

Artist	Gerrit Rietveld
Title	Schroder House
Date	1924
Medium	Steel, Concrete and Dutch Brick
Scale	/
Scope	Modern Architecture
Style	International/De Stijl (The Style)
Patron	Truus Schroder
Location	Utrecht, Netherlands
Function	Adaptable, Systematic and Dynamic



Influence from cultural/social factors:

Schroder house is located on the edge of the city of Utrecht close to the countryside, at the end of a 20th century row of houses. By putting the house on the end of these traditional Dutch houses Rietveld was rebelling against the traditional lifestyle they had

Influence from political factors:

The unrest and economic problems in Germany, one of the Netherlands' main trading partners, meant in the early 1920s the Netherland was plunged into a severe depression. This meant that Rietveld had to keep his costs down as the country did not have much money. This lead to him having to change his initial idea of using concrete for the whole house as it was too expensive

Stylistic comment and artistic influence: Influenced by the De Stijl group of artists and architects in the Netherlands in the 1920s. The movement embraced abstract, simplistic and basic visual elements such as geometric forms and primary colours

Use or development of materials, techniques & processes: Rietveld wanted to construct the house out of concrete but it turned out that it would be too expensive to do that on such a small building. The foundations and the balconies were the only parts of the building that were made out of concrete. The walls were made of brick and plaster. To support the building steel beams with wire mesh were used

Influence from technological factors:

Instead of having static rooms Rietveld created a house that could be adapted to suit the needs of the Schroder family. This was achieved with a system of sliding and revolving panels. Mrs Schroder used these panels to open up the space of the second floor to allow more of an open area for her and her children. This left the option of closing or separating the rooms when desired

Critical text quote:

‘the Rietveld Schröderhuis occupies a seminal position in the development of architecture in the modern age’-UNESCO

Formal features	
Composition	Asymmetric exterior with a focus on geometrics
Colour or texture	Primary colours separated with black and white
Light & tone	/
Space & depth or relief	High relief supported by steel beams with wire mesh
Line or brushwork	Focuses of horizontal and vertical lines