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| Artist | Le Corbusier (and his cousin Pierre Jeanneret) |
| Title | **Villa Savoye** |
| Date | 1929 - 1931 |
| Medium | Made of reinforced concrete. Ground floor walls are recessed & painted green so that the house looks like a box floating on delicate pilotis. |
| Scale |  |
| Scope | Domestic architecture |
| Style | The International Style/International Modernism. **5 points** = **1.** Pilotis **2.** Free façade **3.** Ribbon windows **4.** Free plan **5.** Flat roof/roof garden. |
| Patron | Pierre&Eugénie Savoye. Initial brief only requested a summer house, space for cars, an extra bedroom and a caretaker’s lodge. |
| Location | Poissy, Yvelines. France |
| Function | A country, family home. Building shaped to equip parking on ground floor. Piloti elevate house + ribbon windows & curtain walls allow uninterrupted views. Open floor plan = big living area + smaller bedrooms & bathrooms. Flat roof = roof garden + solarium blocks wind. |

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| Formal features | |
| Composition | Almost square – a cube. Asymmetric. Piloti create vertical emphasis. |
| Colour or texture | Stark white exterior walls & strips of ribbon windows result in a smooth, planar (2D/flat) appearance to the house. |
| Light & tone | - |
| Space & depth or relief | Spatial planning – spaces arranged to maximise efficiency (+ a minimalistic aesthetic) |
| Line or brushwork | Exterior = Harsh, geometric lines. Solarium = Curving lines. Interior = fluid. Gently curving multistory ramp. |

Influence from technological factors:

Designed with the car in mind – Corbu, *Vers un Architecture*: ‘The motor car is an object with a simple function (to travel) and complicated aims (comfort, resistance, appearance) ...’. – a feeling of movement that is integral to the building. Ground floor entrance determined by the turning circle of a car.

Influence from political factors:

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Influence from cultural/social factors:

Curtain walls connecting roof garden = outdoor & indoor spaces integrated, the house a machine designed to maximise leisure in the machine age (Both Corbu & Madame Savoye believed in the health benefits of fresh air & sunshine.) Leisure time spent outdoors regarded as a mark of a modern life style.

Feeling of sacredness (4 columns at entrance) introduced into the act of dwelling – washing & eating given significance by location, act of cleansing represented by sink in the entrance hall & celebration of health-giving properties of the sun in solarium on the roof (angular ramps direct towards solarium)

Critical text quote:

‘The house is a box in the air...’ & ‘The house should be a machine for living in’ – Le Corbusier

‘Form follows function’ & ‘Ornament is a crime’ - Sullivan

Stylistic comment and artistic influence:

Corbu’s admiration for well-built automobiles and trans-Atlantic steamships is translated into the overall appearance of the house (form resembles a ship).

Use or development of materials, techniques & processes:

Piloti = give a floating effect. Reinforced concrete allows forms of the building to vary according to function. Ribbon windows (add geometric lines) & curtain walls allow natural light in and display views.

Image:

