

# Le Corbusier - The Art of Architecture

## Barbican Art Gallery, London

19 February – 24 May 2009

A RIBA Trust/Barbican presentation of an exhibition of the Vitra Design Museum in collaboration with the RIBA Trust and the Netherlands Architecture Institute.

Associate partners: Bally, Switzerland Tourism; Lucerne Tourism & Zürich Tourism, tp bennett, Victorinox.  
Media partners: Elle Decoration, The Architects' Journal.

## A Day in the Life of Le Corbusier

Sat 7 11am – Sun 8 Mar 2am

To celebrate the exhibition **Le Corbusier – The Art of Architecture** the Barbican Art Gallery hosts an all-day session of non-stop activities exploring the many personas of Le Corbusier, the first globally branded guru-architect. A wide variety of events run from 11am – 2am with architects, artists, critics, designers exploring their take on **A Day in the Life of Le Corbusier**.

Every day Le Corbusier followed a very rigid schedule, whether working or relaxing, his hours were implacably regular. He started every day with 45 minutes of exercise in order to prepare body and mind for the working day ahead. **A Day in the Life of Le Corbusier** begins at 11am with a communal exercise and stretching session lead by **Caroline Jupp** in amongst the Barbican's striking architecture. Exercises are followed by breakfast with designer **Alexandre Bettler**, in a workshop baking 'Corbusian' bread.

Le Corbusier repeatedly claimed that his innovations as an architect depended upon his passion for the fine arts and his practice as a painter, sculptor and designer. Join **Michael Donlevy** in a painting and drawing session, taking natural forms and found objects as the point of inspiration for building design.

After lunch Le Corbusier made his way across Paris to his architectural studio on the rue de Sèvres. In advance of his arrival tension in the studio increased as Le Corbusier invariably came with new sketches and ideas. Join architect **Paffard Keatinge-Clay** as he recalls the time he spent in Paris working in Le Corbusier's studio in the late 1940s.

In 1927 Le Corbusier published and promoted his innovative architectural ideas as the 'five points of a new architecture'. Join architectural historian **Eva Branscome** in searching out how Chamberlin, Powell & Bon, architects of the Barbican, applied Le Corbusier's 'five points' to their ambitiously utopian housing development in the heart of London.

Le Corbusier was one of the first architects to understand how to fully utilise the media as a means of communication and promotion. **a.b.a.k.e.** invite you to learn about Le Corbusier's activities as a magazine and book publisher, typographer, and manifesto-maker.

Le Corbusier, his cousin Pierre Jeanneret and Charlotte Perriand designed some of the most recognisable pieces of 20<sup>th</sup> century furniture. Spend the evening with Japanese designer **Shin Azumi** building your own piece 20<sup>th</sup> century classic furniture in paper form and learn the basic processes of furniture design.

Ever conscious of the image he was portraying, Le Corbusier made himself the first global architectural brand. **Cutler & Gross** explore the Le Corbusier look– have your picture taken with his iconic bow tie and glasses.

As day turns to night experience an electro acoustic diffusion concert by multimedia artists and electronic musicians Haswell and Hecker. **Russell Haswell** and **Florian Hecker** employ composer Iannis Xenakis' UPIC 'graphic input' computer music composing system in a multi-channel electro acoustic concert and use surround sound and laser lighting to create an immersive multi-sensory environment.

All events are drop-in and free to same-day exhibition ticket holders:

**11am–12pm**, Art Gallery Entrance

**The Man** : Morning Exercise with **Caroline Jupp**

**12–1pm**, Garden Room

**The Modulor** : An Architectural Breakfast with **Alexandre Bettler**

**1–2pm**, Art Gallery Resource Room

**The Artist** : Drawing and Painting workshop for families with **Michael Donlevy**

**2–3pm**, Garden Room

**The Mentor** : Working alongside Le Corbusier with **Paffard Keatinge-Clay**

**3–4pm**

**BREAK**

**4–5pm**, Art Gallery Entrance

**The Guru** : Establishing the Rules with **Eva Branscome**

**5–6pm**, Art Gallery Resource Room

**The Director** : 'Exquisite Corpse'

**6–7pm**, Garden Room

**The Urban Planner**: Designing the City with **Lisa Cholmendley**

**7–8pm**, Art Gallery Resource Room

**The Media Mogul** : Writing and Working with the Media presented by **a.b.a.k.e.**

**8–9pm**

**BREAK**

**9–10pm**, Art Gallery Resource Room

**The Furniture Designer** : Designing for the Interior with **Shin Azumi**

**10–11pm**, Garden Room

**The Prophet** : Making Manifestos with **Tomas Klassnik**

**11pm–12am**, Art Gallery Resource Room

**The Global Brand** : Becoming Le Corbusier with **Cutler & Gross**

**12–2am**, Art Gallery

**The Midnight Hour** : UPIC Diffusion Session #20 with **Russell Haswell** and **Florian Hecker**

To see a full schedule of events visit [www.barbican.org.uk/lecorbusier/talks-and-events](http://www.barbican.org.uk/lecorbusier/talks-and-events)

A specially designed **booklet** guides each visitor through A Day in the Life of Le Corbusier. Collect stamps at each event to complete a passport to the architect's daily routine. Each completed passport can be entered to win a copy of Phaidon's Le Corbusier Le Grand.

A Day in the Life of Le Corbusier is part of the Barbican Centre's **Do Something Different Weekend**. Also as part of the Do Something Different Weekend is **Total Immersion: Iannis Xenakis Composer Day**. BBC Symphony orchestra celebrates the music of Iannis Xenakis who worked for Le Corbusier and collaborated with him on the Phillips Pavilion. For more information on the Do Something Different Weekend visit: <http://www.barbican.org.uk/different>

The Barbican, Europe's leading arts centre, celebrates the Le Corbusier exhibition and his dynamic cross-arts approach with its Le Corbusier at the Barbican programme featuring concerts, debates, a film season, talks and events. The talks programme, presented in partnership with the RIBA Trust, includes Le Corbusier experts Charles Jencks, Tim Benton and Jean Louis Cohen, and the 'Architects of the 21st Century' events series featuring rising stars from the field of architecture and design.

## NOTES TO EDITORS EVENT

Barbican Art Gallery would like to thank the Fondation Le Corbusier for their very generous support of **A Day in the Life of Le Corbusier**.

Concept: Shumon Basar

Programme development: Corinna Gardner, Assistant Curator, Barbican Art Gallery

A Day in the Life of Le Corbusier booklet concept and design: OKRM

## PRESS INFORMATION

For further information, images or to arrange interviews contact Barbican Art Gallery Press Office: Lorna Gemmell, Media Relations Manager +44 207 382 7169, [gemmell@barbican.org.uk](mailto:gemmell@barbican.org.uk) or Alex Cattell, Media Relations Officer +44 207 382 6162, [acattell@barbican.org.uk](mailto:acattell@barbican.org.uk)

## PUBLIC INFORMATION

Barbican Art Gallery opening times: Daily 11am – 8pm

Tuesday & Wednesday 11am – 6pm

Every Thursday LATE until 10pm.

Admission: £8; £6 concessions

Public information: 0845 120 7550, [www.barbican.org.uk/artgallery](http://www.barbican.org.uk/artgallery)

## LE CORBUSIER AT THE BARBICAN

The Barbican celebrates Le Corbusier with a host of events, concerts, films and talks. For further information please visit [www.barbican.org.uk/lecorbusier](http://www.barbican.org.uk/lecorbusier)

## UNLIMITED ACCESS TO THE LE CORBUSIER EXHIBITION - UNIQUE SPECIAL OFFER

Our special Le Corbusier Season Membership pass allows you to visit the exhibition as many times as you like and enjoy 20% off tickets to the accompanying talks and events programme, as well as discounts in the Gallery shop. You can also enjoy substantial savings and ticket offers across the rest of the Barbican's programme of film, music, art and theatre events, benefit from priority booking and get advance notification of future events. All this for a whole year! Membership is just £30 (or £25 by Direct Debit). For full details visit [www.barbican.org.uk/lecorbusier](http://www.barbican.org.uk/lecorbusier)

## EXHIBITION

The exhibition has been curated by Le Corbusier scholars, Stanislaus von Moos and Arthur Rüegg, alongside VITRA Design Museum curator Mateo Kries. It is organised by VITRA Design Museum in collaboration with the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) Trust and the Netherlands Architecture Institute.

The Barbican presentation of **Le Corbusier – The Art of Architecture** is sponsored by: Associate partners: Bally, Switzerland Tourism; Lucerne Tourism & Zürich Tourism, tp bennett, Victorinox. It is supported by: Stanley Thomas Johnson Foundation. The talks programme is presented by Barbican Art Gallery in partnership with the RIBA Trust and generously sponsored by Ryder Architecture.

The Barbican and the RIBA Trust are grateful to the following for their generous sponsorship of this exhibition: National Partners: European Commission Representation in the UK; National Associates: Duravit, ERCO, Liverpool John Moores University, RIBA North West, Shed KM, Sto, and Urban Splash and Touring Associate: PRO HELVETIA.