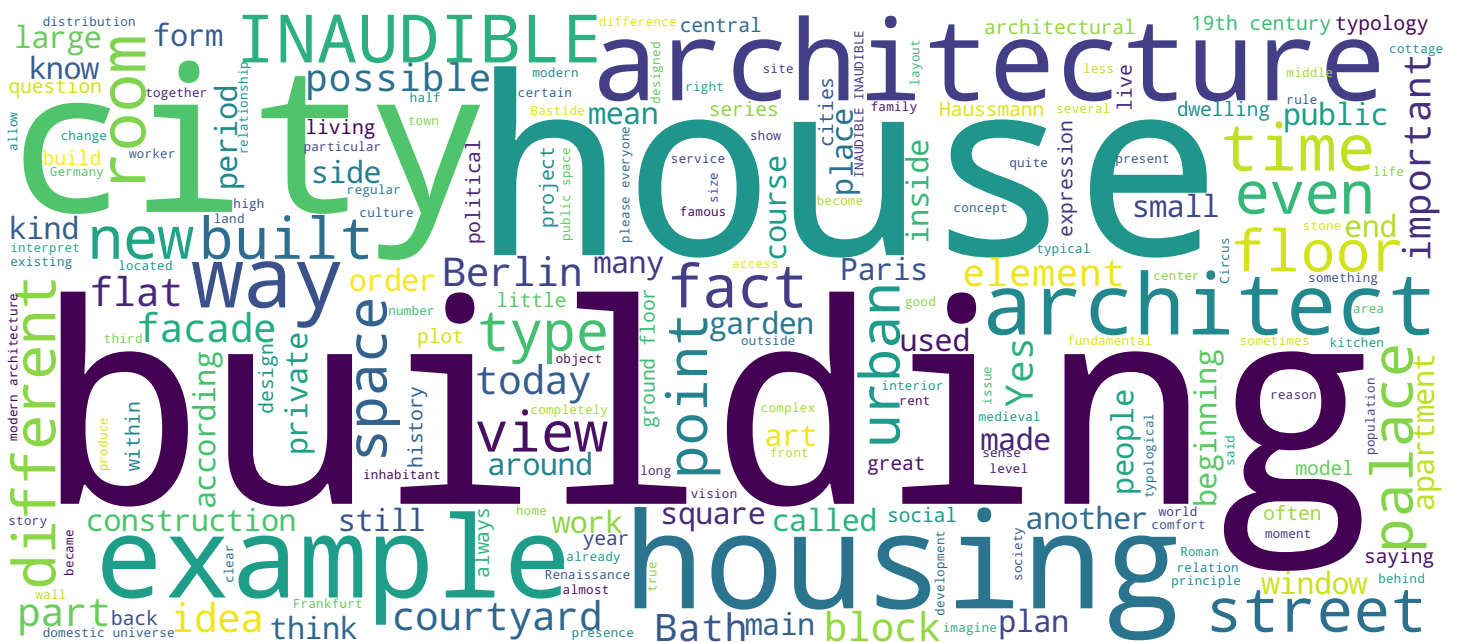


**a Housing and Cities course video**



**EPFL**

# HOUSING noun [U]

buildings for people to live in:

*There is a shortage of housing in the region*

**SYNONYMS: ABODE - ACCOMMODATIONS - ADDRESS - APARTMENT - BERTH - BIOSPHERE - CAVE - CO-OP - COMMORANCY - CONDO - CONDOMINIUM - DEN - DIGS - DOMICILE - DWELLING - ELEMENT - ENVIRONMENT - FIRESIDE - FLAT - HAUNT - HAVEN - HEARTH - HOLE - HOME - HOME PLATE - HOMESTEAD - HOUSE - HOUSING - LOCALE - LOCALITY - LODGING - NECK OF THE WOODS - NEST - NOOK - OCCUPANCY - OCCUPATION - PAD - PLACE - QUARTERS - RANGE - RESIDENCE - RESIDENCY - ROOF - ROOST - SEAT - SETTLEMENT - SITE - STAMPING GROUND - STOMPING GROUND - SURROUNDINGS - TERRAIN - TERRITORY - TURF**

