes and glorifies something. Hence, there can be no architecture where there is nothing to glorify" -- L. Wittgenstein

"An architect is a bricklayer who has learned Latin... Only a very small part of architecture belongs to art: the tomb and the monument. Everything else, everything that serves a purpose, should be excluded from the realms of art." -- Loos

"A bicycle shed is a building, Lincoln cathedral is a piece of architecture." -- Nikolaus Pevsner

"Great nations write their autobiographies in three manuscripts—the book of their deeds, the book of their words, and the book of their *art*. Not one of these can be understood unless we read the other two; but of the three, the only quite trustworthy one is the last." - J. Ruskin

"Architecture is the will of the age conceived in space, nothing else..." Mies van der Rohe, 1924