

# MA PROMENADE

An architectural walk in the Le Corbusier pavilion for young people aged 9 and over  
Duration: 1 hour

## 1 LE CORBUSIER



Do you know Le Corbusier? The famous architect, urban planner, draughtsman and painter, sculptor, carpet and furniture designer, writer, traveller and collector?

He was born in 1887 as Charles-Édouard Jeanneret in Switzerland. As a young man he went to Paris, named himself Le Corbusier (after the French word le corbeau, the raven) and later built houses in many countries of the world.

The Zurich Pavilion is Corbu's last work. He himself never experienced the opening in 1967: two summers earlier he had drowned in the sea on the Côte d'Azur.

A house by Corbu cannot be understood from one point of view. You can only get to know it in motion.

All right, here we go!  
First walk outside around the building...

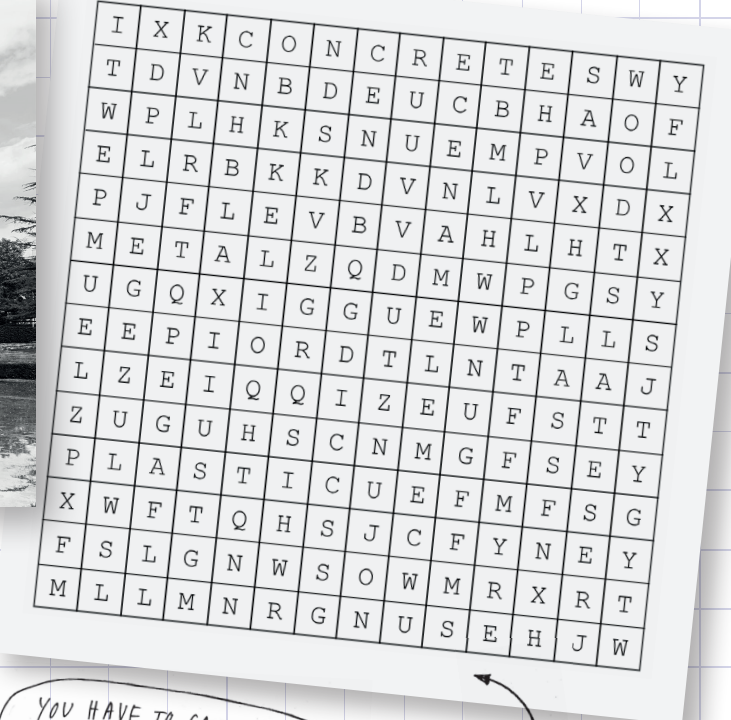
You will pass light shafts with glass roofs... Take a look!



## 2 OUTSIDE VIEWS

Have you ever walked all around and seen it? The pavilion consists of three parts: first the actual house secondly an extra roof on stilts and third, a big ramp.

Without a woman from Zurich — she was Corbu's biggest fan — the pavilion would never have been built.



WHAT MATERIALS IS THE PAVILION MADE OF? 7 MATERIALS ARE HIDDEN IN THE WORD SEARCH PUZZLE

HER NAME IS WRITTEN ON ONE OF THE METAL PLATES.  
HER NAME IS: \_\_\_\_\_

Now go back into the house, pass the cash desk and then turn left

- Watch your step!  
The Pavillon is a museum:
- ☞ Please do not run!
  - ☞ Please only touch and try something where Corbu gives you the order!
  - ☞ Please only be so loud that it doesn't disturb other people in the room!
- Thank you!

## 3 AN IDEAL HOUSE

With the pavilion, Corbu showed how he imagined ideal living: with lots of light, air and opening to the outside. That's why he planned huge glass walls.

An apartment for Corbu didn't necessarily have to be cosy. It had to function like a machine. That's why he built in an ultra-modern, machine-like kitchen made of steel. Around the dining table, Corbu placed old models of bentwood chairs that he liked. He designed the table with the circular bases himself, together with his cousin Pierre and the interior designer Charlotte Perriand. The three of them have developed many pieces of furniture. There are more on the upper floor.



Walk back and search the concrete staircase (attention: not the ramp!), which hangs like a large, walkable sculpture in the room. Go upstairs and feel how the banister feels



DRAW THE TABLE AND INVENT A DIFFERENT BASE FOR IT



When you reach the upper floor, leave the reading room on the left and walk around the bend on the right and then to the furniture

## 4 NEW FURNITURE

More than 90 years ago, architects equipped living rooms with metal furniture for the first time. Most people weren't exactly enthusiastic at the time. Why? The frames were uncomfortably reminiscent of hospital beds, they said. Today, the elegant tubular steel furniture is in great demand and is celebrated as a „classic“.



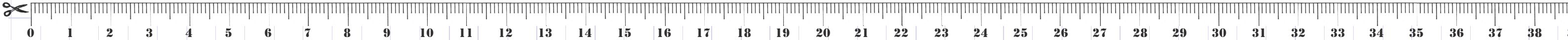
IS ANYBODY SITTING IN THE ARMCHAIRS RIGHT NOW?  
OR IS ANYONE HAVING A NAP IN THE COUCH?  
IF NOT, THEN IT'S YOUR TURN!



