

Le Corbusier: The Art of Architecture
The Lyricism of Architecture in the Machine Age
Thursday 26th February 2009
Cinema 2, Level 4, Barbican Centre, London



Jean-Louis Cohen

Jean-Louis Cohen was born in 1949 in Paris. Trained as an architect at the École Spéciale d'Architecture and at the Unité Pédagogique n° 6, in Paris, he took a Ph.D. in History at the École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales in 1985 and received an Habilitation à diriger des recherches from the same institution in 1992.

After having directed the Architectural Research Program at the Ministry of Housing, from 1983 to 1996 he held a research professorship at the School of Architecture Paris-Villemin and, between 1996 and 2005, a chair in town-planning history at the Institut Français d'Urbanisme, University of Paris 8. Since 1993 he holds the Sheldon H. Solow Chair for the History of Architecture at New York University's Institute of Fine Arts.

Jean-Louis Cohen's research activity has been chiefly focused on 20th century architecture and urban design. He has studied in particular German and Soviet architectural cultures, colonial planning in North Africa and interpreted extensively Le Corbusier's work and Paris planning history. From 1997 to 2003, the French Minister of Culture appointed him to create the Cité de l'architecture, a museum, research and exhibition center opened in 2007 in the Paris Palais de Chaillot. During this period, he directed the Institut français d'architecture and the Musée des Monuments Français, the two main components of the Cité.

He has been a curator for numerous exhibitions, including *Paris-Moscou* (1979) and the centennial show *L'aventure Le Corbusier* (1987), both at the Centre Georges Pompidou. He has also conceived with Bruno Fortier the permanent exhibit *Paris, la ville et ses projets* at the Pavillon de l'Arsenal (1988-2003) and, at the Canadian Center for Architecture, *Scenes of the World to Come* (1995). Other exhibitions include 1997 *Les Années 30, l'architecture et les arts de l'espace entre industrie et nostalgie* at the Musée des Monuments Français in Paris (1997), *Casablanca, naissance d'une ville moderne en sol africain*, at th Fondation Electra (1999), *Alger, paysage urbain et architecture*, at the Institut français d'architecture (2003) and *The Lost Vanguard*, at the Museum of Modern Art in New York (2007).

His recent significant publications include:

Mies van der Rohe, Paris: Hazan (in French); Basel, Berlin, Boston: Birkhäuser (in English and German), 2007.

Above Paris, the Aerial Survey of Roger Henrard, New York : Princeton Architectural Press, 2006.

Le Corbusier – The Art of Architecture talks programme is presented by the Barbican in partnership with the RIBA Trust and generously sponsored by Ryder Architecture.

Ryder RIBA  **Trust**