ROWHOUSES

VIENNA, WERKBUND EXPOSITION • ANDRÉ LURÇAT

HOUSE NOs. 25, 26, 27 & 28
Werkbund Exposition 1932

- The Vienna Werkbund was an international exposition of modern residential building and a manifesto of “modern” living.
- It brought together a second generation of International Style architects as well as the older members of the Vienna School.
- Many international architects participated in the project including André Lurcat, who contributed houses nos. 25–28, and also furnished house no. 25.
- Ambition: Create the complex of residences as a social and aesthetic utopia of a better life in the spirit of modernity
WERKUNDE 
EXPOSITION 1932

- It consisted of twenty-seven separate buildings scattered on a flat, triangular site and contained a total of seventy different dwellings of varying design and size.
- Although the architects and designs varied each had a 200 m² garden, 30 different types of houses offered a small footprint with maximum comfort, the living area varied from 57 to 126 m².
- All the houses were colorfully painted, had a flat roof terraces and some had balconies. The living rooms oriented onto the garden.
André Lurçat (1894–1970) studied architecture at the École Nationale Supérieure des Beaux-Arts in Paris from 1913 to 1923.

He was an industrial designer, architect and founding member of the International Congresses of Modern Architecture.

Lurçat was one of the primary representatives of functionalist architecture in inter-war France.
Certain characteristics about the rowhouses were unwelcoming. The box-like design was enhanced by its street front which included narrow windows seen as rectangular arrow slits. The uniform treatment of the façades and boundaries as well as the decision in favour of flat roofs and the uniform method of construction relied on the traditional hollow-block wall technique.
Design Features:

- The stairs extend out of the building which creates a large-scale element that makes the building suitable for a variety of urban needs
- Walled-in entrance courtyard offering private space on the street side wall
- The design allows for considerable flexibility. The roof terrace, the breezeway, and the ground can all change for different purposes. This adaptability to changing needs and family size makes the lurcat project a particularly attractive solution housing problems
LOCATION
FLOOR PLANS
NORTH ELEVATION
SOUTH ELEVATION
LOCAL CLIMATE
VIENNA, AUSTRIA

Temperate climate condition

Vienna, Austria is at 48°14'N, 16°21'E

Vienna has a marine west coast climate
PROS AND CONS
IS THE SPACING OF THE DEVELOPMENT ADEQUATE TO PROVIDE GOOD SOLAR ACCESS FOR EITHER PASSIVE HEATING OR DAYLIGHT
- Lurcat developed a very narrow unit that can go on a shallow lot (the usual rowhouse requires a deep lot); all rooms are well lit and most are the depth of the building.

- Although one side is a nearly a complete solid wall the opposite side, which faces a small garden, is very open, with strip windows that allow a lot of passive heating and daylighting to enter the units.
Jun 21 4pm light doesn't reach inside of the room.
Dec 21 8am 4pm - light is on the wall.
WHAT IMPROVEMENTS NEED TO BE MADE TO THE SITE PLAN OR SITING OF THE BUILDING TO IMPROVE ITS SUSTAINABLE SITES POTENTIAL?
Some possible improvements can be made by replacing the flat roof terrace with a green roof.

Since the colour scheme of the rowhouses were painted in white, there is a great potential in improving environmental sustainability by installing a green roof.

The siting of the rowhouses is situated at a position where they are all south-oriented. This provides an incredible amount of direct sunlight. Therefore, no extra improvements are needed to focus upon the siting of the rowhouses.
IS THE FLOOR PLANNING OF THE UNITS GOOD FOR NATURAL VENTILATION?
• The existing floor plan is good for natural ventilation
• The strip windows go across the entire South facing side of the houses
DOES THIS DEVELOPMENT ADDRESS SOLAR SHADING FOR THE BUILDINGS?
• This development addresses solar shading on the North side where the facade is almost completely a solid wall with the exception of very narrow slit windows.

• However, this was not a primary concern for Werkbundsiedlung project since Vienna has a temperate climate.
BIBLIOGRAPHY

WEBSITES
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IMAGES