

THE ARCHITECTURAL DESIGNER: FROM ORDER TO DISORDER

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In this paper, I look at the role of the architect/designer as it historically changes and passes through different Cultural "conditions". I will briefly discuss the emergence of the architect over history but give particular attention to the (Western) 19th century so-called "freeing" advocacy from the shackles of hierarchical and industrial societies (Ruskin, Morris, Geddes etc) slowly arriving at the so-called liberated "Modernist" cultures in which designers were expected to ignore the past and radically address the present. This represented a move from a culturally enforced coherence to a new freedom which would create a new sort of dissonance.

But Modernism in architecture as it emerged into the 20th century carried with it a new style of authority within which architects assumed that they knew the sort of architecture and environments that were "good for people" (e.g. Le Corbusier), but as a critical response to this there would be a growing acknowledgement amongst the next architect generation (e.g. Team 10) that the users of environments (i.e. everyone) must play a potentially influencing part in their own contexts thus representing the beginnings of a new "from below" complexity of multiple voices.

These stages represent a series of cultural shifts over time, starting with ordered hierarchical societies and arriving eventually at ever increasing egalitarian, individualistic and expressionistic cultural settings in which architects would be part of these settings but also representative of the view complexity or multiplicity.