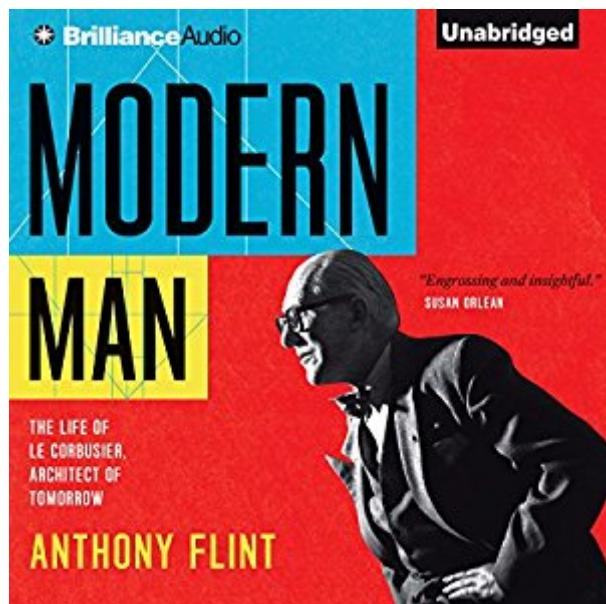


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# Modern Man: The Life Of Le Corbusier, Architect Of Tomorrow



## Synopsis

From the award-winning author of *Wrestling with Moses* comes a fascinating, accessible biography of the most important architect of the 20th century. *Modern Man* is a riveting biography of Le Corbusier - a man who invented new ways of building and thinking. *Modern Man* is a penetrating psychological portrait of a true genius and constant self-inventor, as well as a sweeping tale filled with exotic locales, sex, and celebrity (he was a lover of Josephine Baker), and high-stakes projects. In Flint's telling, Corbusier isn't just the grandfather of modern architecture but a man who sought to remake the world according to his vision, dispelling the Victorian style and replacing it with something never seen before. His legacy remains controversial today, as the world grapples with how to house its skyrocketing urban population and the cult of the "starchitect" continues to grow. *Modern Man* is for listeners fascinated by the complex personal lives and outsized visions of both groundbreaking artists and dazzling, charismatic innovators like Steve Jobs.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

*Modern Man: The Life of Le Corbusier, Architect of Tomorrow*" is a light biography of the pioneering modernist architect Le Corbusier and his major works by Anthony Flint, who is a journalist and policy advisor on planning and development. Written in a literate but breezy style, it introduces the reader to some of the concepts that propelled modernist architecture for half a century and to its most obsessive and ideological proponent, "the original star architect", Le Corbusier. The author jumps right into 1929, as Le Corbusier returns to Europe from Argentina, where he met and bedded

Josephine Baker. Flint name-drops a lot, but Le Corbusier did live in an interesting time and knew many famous people. He flashes back to Le Corbusier's Swiss origins -he was born Charles-Édouard Jeanneret-Gris- and early career by way of background, but there is never much context for Le Corbusier's life and work. The book is short and its focus narrow. Le Corbusier designed 78 buildings that were completed in 12 countries. Flint's descriptions focus on the architect's most famous and influential works. There are enthusiastic descriptions of the circumstances under which the works were built and of the buildings themselves: Villa Jeanneret-Perret (Maison Blanche), Villa Savoye, Unité d'Habitation at Marseilles, United Nations Headquarters, Chapel of Notre Dame de Haut at Ronchamp, Chandigarh in India, the cabanon in Roquebrune-Cap-Martin, and Harvard University's Carpenter Center for the Visual Arts. Flint acknowledges the collaborative nature of the UN Headquarters design but barely mentions other architects on the project in Chandigarh, and I believe many of those buildings were designed by others. The focus of "Modern Man" is very strongly on Le Corbusier.

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