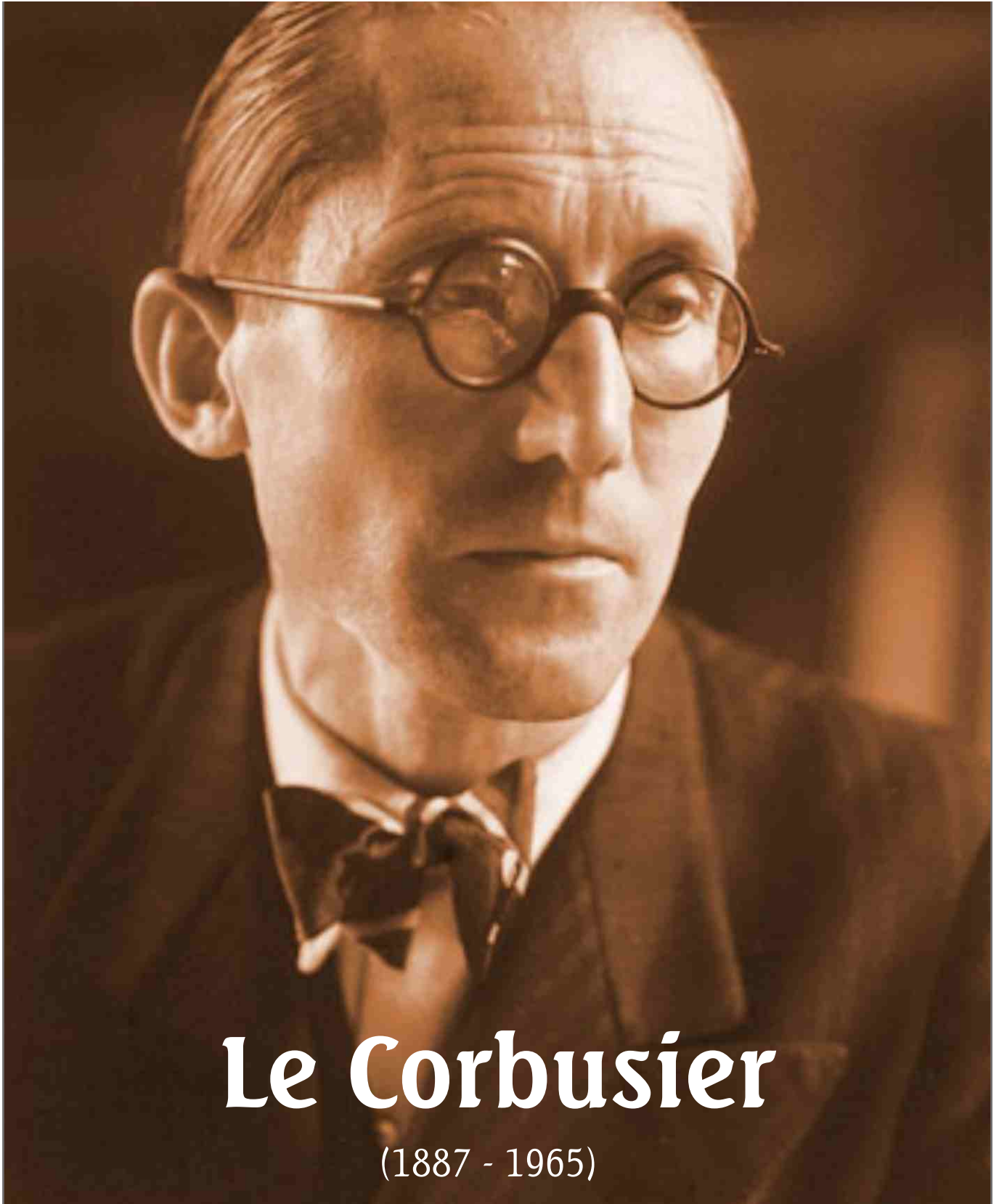


**LARGER** THAN  
**LIFE**  
A CELEBRATION OF GREATNESS



# Le Corbusier

(1887 - 1965)

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## INTRODUCTION

Charles-Edouard Jeanneret, who chose to be known as Le Corbusier was a **Swiss-born architect and writer, who is famous for his contributions to what now is called Modern Architecture.** He is considered to be both Swiss and French, having become a citizen of France in his 30's. **He was a pioneer in theoretical studies of modern design and was dedicated to providing better living conditions for the residents of crowded cities.** His career spanned five decades, with his iconic buildings constructed throughout central Europe, India, Russia, and one structure each in North and South America. He was also an urban planner, painter, sculptor, writer, and modern furniture designer.

## BIRTH AND EARLY YEARS

Le Corbusier was **born on October 6, 1887, in LaChaux-de-Fonds, Switzerland.** He was the second son of Edouard Jeanneret, a dial painter in the town's renowned watch industry, and Madame Jeanneret-Perrct, a musician and piano teacher. Born Charles-Edouard Jeanneret-Gris, Le Corbusier adopted his mother's maiden name in 1922 when he set up a partnership with his cousin, engineer Pierre Jeanneret.

## EARLY TRAINING

- Art education, La Chaux de Fonds
- Studied modern building construction with Auguste Perret in Paris
- Worked with Austrian architect Josef Hoffmann

## CAREER AS AN ARCHITECT

Le Corbusier taught at his old school in La-Chaux-de-Fonds during World War I, not returning to Paris until the war was over. **During these four years in Switzerland, he worked on theoretical architectural studies using modern techniques.** Among these was his project for the "Dom-ino" House. Between 1918 and 1922 Le Corbusier built nothing, concentrating his efforts on Purist theory and painting.

## BUILDING STYLE

**The earlier buildings by Le Corbusier were smooth, white concrete and glass structures elevated above the ground. He called these works "pure prisms."** In the late 1940s, he turned to a style known as "**New Brutalism,**" which used rough, **heavy forms of stone, concrete, stucco, and glass.** The same modernist ideas found in Le Corbusier's architecture were also expressed in his designs for simple, streamlined furniture. Imitations of Le Corbusier's chrome-plated tubular steel chairs are still made today.

# Le Corbusier

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He is perhaps best known for his innovations in urban planning and his solutions for low-income housing. He believed that the stark, unornamented buildings he designed would contribute to clean, bright, healthy cities. His urban ideals were realised in the Unité d'Habitation, or the "Radiant City," in Marseilles, France. The Unite incorporated shops, meeting rooms, and living quarters for 1,600 people in a 17-story structure. Today, visitors can stay at the Unite in the historic Hotel Le Corbusier.

## **MOST FAMOUS BUILDINGS**

- **1927-1928:** Palace for the League of Nations, Geneva
- **1929:** Villa Savoye, Poissy, France
- **1931-1932:** Swiss Building, Cité Universitaire, Paris
- **1952:** The Secretariat at the United Nations Headquarters, New York

## **OTHER IMPORTANT WORKS**

- **1922:** Ozenfant House and Studio, Paris
- **1946-1952:** Unité d'Habitation, Marseilles, France
- **1953-1957:** Museum at Ahmedabad, India
- **1950-1963:** High Court Buildings, Chandigarh, India
- **1950-1955:** Notre-Dame-du-Haut, Ronchamp, France
- **1954-1956:** Maisons Jaoul, Neuilly-sur-Seine, Paris
- **1957-1960:** Convent of La Tourette, Lyon France
- **1958:** Philips Pavilion, Brussels
- **1961-1964:** Carpenter Center, Cambridge, MA
- **1963-1967:** Centre Le Corbusier, Zürich, Switzerland

## **WRITINGS**

- **1927:** Vers une architecture [Towards a new Architecture]
- **1942:** La Maison des hommes [The Home of Man]
- **1947:** Quand les cathédrales étaient blanches [When the Cathedrals Were White]

## **DEATH**

Against his doctor's orders, on August 27, 1965, Le Corbusier went for a swim in the Mediterranean Sea at Roquebrune-Cap-Martin, France. His body was found by bathers and he was pronounced dead at 11 a.m. It was assumed that he suffered a heart attack, at the age of seventy-eight. His death rites took place at the courtyard of the Louvre Palace on September 1, 1965.

## Quotes

"The house is a machine for living in."

"Architecture is the learned game, correct and magnificent, of forms assembled in the light."

"I prefer drawing to talking. Drawing is faster, and leaves less room for lies."

"Take care of the luxuries and the necessities will take care of themselves."

## Quiz

1. In which year was Le Corbusier born?
2. In his book Vers une architecture, Le Corbusier described "\_\_\_ points of architecture".

Send your answers with your name and department to [one2one@clarislifesciences.com](mailto:one2one@clarislifesciences.com)

First 3 correct answers will get Clarista coupon worth RS. 50.

## Last Quiz Winners

**Ravi Bhargava** - Xcelris • **Samir Parikh** - Audit

**Ritesh Prajapati** - Audit