

**Contemporary Architecture and Design**  
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**Lecture – 29**  
**Phases of Post Modern Architecture**  
**Part I**

Welcome students to the online NPTEL course, Contemporary Architecture and Design. In the previous class of all these classes, we discussed of modernism with focus on architecture and we have also discussed industrial design and art movement which flourished around modernism with the context of architecture. And how it was related with the architecture and what was the principle of modernism and in architecture and as well as in design and art.

So now, we will start with the Post Modernism. So, it was not that there was a particular time line from there, all the modernist thought process ended and all of you sudden postmodernist thought process emerged. So, it was a gradual transition and it was a reaction of against different modernist movement and also this transition happened because of the context, social context of the world and we have also seen how it was linked with the world's scenario.

And how from the industrial revolution, many of them, first phases of modernist movements was and manifestation of industrial revolution; for example, for the machine movement and against the machine movement and all this which started in Europe.

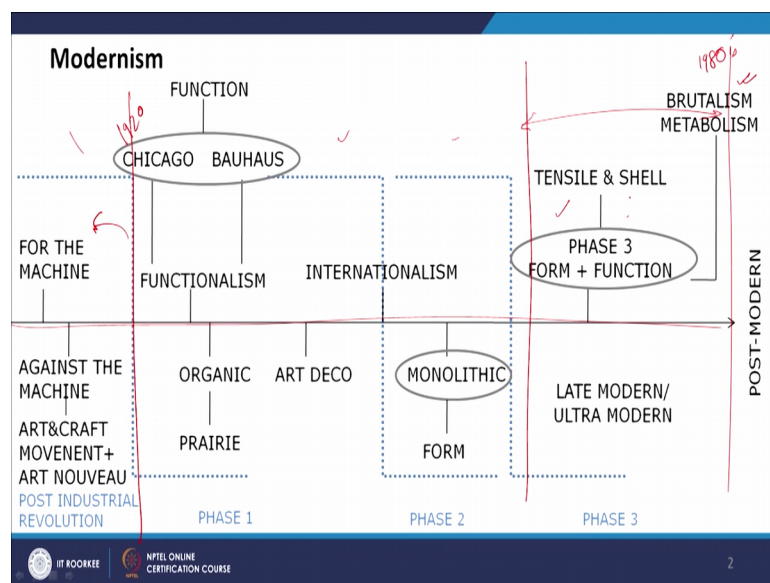
And after that, there was the world war started and during the world war there was functional emphasis was more in during the world war. And during the situation where people started migrating from village to the cities, high rise started coming and for example for that reason functionalism started evolved in Chicago and also colonialization, for not just for world war colonialization started in Europe. That is why Bauhaus and other kind of building was there where the functional requirement was just needed because there was many other colonies to taken care of.

And then, there was thought of that one particular style will go around the international throughout the international. So, internationalist movement started. And after the end of the world war, there was a emphasis much more emphasis on the aesthetics because

during the world war there was a very clean and minimalist movement thing was there which focuses on functionalism. And during the world war also we have seen in design, there was requirement of change that is why modularity came.

Which later, in the after post world Japan evolved and start evolved as a metabolism and brutalist design was also started coming. So, the all this things where happening during the world war during the modernist movement. Now, postmodernism from 1980's onwards. So, if you look at the time line.

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So, everything started and ended around 1980's. So, it started around 1920, will be here. So, this is pre modern and then 1980's, this modernism ended. So, from 1980, so during this time, so, after the world war to this, there was a transition between modernism to postmodern. So now, after 1980's, all this postmodern movement started and this postmodern movement was against the concept of minimal. So, most of this modern movement and if you look at, so specially, internationalism and many other movements there was very rectilinear less in ornamentation.

Sometime the ornamentations are just the, the structures; for example, shell and tensile. And sometime it is just the pure color and pure material in brutalism and as well as the Bauhaus and internationalism. And sometimes, the design is just the outer skeleton or the services in context of metabolism.

But in postmodern, there was high on ornamentation. Ornamentation was really important. And that the building started looking much more garish and much more exaggerated in ornamentation in post modern and the thought process was very different. And many of the post modern movement was reaction against the particular modern movement. So, now we will discuss. So, this is the time line of modern.

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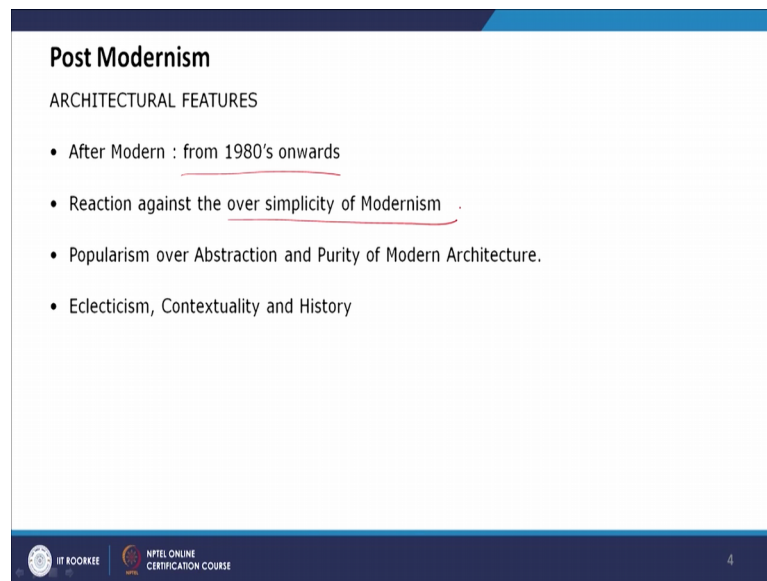


Now, we will discuss, how modern movement and how post modern movement was opposing one particular thought process on particular features of modernism. So, today in this class, we will discuss about with example of architecture. In the later class, we will discuss holistically with industrial design example of industrial design and art movement.

So, in architecture, we will today discuss how modernism and postmodernism; what is the difference between modernism and post modernism in a in totality. But many of the cases it will be because within the modernism there will be many movement. So, it was just a modernist as an idea, holistically as an idea and postmodernist holistically as an idea. Within postmodernism also there many many different movement which was not connected with each other; for example, critical regionalism and deconstructivism; if you take them, so, both happened in the postmodern era deconstructivism is the later, late later phases of the postmodern and they are not related to each other.

In the historicism also, one of the movement of postmodernism, they also not related with both of this other post modernist movement. So, conceptually together, but there also there is a salient link cohesion between postmodernist style and modern style; what are these; so, that we will see with the example of architecture today and then later with the example of art and design.

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**Post Modernism**

ARCHITECTURAL FEATURES

- After Modern : from 1980's onwards
- Reaction against the over simplicity of Modernism .
- Popularism over Abstraction and Purity of Modern Architecture.
- Eclecticism, Contextuality and History

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So, architectural features in post modern in a very broad way; it is after modern. So, it is 1980's onwards and we I already told you what was the situation variation of the socio cultural context between modernism and post modernism. They have socio cultural context was very different from modernist movement and postmodernist. So, world rights now we are in a stable world till now we are in the stable world. So, no world war is happening after 1980's. So, the situation and looking at towards art and design and architecture was very different in post modern era.

So, reaction against the over simplicity of modernism, so together, if we look at, modernist movements are simplified. So, when we look at the post modernism rights now and the other movements of postmodernist elements, these postmodern movements are not simplified at all.

So, if you look at, compare these two post modern movement will look much more accentuated and has lot of more visual element in a particular design, popularism over abstraction and purity of modern architecture. So, modern architecture has this concept

of pure design and design has to be with based on pure color, pure material and the vision will come from architect. And then popularism was there in postmodern. So, so postmodern will imbibe the people's choice.

So, lot of elements will there and to please people and pastiche or this is the term which talks about the taking inspiration from other already done work and then create imitation of that. So, if this imitations were there in the post modernist movement. And also in the post modern era we will see lot of emphasis on the core design and the emphasis of peoples the users opinion within the design; so, it also definitely there in the metabolism because metabolism started in very late phase of modernism. And it is also metabolism, brutalism and tensile and shell has lot of features of postmodernism already imbibed in that, so, because that is in transitional phase.

So, this modularity concept of modularity and changing the design based on people's choice is there in the post modern era. So, also people will connect with the design. So, that is why context is very important. So, people will understand the that that design belongs to my area. So, that affinity towards this design will be is very is given much emphasis than the pure form of art which was there in the modernism.

Now, eclecticism and contextuality and history which was there connected in the post modernism. And if you look at in the modernist movement, most of the modernist movement was very abstract and non-figurative and most of the modernist movement, none of the buildings apart from only, apart from the Chicago movement, no modern movement had the connection with the previous historic building.

So, this the history was cut down from this modernist movement, just only in Chicago movement which was in the early phase of modernism. It was there because they have taken inspiration from the Greek architecture style but apart from that, none of the building have taken in inspiration from the previous architectures, building and translated into their own design.

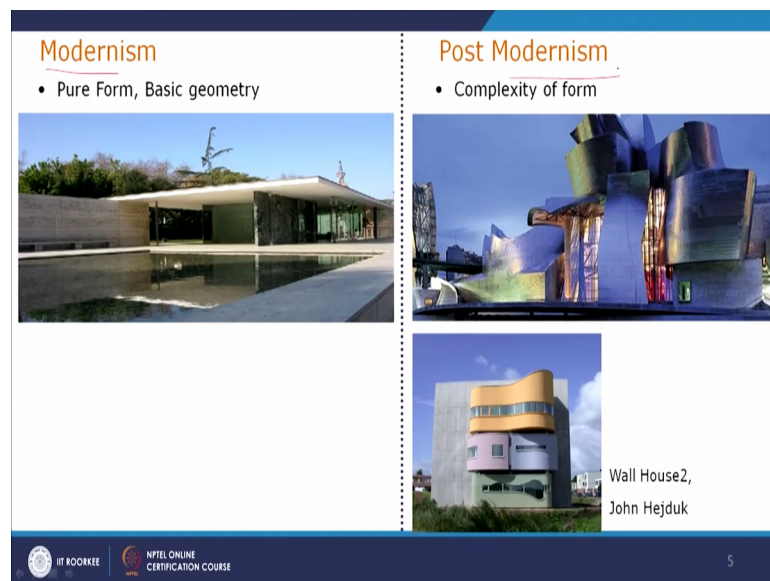
But in post modern architecture movement, it was done extensively. So, this particular term is called Pastiche in fraternity of art word. So, this word means, so already done work is acting as a inspiration and you are mimicking the art work. This is the mimicry that same art work is done in the design and eclecticism is a term which combines, which connotes that many of the source is influencing your design. For example, in modernism,

so if there is a particular source of design is there, Robie House is example of prairie architecture. So, they, they have taken prairie grassland as their inspiration.

And no other inspiration was there. But here in eclecticism it can be many inspiration, many things are combined together like a collage and then final design is there. So, it can be inspiration can be from one particular space and another inspiration board can have some other element in the design which does not, which might not have seem seeming it might not have a connection.

But then, it can be jumbled up and take taken as taken together as a design, inspiration or mood board and then a design can evolve from these two particular different source of work and that is called eclecticism from taking inspiration from different different things and making a collage of design and then creating the own design. So, that was not there in the modernist movement. And in the most of the cases, the modernist movement did not take inspiration from outside.

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So now, the difference between modernism and post modernism, we will discuss this; modernism in this side and postmodernism in the other side. So, there was a pure form and basic geometry modernism. This is the building. We have discussed in internationalist movement. This is Barcelona Pavilion by Mies Van Der Rohe. This is an, this is a Pavilion for the Germany and designed in Barcelona. So, here, and also in the

Farnsworth House and the Johnson House, we have seen pure form which is cuboid and rectilinear forms are there.

But when you look at this, this is a later phase of post modernism and deconstructive style. This is designed by Frank, Frank Gehry, this is Guggenheim museum in Bilbao Spain. So, if you look at the elements. So, these are the lot of different elements which is none of the elements are pure, pure geometric elements and they are turning and twisting and that creates the form of the building.

And this is by looking at it, you can understand this is not minimal at all. And all these, none of these elements are pure geometric and there is a mixture of curvilinearity with the rectilinearity. So, here you can see rectilinear angle. Now here, you can see another rectilinear angle, but in between their curves and there are many curves and rectilinearity are juxtaposed and fused together. So, there are lot of elements are creating this design. So, there is no one particular thing whether it will be just curvilinear or rectilinear. It is blended with each other.

And then there is fenestration. There is a fragile fenestration which is glass, that is also turning and twisting and this is solid. And so, solid and void, everything is mixed together and then creating this form. This is Frank Gehries, one of the famous concept which we will discuss later when we discuss. So, this is Wall House 2 by John Hejduck, John Hejduk have designed many wall houses; this is number 2 of the wall houses. Here also, we see the complexity of the form.

So, one thing is just pure rectangle, that is acting as a backdrop and then on the foreground, there is different, different a curvilinear forms are going like that and then there is a strip windows. And then there are different kind of windows, is straight line in the window, their punctuation in the window and then there is a window which is acting which is changing in this horizontal direction; generally in window it is like the flat horizontal lines will be just flat.

But here, it is a curve on this axis and as well as in this axis. So, there is a curve in this axis because of the wall and also there is a curve in this axis. So, there is a lot of curves and on the backdrop of particular straight rectangle. And there is a also a different colors are used. This is not a pure color because it is purple and all this tertiary and different colors are used on the backdrop of a gray color.

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**Modernism**

- White, Black

& pure basic colours



Bauhaus  
and Internationalism



**Post Modernism**

- Multiple colours



Dolphin Resort, Walt Disney, Michael Graves

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Now, this in the modernism, there is a purity was also there in the form of color and texture which is white black and pure basic colors were used mostly in the modern era. So, and we have not seen colors like purple, pink and other kind of different sap greens. We have not seen mostly it was yellow and blue and white and gray and black and the color of and texture of the material.

For example, if you look at Robie House, it was just brick. So, the color of brick was there. If you look at the examples of Lake Shore Drive apartment, it was just steel and glass and it was painted white and black. And then in the brutalism and metabolism, it was just the color of the material and sometimes it is brown was used because this was also brown is one of the neutral color shade we which we will consider in the color tone. So, these were the color was there in the modernism and postmodernism has lot of experimental colors like.

For example, we see purple and blue and this kind of yellowish orange is there. And here in this dolphin resort in Walt Disney center in designed by Michael Graves, here we can see orange in different shades of orange, sap greens which is this is not a pure green which Frank Llyod Wright used as a green which is and also used by Le Corbusier in Chandigarh. So, that kind of green is not is not this. So, this is a mix mixture of tins and this sap green is there. And if you look at the forms, all this not abstract form this is



much figurative forms are there. This will definitely not be there in the modernist movement.

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Now, a pure material was there in the modernist movement, we have not seen cladding of a material or is there. So, what is the material of a construction was exposed like that and sometime, it can just be plaster and pure color is there. But cladding and facade treatment was one of the important features of the postmodernism. And so, what cladding does is, cladding creates mimicry of a different material and hides the original material.

So, original material was not shown rather than that a different material is being shown and it is look like a different material and this is also gives image over realism. So, here we in the previous example, this is all cladded material. So, this is not the metal which is not the structural metals. So, the structure is hidden within that. So, this metal cladding is just a facade treatment and it is giving texture of a different material which is not used as a construction member of the material.

So, so as in this cladding, so, they this is creating a different look of the building and this building, this is a Portland Public Service Building by Micheal Graves again. This looks like a gift of box as a building, this is building does not look like building because of this kind of ribbons and this colors which are different different colors. But this is within the building, this is the same brick work is there, same construction concrete work is there.

But because of this color and different stone cladding and different colors of plaster, there was a different look is given. We have seen cladding in the in the in the art deco movement which was in the pre modern. We have seen the this metal cladding in Chrysler building.

But later in the most of the modernist movement, the high modern movement in the later phases we have not seen cladding and the material was shown as it is. And in the in the Chrysler building as well the cladding was also confined into the ornamentation because it was supposed to look like the metal that was the philosophy of the design and the gargyle swing and the gargyle only had the cladding. But most of the building does not have that cladding and metal was the concept of flatting was different in that because it wanted to show metal as the as the texture because metal was one of the important texture in art deco.

But here the concept of cladding is different. Here the concept of cladding is to hide the material and create the different look in post modernism. And another difference between modernism and post modernism is abstraction. In modernism, there was a abstract connotation and there was a abstraction from this nature or the way of dealing with element was different.

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The slide is divided into two columns. The left column is titled 'Modernism' and contains a bullet point 'Abstract'. Below this are two images: one of a building integrated into a natural, rocky landscape, and another of a tall, dark skyscraper. The caption below these images reads 'Organic and Chicago school'. The right column is titled 'Post Modernism' and contains a bullet point 'Eclectic, pastiche'. Below this is a large image of a classical-style plaza with arches and columns, captioned 'Piazza de Italia, New Orleans'. To the right of this image is a small portrait of a man, captioned 'Charles William Moore'. There are some red handwritten marks on the slide, including a checkmark and a scribble.

**Modernism**

- Abstract

Organic and Chicago school

**Post Modernism**

- Eclectic, pastiche

Piazza de Italia, New Orleans

Charles William Moore

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So, in falling water building, the abstraction comes from the nature is getting abstracted in the building. So, this solid and void of nature is translated in the solid and void of the

building and then gradually, it diminishes. And the same material of the metal nature is also percolated here and then, there is a abstraction and continuum of the nature. Now, the abstraction can also come from of a particular previous history.

So, only in this Chicago movement, we have seen a connection with the history, but rest of the cases it was not. But the abstraction was done in the form of design where the column and solid and void was there taken from the column and then the three elements of this Greek architecture.

But here, in the post modern abstraction was done in a different way and it was much more eclectic. So, here in the abstraction one particular thing was taken and then it abstracted. But here, it was in different approach. So, it was eclectic; the two concepts were there; eclectic and pastiche, we have discussed that; so, why this is eclectic because this is design by Charles William Moore. So, he designed the Piazza de Italya in New Orleans USA and he wanted to create Italy in USA. So, he have taken all this elements of Italy. So, if you look at the plan, we when we will discuss, this we will also show you the plan.

So, this is the plan, this kind of water body this looks like an Italian Peninsula which comes within the within the Mediterranean sea. So, this is the Mediterranean sea and Italian peninsula is there in the water body, if you see from plan you will see. In that different, different arches are there which is taken from Italy. So, this is the flying buttress. So, this is the another different arch from a particular place and then the various different arches are taken from and combined with each other and also the plan of Italy and the arch and everything is taken together.

And also there is, so, this is also the concept of eclecticism because this is taking from different different things. And also Pastiche because this is mimicking a previous work and taking it their to be in the design. And also mimicry is done in a different ways. So, this is the phase. So, this also takes the concept of Gargoyle and from there the water spout comes out from the Gargoyles mouth which was there in the European and even in the in some Indian context, we have seen water spouts comes out of a animals mouth.

So, here he have made the face and this face is actually Charles William Moore's own face. So, it is designed like his own face and from there, the water is coming from his own mouth. This is also a mimicry of creating a funny element into the design and this

kind of things are there in the Post Modern Movements. So, that the people get attracted in a different way. And lot of different colors are also used which is not there in the modernist a color palette.

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Modernism	Post Modernism
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Abstract</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Eclectic, pastiche</li></ul>
	
Hollyhock design (Prairie)	Walt Disney Building, Michael Graves

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Now, the way of abstraction also can be seen in the Hollyhock design where the Hollyhock flower is getting abstracted in a very pure geometric way and the abstraction here in this post modernism is not geometric. It can be very in a different way and also it can be mocking something.

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Modernism	Post Modernism
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Abstract</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Eclectic, pastiche</li></ul>
	  irony
	Walt Disney Building, Michael Graves

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For example, this in this building, if you look at the next thing, so, this is taking from the expression of a wall.

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Which is of columns which is like Doric, can be a Doric column. But this Doric column is much more short. And Doric column is like a male column and ionic is female column. So, this is like a Doric column, but this is short. So, this short Doric column is like a dwarf of males. So, this is acting and here he have connected this short Doric column which is a male column which is there in many Greek buildings are like dwarf of males which is coming from this 7 dwarfs story of Walt which is there in the Walt Disney building which is designed by Michael Graves.

So, this folklore of 7 dwarf story is translated into the Doric column and these are the 7 dwarf character of snow white is there. So, 6 and then another one is here. So, this is, getting a this actually an irony and this is called this irony element of irony is there in the Post Modern Movement. So, many of the cases this women or men will be there as a column in Greek architecture, Greek and roman architecture. So, that has been translated in a different way.

So, this eclecticism and pastiche is there in the design. But the way they modernism had translated in a, translated the earlier movements like history, they have also taken inspiration from the Greek architecture but their translation was abstraction of the history into geometry.

But here it was irony and gimmick and other things and they have not abstracted into pure geometry. They have changed it and then eclecticism and pastiche is used in the way they have seen the history. Now, in modernism one of the key element key design attribute and the phases was internationalism and monolithic; there we have seen, there would not be any contextual connection.

In monolithic architecture also, there was no contextual connection. We have seen in marina city. So, all the facades are same; though one side is facing main see in the lake shore drive apartment we have seen in this like; there is no context contextual, context does not change the building and it will be a box with the pure material.

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And so, so as in the Farnsworth House by Van Der Rohe and Philip Johnson's, Johnson house, it is all glass and whether it is in. So, it does not take any inspiration from the outside.

But it is like a curtain wall. So, wherever you put the glass, so, it takes it just takes the facade of this, you can see it. So, you it just acts as a wallpaper. That is that is the only connection. But here in the contextual design critical regionalism, we have already discussed, we started discuss talking about critical regionalism, in Dhaka parliaments building how Louis Khan have taken the texture of the east eastern part of Bengal, in the form work of this bamboo was taken.

And then, how the water is playing a major role in the it is like a fortress around the water is simplified in his building. So, there is a fortress which works like which looks like a his design looks like a robust fortress and then the water around the fortress is the water which is there in the Bengal. And also, the way Le Corbusier have translated in his Chandigarh and as well as I i m Ahmadabad by Louis Kahn has translated the saracenic arches into their design is also contextual.

Now, this Awaji Yumebutai, conference center and church on water by Tadao Ando is Tadao Ando is also critical regionalist architects. So, here the church of water is taking the context of this water into the building. So, the water this church the cross is on the water. So, this there is much more connection with the inside and outside of this building. And this terrain land is translated into the geometric abstraction and this the building blends with the terrain of the land.

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Now, another example of this lake shore drive apartment by Van Der Rohe which was just glass box around this lake shore of this of shore of lake versus this building which is done by Mario Botta, which is the wellness centre in Switzerland. These, these are the sky lights which is only visible from the buildings. So, buildings are this is Switzerland most of the times snow cladded, but this building is actually if you look at the building blends with the landform, the contour of this of the arts and also this acts as a abs terrain.

And also because of this, this is not one particular slope and the slope changes because of this kind of trusses. The slope changes and it gives a the more organic look and it blend blends with the terrained form. And if you look at the sky lights which has exaggerated and protruding out of this building and the building is not visible, only the sky lights are mostly visible in from outside.

So, these sky lights acts as a coniferous tress abstraction. So, and if you look at the sky lights, they are different from each other because the trees are organic elements and they are different from each other. So, one sky light is like this, another skylight is like this. And these elements which is going from the middle acts as a coniferous trees stem and then it looks like a pine tree which is which blends with the surroundings; So, that is taking the context of the surrounding into the building; so, which was not there in the internationalist, in the in the modernist internationalist movement.

Another difference between the modernist movement and post modernism is in modernism structure, in the tensile structure and shell structure, the structure is visible and that is how, it will be aesthetically structure will create the aesthetics. We have also seen in some other examples like IIT Kanpur's, IIT Kanpurs, this library building by Kanvinde, we have seen the structural elements are visible and that is how and from outside you can see how the load is flowing. So, this is in this Washington Dulles airport by Eero Saarinen.

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Modernism	Post Modernism
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Structural members as an aesthetic element</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Deconstruction</li></ul>
	
Washington Dulles Int. Airport, Eero Saarinen	Wexner Centre for Arts, Ohio State University, Peter Eisenman



Then you can see, this how this load is getting flow load is flowing from here. But here, in the Post Modernist Movement, you cannot see how the load is getting flowed and there was a dilemma and there will be irony within the designs. So, irony within the design is. So, this is the Forts Bastion, this looks like a Forts Bastion, but it is not Forts Bastion because Forts Bastions are the structural elements which holds the fort.

And this is structure major structural element because this Forts Bastion will be the supporting element of this Fort's main wall. Now, if the Bastion is broken from within and you can see an another element, so, it is not taking the structural load, it is just free gimmicky wall which is giving illusion of a Bastion, but this is structurally from within. This is not taking any structural load. So, this is a free standing wall.

And because it is not complete and it cannot take the load, because the trust will be come here and if you break it, so, this is not taking the structural role. So, this is the irony which is Wexner centre of arts in Ohio, Ohio state university. But by Peter Eisenman in another of Peter Eisenmans design, so, there was the flow plates was all tilted, but within that flow plates was, within the building the flow plate was straight.

So, we will discuss about this building, but from outside, it will look all tilted. So, this gives a visual illusion of what is not there. So, visual illusion of a different element of or the myth of something which is not there the truth is hidden in some hidden by something which is not visible.

So, here in this design, it is it is same building. These, these are the columns which comes within the staircases and because this is a deconstruction and everything flow is not following a particular order. And here this is a column, column was suppose to take the load from top to bottom, but this column is just hanging.

So, this is not passing any load. So, this looks like a column, but it is not passing any load. So, that is also an irony. So, irony and everything which is there in the post modernism which is not there in the modernism; modernism will show how the structural load is following; even in the tensile structure, tensile structures beauty is how the structure loads are getting followed from a tensile members and how this is hanging.

So, this how the tensile structures will look like and you will see how the loads are getting flow. But here, it will tell you something else, but actual thing is not the truth. So,

we will also see look at the examples of a design and art movement how modernism and post modernism was different in those domains and later on, we will after that, we will start discussing on different movements of post modernism.

Thank you.