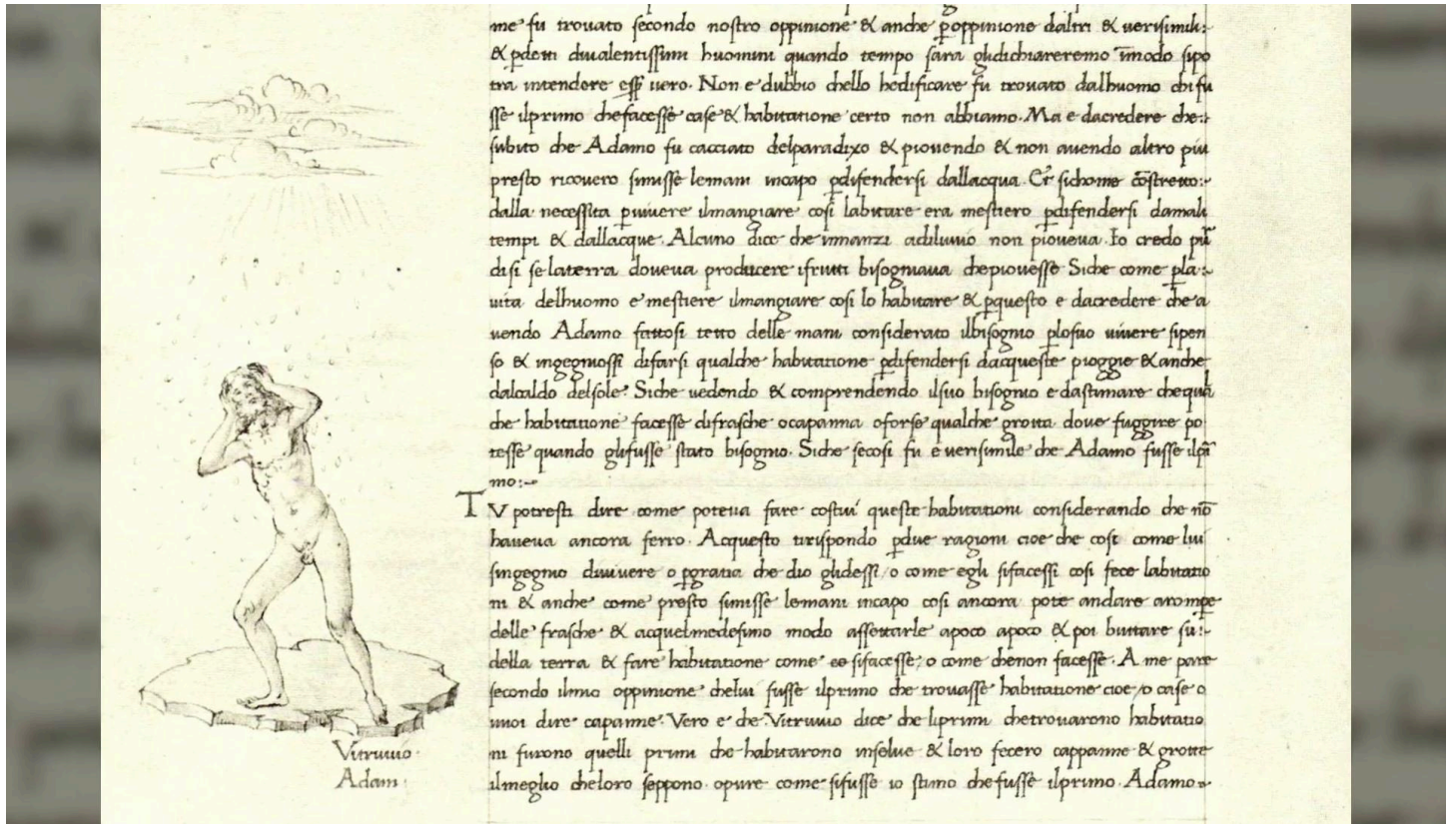
Housing is a vast field that corresponds not only to the history of architecture since its beginnings, but perhaps to the very history of mankind.

Notes

Summary



Om 10s



The beginning of housing is this: a man who shelters himself from the rain and the sun by making a protective gesture. It's the primordial definition of housing as shelter.

Notes

Summary



Om 21s



«Sleep is the first house,  
without roof, walls, or bed.  
They came later,  
inspired by sleep»

John Berger, *From A to X: a story in letters*

In the 2008 novel, 'From A to X', a story in letters. John Berger says:  
"Sleep is the first house, house with a roof, walls or bed.

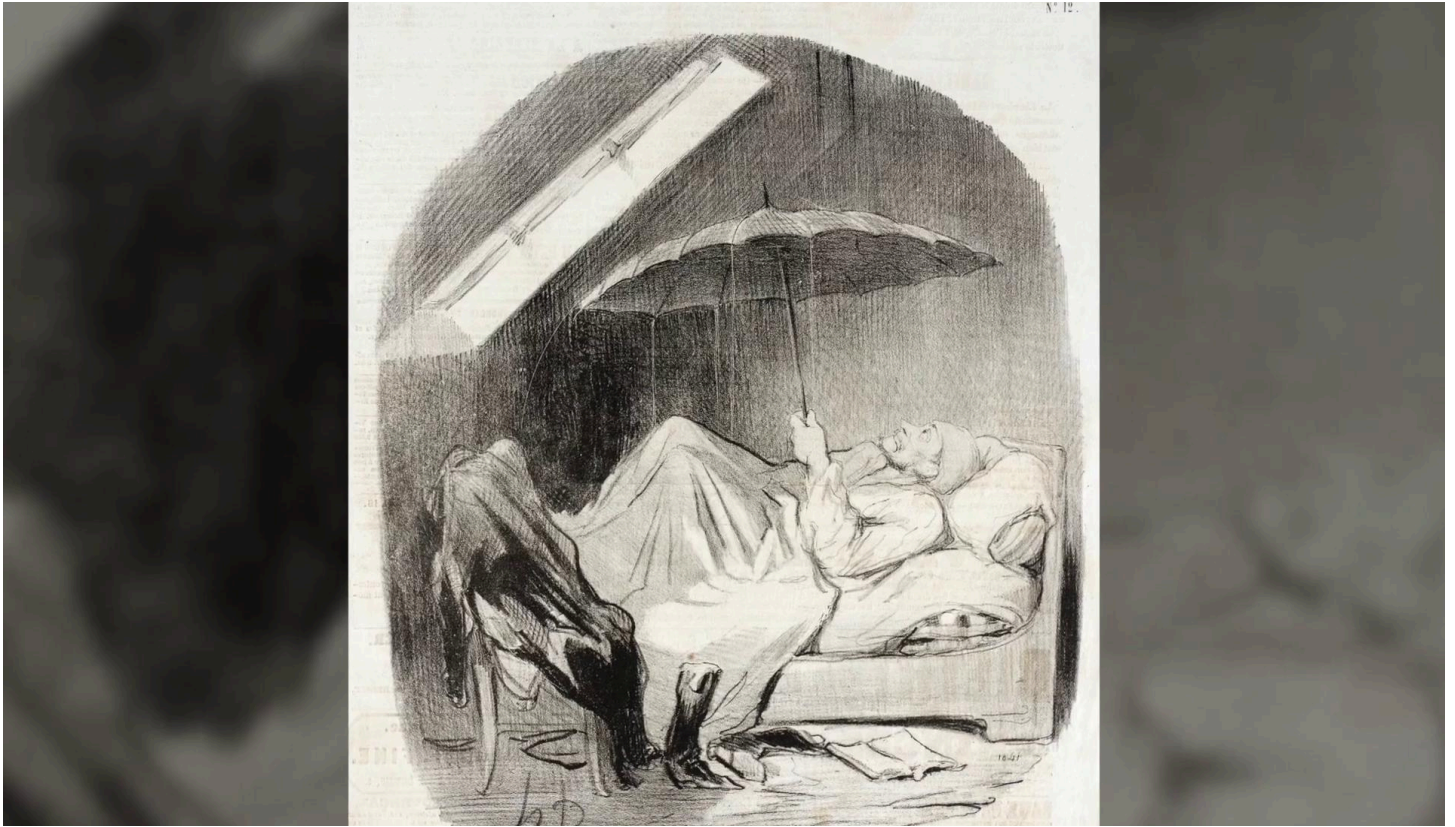
Notes

Summary



0m 33s





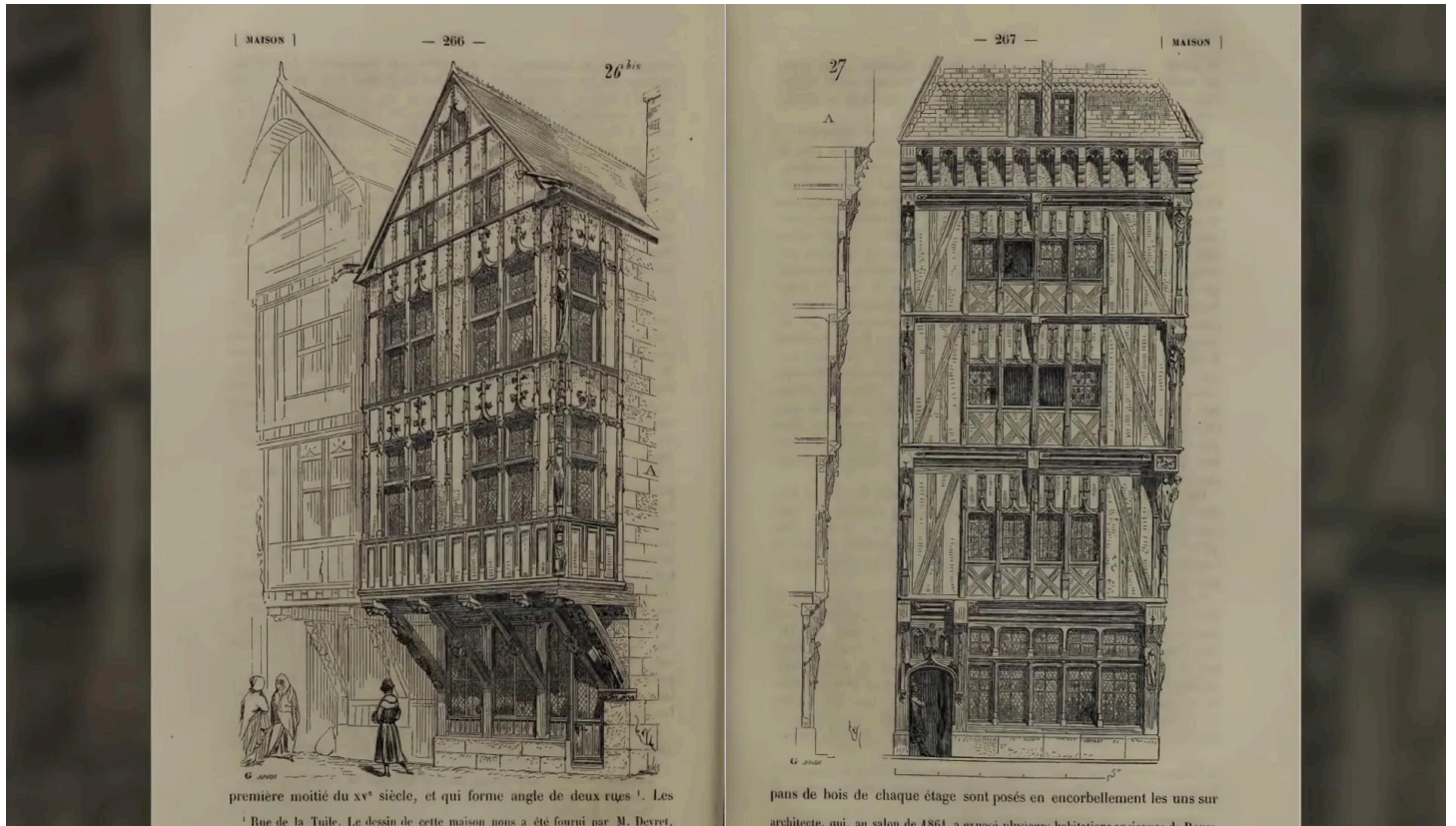
They came later inspired by sleep." The concept of protection is a clear dimension of the concept of housing.

Notes

Summary

0m 47s





In the "Dictionary of French Architecture" published in 1854. Architect Viollet-Le-Duke says: "In the art of architecture, the House is certainly the one that best characterizes the customs, the tastes and habits of a population.

Notes

Summary



0m 52s



Its layout as its distribution only changes in the long run." Housing is a very important topic in the field of architecture but also in various other disciplines such as anthropology, geography sociology, etc. Through the study of residential buildings, we can understand many things concerning different times experienced by humankind and that we are still experiencing today.

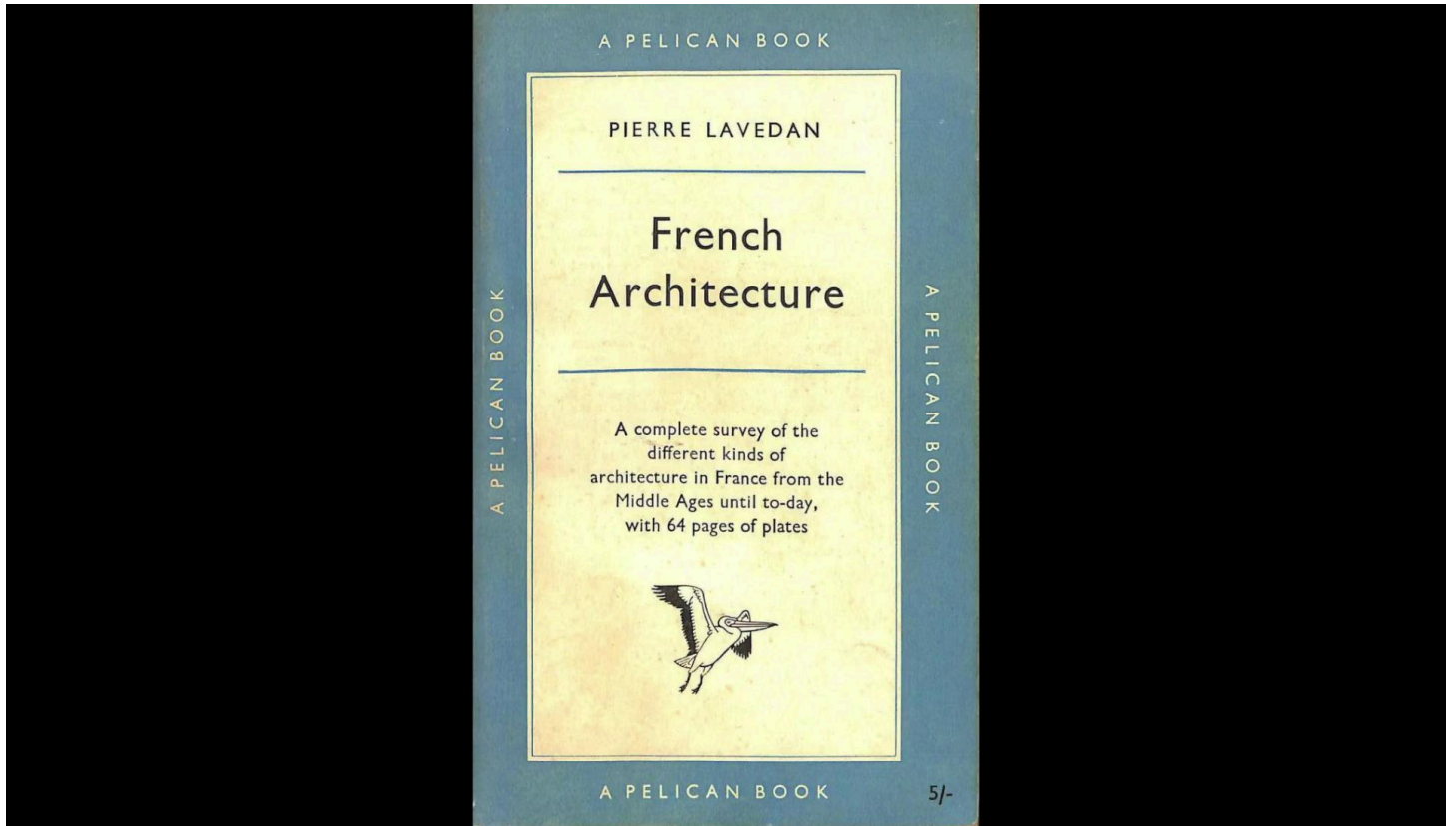
Notes

Summary



1m 14s





In the book entitled " French Architecture", historian Pierre Lavedan underlines this particular aspect: "Of all the problems with which the historian has faced, that of domestic architecture is the most complex.

Notes

Summary



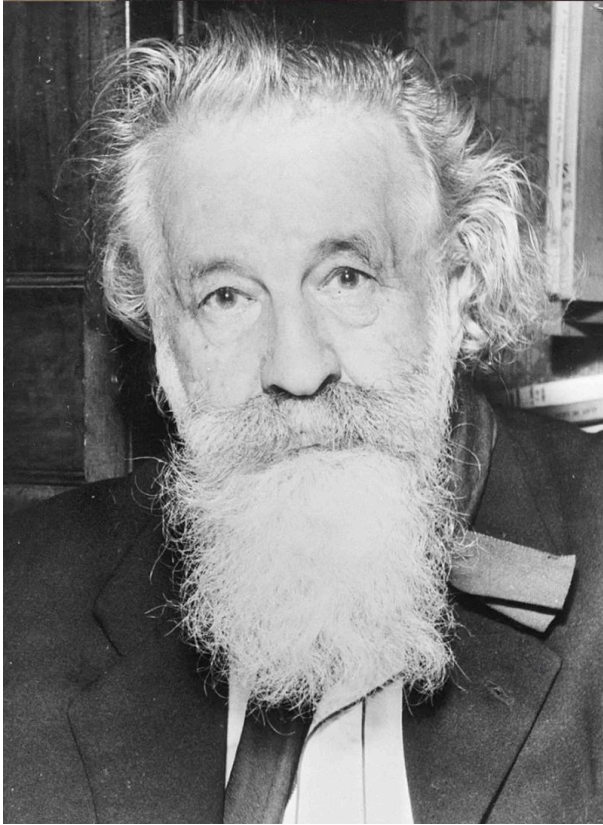
1m 37s



Edited by  
**Barbara Miller Lane**

- Notes





«If I were asked to name the chief benefit of the house, I should say:  
the house shelters day-dreaming,  
the house protects the dreamer,  
the house allows one to dream in peace»

Gaston Bachelard, *The poetics of space*

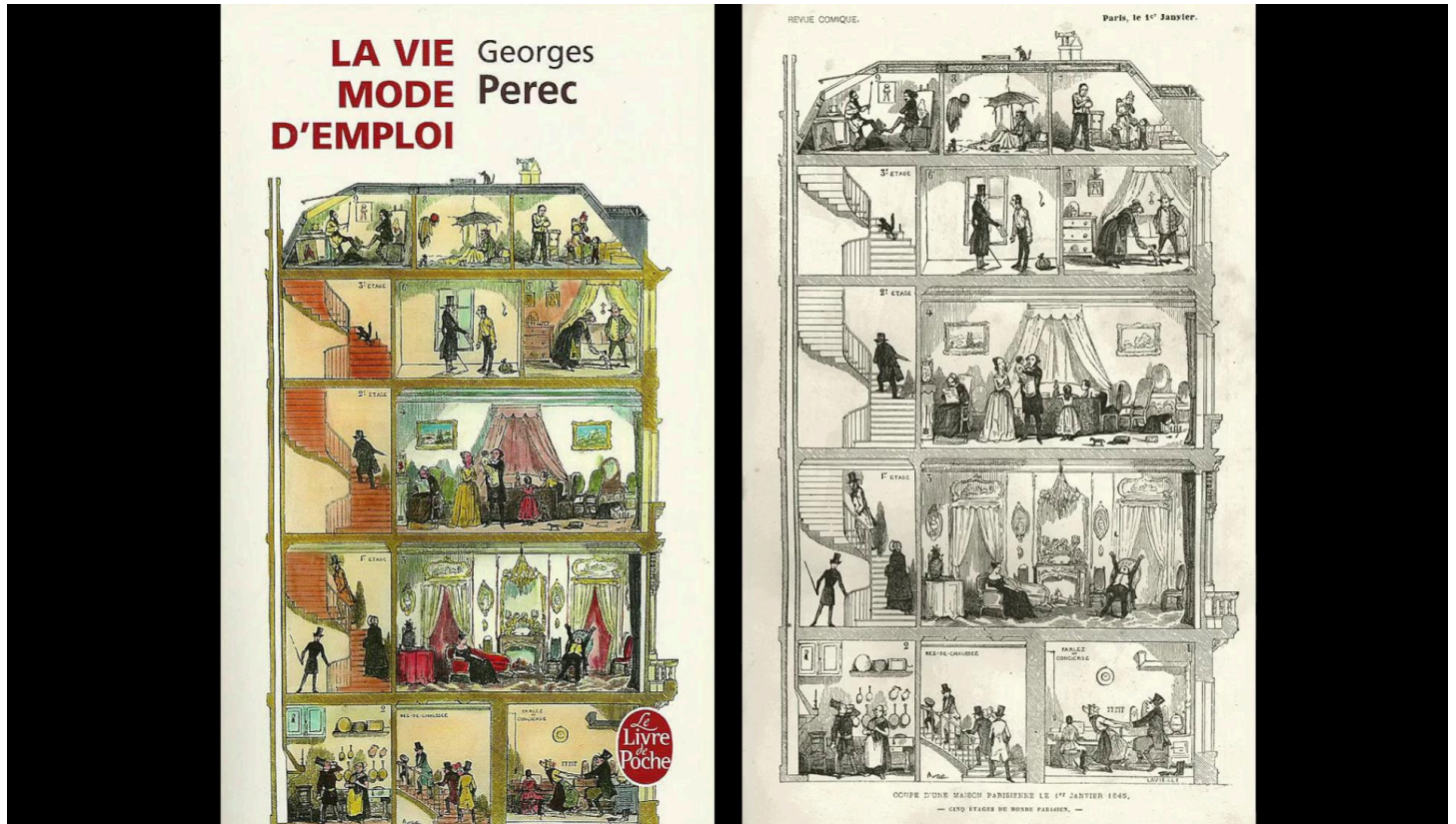
In the book 'Housing and Dwelling', perspectives on modern domestic architecture, Editor and historian Barbara Miller Lane questions who can interpret the house: "Who interprets? The historian, the architect, the anthropologist, the archaeologist, the user?" And we could also add "The philosopher, the sociologist, the writer, the film director, the poet, the painter, the musician?" We can all interpret the house. It can be looked at from the inside or from the outside which radically changes the perspective. Several artists, writers or philosophers have examined the domestic universe in detail. Gaston Bachelard in the famous book called 'The poetics of space' focused on the idea of a protective universe, the domestic universe. If we were to define the most precious value of the house, we could quote the author by saying: "The house shelters daydreaming, the house protects the dreamer, the house allows one to dream and peace," In the film 'Rear Window', Hitchcock underlines the theatrical content of domestic life.

