

ARC607 'DOMUS' GRADUATE STUDIO  
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### Concept Statement

Villa Savoye became a vehicle for representation of the dialectic of the machine age/form and that of history. The choice of this unique and influential 'house' as a precedent for the Domus studio presented a challenging project since it is already in current form a study of the contrast and combination of two influences historical and the zeitgeist.

The objectives of the studio then were to intervene and justify changes to the original by the use of

1. Insertion (change and or addition of program functions and form)
2. Transformation (changes to form, function, program or experience)
3. Erasure / Removal / Trace (form, material, grid, function, program)
4. Changes in Materiality / Opacity (structural optimization, transparency, translucently)

Thus the objectives of my studio intervention were to attempt to insert a current history to incorporate the influential parts of our age in the resultant studio project that evolves from investigations. Text references as well as photographic (obtained from the Internet and printed sources) became the initial study elements. These included an examination of the Parthenon, Colin Rowe's essay Mathematics of the Ideal Villa, Jean La Marche's paper "The Desire of Our Eyes", Christopher Alexander's work on the essay's 'The City is a Tree, The City is not a Tree' and "Le Corbusier Oeuvre complete" volumes 1,2 &3. From these investigations some design objectives were established. The design would need to accommodate current needs for a site in our relative geographic area (Buffalo in Western New York). The 'Objectives' listed above were studied to gauge their applicability and with the aid of a survey instrument (to gauge the realitativity of a zeitgeist and to then seek modes of representation of our age) decisions were made as to the extent that these objectives would be attained. The Insertion, Transformation, Erasure and Changes in materiality could all be achieved by rebuilding the Villa Savoye today utilizing current construction methods but such would not be a study of domesticity. The decision was made early on in the process to respect the Villa Savoye; thus any changes would result from a desire to reflect positive or introspective changes since its original construction.

The largest area of focus then would become program instead of form thus programmatic changes included.

1. What domesticity and domus means in today's history.
2. A resurgence for physical well being.
3. Modernizing the facilities of the villa with respect to kitchens and bathrooms.
4. Including a new passive form of social entertainment via a large projection screen.
5. Providing a method of information study and exchange via the projection screens.
6. Gaining more transparency via the placement of additional window and skylights.
7. Emphasizing the structural qualities as a secondary purpose of the transparency gains.
8. Reducing the class differential of the Villa by not designating servant quarters.

9. Providing a more realistic space for dining and office to make the Villa into a more permanent residence.
10. Provide a construction means to increase repeatability of manufactured components.

The implementation of these changes in program issues would result in more complete bathrooms, kitchen and office facilities. Additionally the major form changes would result from a reduced need for program space, and the desire for manufacturing and construction ease. Finally these program changes would divide and define the Piano Nobile to reflect the current cultural desires more (that of this geographic area) with a minimal resultant effect on the desire for increased transparency.

The study of domesticity then becomes influenced largely on one's own experiences and education related to such. Many have houses, but when the house becomes a part of you then it has become a home. To attempt to create such a synergistic experience then became the goal of this project for it truly to be a great intervention others must be able to attain enthusiasm with the resultant product as well.