Please turn the page!

WHICH FURNITURE IS THE  
1) MOST COMFORTABLE?  
\_\_\_\_\_

2) MOST BEAUTIFUL?  
\_\_\_\_\_







Go back the way you came until you see a white-green lacquered door on the left

## 5 A MYSTERIOUS DOOR

What does that door look like? Are we on board a ship here? Indeed: Corbu was absolutely enthusiastic about big engines like cars, airplanes and especially ocean liners. He imagined the pavilion as a boat on the shore of Lake Zurich. This is not the only ship's door in the building.

DO YOU REMEMBER WHERE YOU SAW ANOTHER ONE OF THESE DOORS IN THE PAVILION?

When you open the door you see that a concrete ramp leads up to the deck — sorry, to a terrace. Here you could study the big roof on stilts from close up or look for other ships in the distance.



GREAT ART USES SIMPLE MEANS



COPY CORBU'S AUTOGRAPH HERE

## 7 A HOUSE FOR CORBU'S ART

But on the colored metal walls of the pavilion there are already a few drawings by Corbu (at least as prints): For example, on the white revolving door that you run up to when you come up the ramp from the basement.

IN WHAT YEAR DID CORBU MAKE THE ORIGINAL DRAWING?



Now turn right and go on to the room with the large lighting apparatus

Doesn't this lamp look like a giant snail? Corbu was not only fascinated by machines, but also by natural things. He collected stones, driftwood, snails or shells. They ignited the ideas for his own design objects, pictures and drawings.



But beware! If you are under 12 years old, you may unfortunately only walk on the roof terrace with an adult. School classes are only allowed to enter the terrace with a guide or teacher.



Close the door and take the path down the ramp to the basement

It's a little like a tunnel here. But Corbu also built light openings into the ramp.



WHETHER YOU BUILD A BRIDGE, PAINT A PICTURE OR WRITE A POEM — IT'S ALWAYS A QUESTION OF CONSTRUCTION, THAT IS, YOU HAVE TO CLARIFY YOUR IDEAS



## 8 CONSTRUCTION

The pavilion is screwed together from many prefabricated parts. The builders would have preferred to weld the metal parts back then. That would have been simpler and cheaper. However, Corbu wanted to make it absolutely clear that the house consisted of individual parts and could also be dismantled again.

TAKE A CLOSER LOOK AT THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE PAVILION: HOW MANY SCREWS WERE TURNED INTO METAL AT THAT TIME? YOUR ESTIMATE:

SCREWS

## 6

## UNDER THE EARTH

Corbu wasn't just an architect. He has also drawn and painted all his life. Corbu's works of art used to stand and hang all over the pavilion. But the real — one says „original“ — paintings, drawings and sculptures are now very, very valuable. That's why they can hardly be shown here anymore. Today, other exhibitions and films can be seen in the pavilion. Take a look around.

A CONCRETE WALL IS FULL OF OLD POSTERS. WHAT YEAR IS THE OLDEST POSTER FROM?

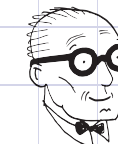


Go into the small chamber

HERE YOU CAN LOOK THROUGH THE SHAFT FROM BOTTOM TO TOP. WHAT DO YOU SEE THIS TIME?



Now go up the ramp again, but only to the ground floor



I WAS INCURABLY CURIOUS. DON'T YOU EVER STOP BEING CURIOUS! THE WORLD IS SO INTERESTING, ISN'T IT?!

## 9 THE MODULOR OR „PATENT 226 x 226 x 226“

Corbu is the inventor of a special measure: he called it „Modulor“. He calculated the measure from the proportions of the human body. He built the Zurich Pavilion according to precisely this principle.

Corbu set the „human dimension“ at 226 cm. This is the length of an 182 cm tall man with an outstretched arm. He recommended a ceiling height of 226 cm for all residential buildings. Well, not all people are the same size. But Corbu didn't care much about that.



Go to the hands-on table by the window



„HANDS-ON“ MEANS: HERE YOU CAN TOUCH EVERYTHING AND TRY IT OUT! YEAY!

Look at the picture on the right: In the middle of the body there is a dot called solar plexus. It is a few centimeters above the navel. In the Modulor it is half the total height of 226 cm, i.e. 113 cm. You can feel the solar plexus on your own belly: here you are particularly sensitive.

- 1) GRAB A PAIR OF SCISSORS AND CUT OFF THE MEASURING TAPE.
- 2) USE IT TO MEASURE FROM THE SOLE OF YOUR FOOT TO YOUR SOLAR PLEXUS. THEN MULTIPLY THIS LENGTH BY TWO: THESE ARE YOUR VERY OWN „MODULOR“ MEASURES.
- 3) ENTER THEM IN THE SECOND PICTURE

