

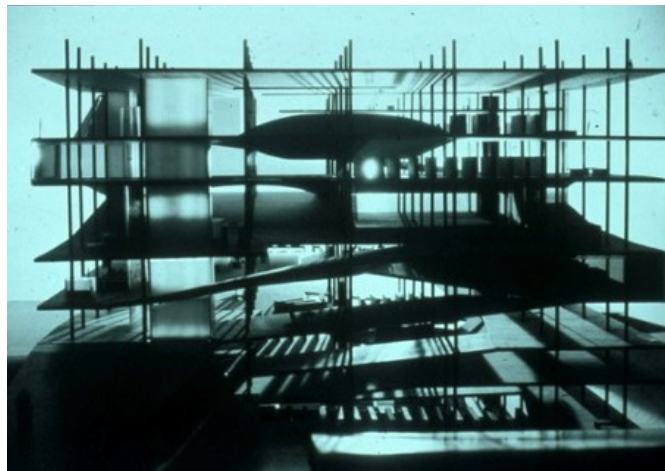
The Naked and the Nude (An Inquiry on Nudity in Architecture, Art, and Philosophy)



Nudity: an Iconological Dilemma

We typically perceive architecture as being naked when it is *unadorned*, or when it reveals its *structure*, or when its *material* is *rough*, or when its expression is extremely *frugal*. A nude architecture is therefore many different things at once. Yet the concept of nude (or naked) architecture is seemingly apparent to everyone. The fact is, **even in architecture, nudity is a mystery**. St. Augustine recognized this dilemma and so, when asked why a naked body could seem both demure and lustful, he answered that *a chaste nudity is not naked, but is dressed in the invisible mantle of grace*.

This course will investigate one of the greatest iconological mysteries of today, as well as of the past: that of **nudity**.



Images: top, Le Corbusier painting a mural (without permission) in Eileen Gray's E.1027, 1938 [photo: Fondation Le Corbusier]; bottom, OMA's competition entry for a library in Jussieu, France, 1992