

What Is a World Heritage Site?

A World Heritage site is a place that is listed by UNESCO* for being of such special cultural or physical significance that it has 'Outstanding Universal Value'. The list is maintained by the World Heritage Centre administered by UNESCO. The Convention Concerning the Protection of World Cultural and Natural Heritage was signed in 1972.

*UNESCO: This is one of the institutions of the United Nations that was established in order to achieve world peace through educational, scientific and cultural activities.
(Headquarters: Paris, France)

★World Heritage Categories

There are three categories of world heritage site.

Cultural Heritage

Buildings, ruins, castles, temples and ancient tombs, etc.

Natural Heritage

Terrain, landscapes and valuable animal/plant habitats, etc.

Mixed Heritage

Properties shall be considered as "mixed cultural and natural heritage"

The National Museum of Western Art is nominated for Cultural Heritage.



Road to World Heritage Site Inscription

Topics

2007	Sep.	The Japanese government received the request for a serial nomination from the French government.
	Dec.	Main building of the NMWA designated as an important cultural property (architecture) of Japan.
2008	Jan.	The Japanese government nominated the NMWA for "Architectural and urban works of Le Corbusier" to World Heritage List.
	Feb.	The French government, representing the states parties, submitted the nomination file for "Architectural and urban works of Le Corbusier" to the World Heritage Centre.
	Oct.	ICOMOS, an advisory body of the World Heritage Centre, carry out on-site evaluation mission as a nomination process for World Heritage List.
2009	May	ICOMOS made their recommendation for "Deferral".
	Jun.	The 33rd World Heritage Committee in Spain examined and made "Referral" decision.
2011	Feb.	The French government, representing the states parties, submitted additional information "The architectural works of Le Corbusier: an outstanding contribution to the Modern Movement" to the World Heritage Centre. (Altered the title of nomination file and revised constituted elements.)
	May	ICOMOS made their recommendation for "Not to Inscribe".
2014	Jun.	The 35th World Heritage Committee in France reexamined and made "Deferral" decision.
	Sep.	The French government, representing the states parties, submitted the nomination file for "The architectural works of Le Corbusier: an outstanding contribution to the Modern Movement (Tentative)" to the World Heritage Centre.
2015	Jan.	The Japanese government nominates for "The architectural works of Le Corbusier: an outstanding contribution to the Modern Movement".
	Jan.	The French government, representing the states parties, submitted the nomination file for "The architectural works of Le Corbusier: an outstanding contribution to the Modern Movement" (Official) to the World Heritage Centre.
	Aug.	ICOMOS carry out on-site evaluation mission as a nomination process for World Heritage List.

Schedule

- January 2015** The French government, representing the states parties submits the nomination file to the World Heritage Centre.
- August 2015** ICOMOS* carry out on-site evaluation mission.
- Around April to May 2016** ICOMOS make their recommendation.
- July 2016** The 40th World Heritage Committee (Scheduled to be held in Istanbul in Turkey) examine and make the decision.

★ICOMOS(international council on monuments and sites): one of the formal advisory bodies to the World Heritage Committee on all aspects of the cultural heritage.

The decision of the World Heritage Committee is classified in the following four categories.

Categories	Details
1 Inscription	The site will be registered (inscribed) on the World Heritage List.
2 Referral of Nominations	The submission of additional information is required to the following Committee session for examination. The additional information must be received by the Secretariat by 1 February of the year in which examination by the Committee is desired.
3 Deferral of Nominations	More in depth assessment or study, or a substantial revision by the State Party is required. After the resubmission of nomination file, the site will again be evaluated.
4 Decision Not to Inscribe	The nomination may not again be presented to the Committee except in exceptional circumstances.

For the success
of the World Heritage nomination

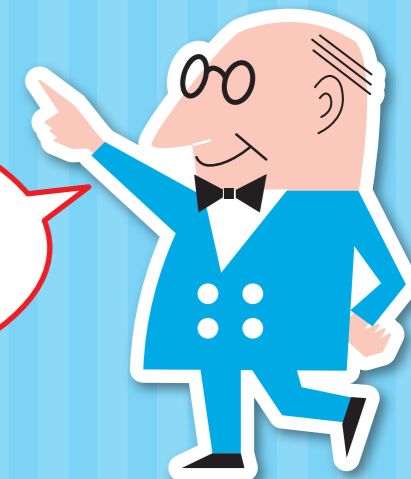
The National Museum of Western Art



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We submitted the nomination file to the UNESCO World Heritage Centre for "The Architectural Work of Le Corbusier" in January 2015.

We hope to have the Main Building of the National Museum of Western Art (NMWA) inscribed on the World Cultural Heritage List in 2016!



