

Industry on the grand scale must occupy itself with building and establish the elements of the house on a mass production basis. We must create the mass production spirit.  
The spirit of constructing mass production houses.  
The spirit of living in mass production houses.  
The spirit of conceiving mass production houses.  
...We shall arrive at the 'house-machine,' the mass production house, healthy (and morally so too) and beautiful in the same way that the working tools and instruments which accompany our existence are beautiful.

Le Corbusier

The flatness of today's standard architecture is strengthened by a weakened sense of materiality. Natural materials - stone, brick and wood - allow our vision to penetrate their surfaces and enable us to become convinced of the veracity of matter. Natural materials express their age and history, as well as the story of their origins and human use. All matter exists in the continuum of time; the patina of wear adds the enriching experience of time to the materials of construction. However, the machine-made materials of today - scaleless sheets of glass, enamelled metals and synthetic plastics - tend to present their unyielding surfaces to the eye without conveying their material essence or age.

Juhani Pallasmaa

You employ stone, wood and concrete, and with these materials you build houses and palaces. That is construction. Ingenuity is at work.  
But suddenly you touch my heart, you do me good, I am happy and I say: 'This is beautiful.' That is Architecture. Art enters in.  
My house is practical. I thank you, as I might thank Railway engineers, or the Telephone service. You have not touched my heart.  
But suppose that walls rise toward heaven in such a way that I am moved. I perceive your intentions. Your mood has been gentle, brutal, charming, or noble. The stones you have erected tell me so. You fix me to the place and my eyes regard it. They behold something which expresses a thought. A thought which reveals itself without word or sound, but solely by means of shapes which stand in a certain relationship to one another. These shapes are such that they are clearly revealed in light. The relationship between them have not necessarily any reference to what is practical or descriptive. They are a mathematical creation of your mind. They are the language of Architecture. By the use of inert materials and *starting from* conditions more or less utilitarian, you have established certain relationships which have aroused my emotions. This is Architecture.

Le Corbusier