Notes

Summary



3m 07s



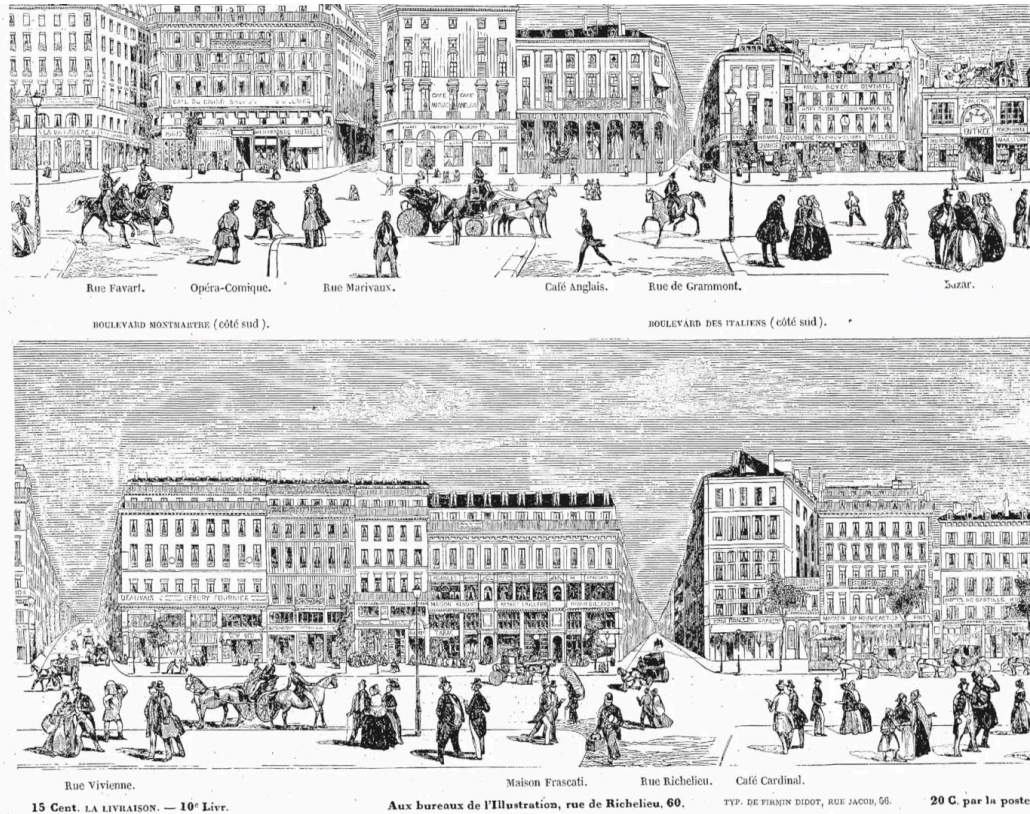
It's the story of a photographer who broke a leg. While it's in a cast, he explores with his camera. What happens in the interior courtyard of his block, a universe separated of the city composed of several domestic universes that are shown theatrically through the windows. If we go on to another type of register in the novel 'Life, A User's Manual' by Georges Perec, the house is the main silent protagonist of a series of intertwined stories.

[illegible]

Summary





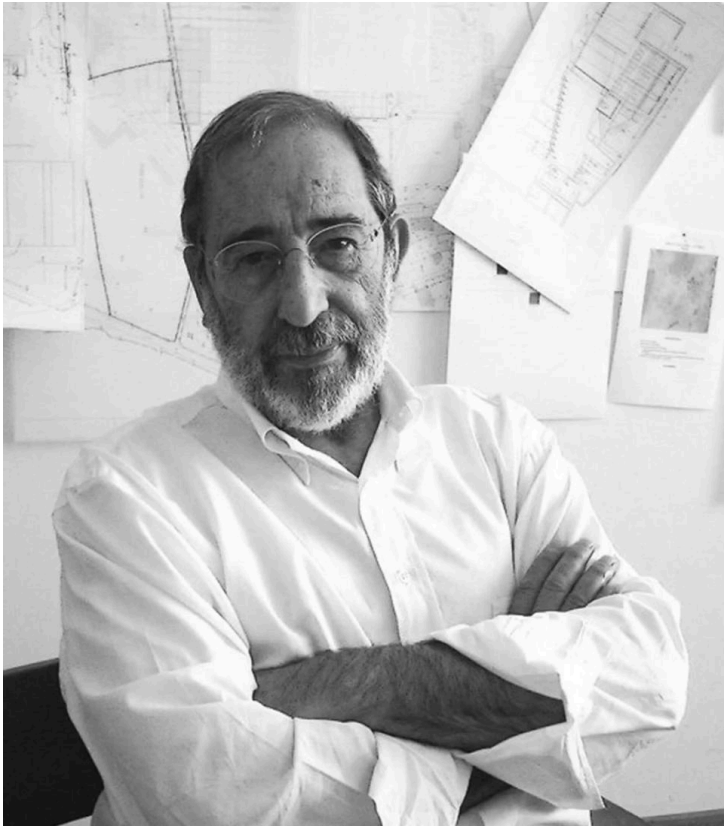


The author says: "I imagine a Parisian block of flats where the facade was taken out in such a way that from the ground floor to the massades, all the rooms next to the facade are instantly and simultaneously visible." In the novel, Perec describes the rooms and the activities that take place there. The drawing shows the stratification of the Society of the time in a simplified but meaningful way which is very significant for anthropologists, sociologists and of course for architects.

Notes

Summary





« The idea that I have of a house is of a complicated machine, in which every day something breaks down: light bulb, tap, drainpipe, hinge, plug, and then the hot water tank, oven, fridge, television or video recorder; and the washing machine, or the fuses, the curtain clips, the security lock»

Alvaro Siza, "Viver uma casa".  
In: *Des mots de rien du tout*

There are other more specific points of view namely the point of view of architects concerning the house. In a rather amusing passage, Architect Alvaro Siza says: "The idea that I have a house is of a complicated machine in which every day something breaks down; light bulb, tap, drainpipe, hinge, plug, and then the hot water tank, oven, fridge, television, or the video recorder; and the washing machine, or the fuses, the curtain clips, the security lock.

Notes

Summary



5m 24s

**VORTRAG**  
VERANSTALTET VOM AKAD.  
ARCHITEKTEN VEREIN.

**ADOLF LOOS:  
ORNAMENT  
UND  
VERBRECHEN.**

FREITAG, DEN 21. FEBRUAR 1913.  
1/8 ABENDS IM FESTSAAL DES  
ÖSTERR. ING. U. ARCH. VEREINES.  
I. ESCHENBACHGASSE 9.  
KARTEN ZU 5, 4, 3, 2, 1 K.  
BEI KEHLENDORFER

12. MÄRZ:  
MISS LEVETUS: ALTENGL. KATHEDRALEN.  
MITTE MÄRZ:  
DR. HABERFELD: ÜBER ADOLF LOOS.

Adolf Loos | Villa Karma | 1904

It's a rather chaotic but very realistic description Scene from the resident's point of view. He finishes his description by saying: "But when the effort of maintenance is not apparent, when the healthy scent of wax of a house well ventilated on the opposite side is mixed with the perfume of garden flowers, and when we feel happy, forgetting our anguishes or barbaric moments, then the only possible mental is gratitude of silent applause, a moment of pause observing, delving into the golden atmosphere of an autumn interior at the end of the day." There's another very well known architect who says uncomfortable things about the house but are also terribly true. It's Adolf Loos, who in 1910 says: "A building should please everyone unlike works of art which do not have to please everyone."

Notes

Summary



5m 56s





The aim of a work of art is to make us feel uncomfortable, a building is there for our comfort. A work of art is concerned with the future and directs us along new paths, A building is concerned with the present." A provocative topic. Nevertheless it contains an unquestionable point of view; the house is not only the shelter of our private domestic universe, the house is also the expression of a city. It's the expression of a way of organizing one's relationships. The house must please everyone.

Notes

Summary



6m 56s