QR code



Summary of the Nomination File

Name of Nomination : The Architectural Work of Le Corbusier – An Outstanding Contribution to the Modern Movement –

(Original: L'Œuvre architecturale de Le Corbusier: Une contribution exceptionnelle au Mouvement Moderne)

Constituted elements : 17 elements in 7 countries

France(10)

Maisons La Roche et Jeanneret



©FLC Ph.Olivier Martin-Gambier

Cité Frugès, Pessac



©FLC Ph.Paul Koslowski

Villa Savoye et loge du jardinier



©FLC Ph.Paul Koslowski

Immeuble locatif à la Porte Molitor



©FLC Ph.Olivier Martin-Gambier

Unité d'habitation, Marseille



©FLC Ph.Paul Koslowski

Manufacture à Saint-Dié



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Chapelle Notre-Dame-du-Haut, Ronchamp



©Taito City

Cabanon de Le Corbusier, Roquebrune-Cap-Martin



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Couvent Sainte-Marie-de-la-Tourette



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Maison de la Culture de Firminy



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Switzerland(2)

Petite villa au bord du lac Léman



©FLC Ph.Olivier Martin-Gambier

Immeuble Clarté



©FLC Ph.Evelyne Perroud

India(1)

Complexe du Capitole, Chandigarh



©FLC (Palace of Assembly)

Argentina(1)

Maison du Docteur Curutchet



©FLC Ph.Olivier Martin-Gambier

Germany(1)

Maisons de la Weissenhof-Siedlung



©FLC Ph.B.Gonzales

Belgium(1)

Maison Guiette



©FLC Ph.P.De Prins

Japan(1)

National Museum of Western Art



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We propose a serial inscription on the World Heritage List!



Value of the Architectural Work of Le Corbusier -Justification of Criteria-

Criterion (ii)

exhibit an important interchange of human values, over a span of time or within a cultural area of the world, on developments in architecture or technology, monumental arts, town-planning or landscape design.

The influence of Le Corbusier's architectural work on a worldwide level

The Architectural Work of Le Corbusier exhibits an unprecedented interchange of human values and a remarkable debate of ideas, on a worldwide scale lasting half a century. The global influence reached by The Architectural Work of Le Corbusier is a new phenomenon in the history of architecture and demonstrates its unprecedented impact.

Value of the National Museum of Western Art

The Main Building of the National Museum of Western Art is the only one of Le Corbusier's architectural works to have been built in Japan. It had a great influence in Asia.

Criterion (vi)

be directly or tangibly associated with events or living traditions, with ideas, or with beliefs, with artistic and literary works of outstanding universal significance.

Materialization of le Corbusier's ideas by his Architectural Work

The Architectural Work of Le Corbusier is directly and materially associated with the ideas of the "Modern Movement"*1, of which the theories and works possessed outstanding universal significance*2 in the twentieth century.

Value of the National Museum of Western Art

With its flat roof, square planar configuration, spiral walkways, and floor plan that allow for the extension of the floor spiral as the collection expands, the National Museum of Western Art is considered to be a representative work of Le Corbusier's concept of "Musée à croissance illimitée".

*1: In this movement, modern architecture breaks away from traditional aesthetics, and it strives to create home designs and urban designs that pursue projects inspired by layout, location, and function. Modern tastes enjoy simplicity and clarity. They utilized glass, steel and concrete in their designs, which allowed them the opportunity to create buildings of radical design. The ambitions of the modernists in that architecture should raise the living conditions of the masses. The urban landscape around the world changed dramatically in terms of form, materials and techniques under this movement.

*2: It means cultural and/or natural significance which is so exceptional as to transcend national boundaries and to be of common importance for present and future generations of all humanity.

Who's Le Corbusier?

Le Corbusier

1887–1965



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Real Name : Charles-Édouard Jeanneret-Gris

* "Le Corbusier" was his pen name that he used in the *Esprit Nouveau* journal.

• He was born in La Chaux-de-Fonds in Switzerland. (He later took French nationality.)

■ He was one of the great masters of modern architecture in the 20th century.

■ He proposed new ideas, such as the "Domino system," "Five Points of a New Architecture" and "Modulor."

These ideas have had a major impact on architecture and design since the 20th century.

■ There remain more than 70 architectural works all over the world.

■ In addition to the architectural field, he tackled interior design and writing.

This included works of arts such as paintings, prints and sculptures. He took part in a wide range of creative activities – from small houses to a draft of the United Nations Building.

What's the National Museum of Western Art?

The National Museum of Western Art

Completed in 1959
Designer : Le Corbusier



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■ The Main Building of the NMWA is a symbol of post-war cultural exchange between France and Japan owing to the return of "the Matsukata Collection" as donation.

■ The Main Building of the NMWA is the only building in East Asia designed by Le Corbusier. The architectural features of Le Corbusier, such as pilotis, slopes, a roof garden, lighting plan with natural light and the Modulor are well represented in this building.

■ This museum has realized the concept of "musée a croissance illimitée*(museum of unlimited growth)."

*Musée a croissance illimitée (Museum of Unlimited Growth)

The floor plan of this concept allows to be extended in a spiral from the center of the building toward the outside to increase the exhibit space as collection expand. This concept is also attempted in the museums in Ahmedabad and Chandigarh in India in addition to the National Museum of Western Art.

