- Temple for Dancing Souls –
Temple for Dancing Souls

- Research Classical architecture
- Design ballroom
Research Classicism of Mies

• Seeking the truth

Sacred geometry → Classical architecture → Mies van der Rohe

Fascination

Project tool

Test subject

total slides 50
Research Classicism of Mies

• Research question
  – What can we learn from Mies van der Rohe regarding his ideas on classicism to apply it in contemporary architecture?

• Fascination question
  – What effect can the classical canon have to change this materialistic and superficial society?

• Sub questions
  – From what parts does Greek classical architecture exist of?
  – What are their implications?
  – What is the philosophy behind it?
  – How did Mies van der Rohe translate classical architecture? What parts of classical architecture did he translate to his time?
  – How did Mies develop his ideas regarding classicism?
Research Classicism of Mies

- Aristotle/Plato $\rightarrow$ Thomas Aquinas $\rightarrow$ Mies van der Rohe
Research Classicism of Mies; Greek philosophy

- Eternal world and physical world
- Metempsychosis → the soul knows already all truth. Therefore the discovery of truth is simply the recollection of this dimly remembered knowledge.
- “Truth is to be sought in the mind and not in material things.”
Research Classicism of Mies; Thomas Aquinas

- “For true knowledge consists in the correspondence of things and intellect”

- “Truth is the significance of fact”
Research Classicism of Mies; Mies’ philosophy

• “I want to examine my thoughts in action... I want to do something in order to be able to think.”

• Human intellect \( \leftarrow \) Natural world

\textit{intelligence of the man made things}
Research Classicism of Mies; the truth

- Greeks; eternal and physical
- Aquinas; natural and man-made
- Mies van der Rohe; natural ↔ man-made
Research Classicism of Mies; Classical architecture

• Three levels of formal devices:

• **Taxis**, which divides architectural works into parts.
  
  ![Taxis Diagram](image)

• **Genera**, the individual elements that populate the parts as divided by taxis.

• The Doric order (masculine)
• The Ionic order (feminine)
• The Corinthian order (decorative)
• The Tuscan order (resembles Doric)
• The Composite order (elements from Ionic and Corinthian)

• **Symmetry**, the relations between individual elements.
Research Classicism of Mies; taxis

• Main scheme

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• Main scheme in Greek temples and Palladio’s work

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Research Classicism of Mies; taxis

- Plans = taxis (manipulated or not).
- Façade = symmetry in rhythm
- Greeks / Palladio $\rightarrow$ A = spiritual
- Mies $\rightarrow$ A = functional $\rightarrow$ spiritual outwards
- Mies used classical mother scheme as starting point. $\rightarrow$ manipulation.
Research Classicism of Mies; taxis

- Greek approach; introvert (picturesque)

- Mies approach; extrovert (nature as interior)
Research Classicism of Mies; the truth

• Greeks; eternal and physical → introvert character (picturesque)

• Aquinas; natural and man-made

• Mies van der Rohe; natural ↔ man-made → extrovert character (nature as interior)
Research Classicism of Mies; Mies’ four main characteristics

• **Constructional clarity** and athletic repose
  • “We took all the unnecessary weight out of the buildings to make them *look as light as possible*. It is often thought that heaviness is synonymous with strength. In my opinion, it is just the opposite.”
    – Mies van der Rohe

• Materials that are used are **industrially produced**

• Components of structural systems are **revealed both internally and externally**.

• Enclosing skins and interior space dividers are **separately defined** from the stressed members, leaving no doubt as to what is structural and what is not.
Research Classicism of Mies; conclusion

- Taxis

  Symmetry

- Genera

  Structural clarity (clear span buildings)
Research Classicism of Mies; analogy of a temple

- The resemblances between the different elements and parts of the building

- The structural clarity in both eras

- The picturesque elements of both buildings
Research Classicism of Mies; conclusion

Greeks

- Nature as setting → location choice
- Introvert → dance
- Classical orders
- Symmetry → harmony

Mies van der Rohe

- Nature as interior
- Extrovert
- Clear span buildings → dance / flexibility
- Symmetry / asymmetry
Design concepts

• Day and night transformation
  • Day; blend in the park
  • Night; light source in the park
• Introvert character
• Flexibility in a permanent shell
• Wooden interior in a stone box
• Light structure
• Separately defined elements
Nature as setting; location
Nature as setting; location
Design explanation; day and night situation

- **Daytime**
  - Blend in with the park
  - Passive

- **Nighttime**
  - Light source in the park
  - Active
Studies

- Column study
- Form study
- Light study

total slides 50
Studies; column study
Studies; form study

[Images of architectural structures and models]
Studies; form study
Studies; form study
Studies; lighting study
Studies; lighting study

- Ambient lighting → domes as translucent plastic
- Accent lighting → spotlights under the framework as a railing
Studies; lighting study
Studies; lighting study
Design explanation; flexibility in a permanent shell

- Partly hanging framework
Design explanation; flexibility in a permanent shell

- Wooden interior in a stone box

- Interior units wooden construction and cladding
Design explanation; flexibility in a permanent shell

• Color palette: indoor elements
  – Floor darkest
  – Walls dark
  – Framework medium
  – Domes lightest
  – Interior medium/light

• Color palette: outdoor elements
  – Structure dark
  – Façade light
  – Window frames medium
Design explanation; flexibility in a permanent shell

- Winter situation

- Summer situation

- Ventilation plan
Design explanation; overview
Design explanation; overview
Design explanation; overview
Design explanation; overview
Design explanation; overview
Design explanation; overview
Design explanation; overview
Design explanation; overview
Reflection design-research

Classical architecture  ➔  Mies van Rohe  ➔  ???
Reflection design-research

• Constructional clarity and athletic repose
  • “We took all the unnecessary weight out of the buildings to make them look as light as possible. It is often thought that heaviness is synonymous with strength. In my opinion, it is just the opposite.” – Mies van der Rohe

• Enclosing skins and interior space dividers are separately defined from the stressed members, leaving no doubt as to what is structural and what is not.

• Taxis
  – Scheme plateau (classical)
  – Scheme floor plan (Mies)

• Structure (visual means)
Reflection design-research; constructional clarity and athletic repose

- Constructional clarity and athletic repose
  - “We took all the unnecessary weight out of the buildings to make them look as light as possible. It is often thought that heaviness is synonymous with strength. In my opinion, it is just the opposite.”
  - Mies van der Rohe
Reflection design-research; separately defined

- Enclosing skins and interior space dividers are *separately defined* from the stressed members, leaving no doubt as to what is structural and what is not.

- 1 = Structure
- 2 = Façade
- 3 = Interior
Reflection design-research; taxis

• Scheme plateau = classical

• Scheme plan = Mies
Reflection design-research; structure

• Visual means