



Exhibition Press Release – For Immediate Release

One-to-One Dom-ino

The Maison Dom-ino, realised by the Architectural Association School of Architecture at The 14th International Architecture Exhibition – Venice Biennale 2014.

Venice Biennale 2014, Giardini

7th June – 23rd November 2014

Bedford Square, London

Planned for 2015

Introduction by Brett Steele, Director AA School

The Maison Dom-ino was designed by Le Corbusier in 1914 as a housing prototype that would address a Europe-wide housing shortage in the years leading up to the Great War. The system itself never saw widespread production by either the architect or his European contemporaries in the form it was initially conceived. Instead, the unbuilt imagery and generalised design principles embodied in Maison Dom-ino became the most recognisable – the most fundamental – project of twentieth-century architecture. As a project Dom-ino distills modern architecture to a set of guiding, abstract and idealised principles. This is a key reason why the ‘afterlife’ of Dom-ino can still be seen and felt today, a hundred years later on.

This reconstruction of Le Corbusier’s original design is part of that afterlife. It has been made in the form of a 1:1 working model of system ‘B’ (of the three Le Corbusier originally developed). The original construction system for Dom-ino consisted of horizontal slabs, an integral stairway and slender pilotis, which together reduce modern building to its bare minimum – a concrete structural frame. This 2014 reconstruction replaces the steel and concrete with a twenty-first-century building technology, engineered timber (GSA-Technology). With the help of Bern-based engineer Jürg Stauffer (Neue Holzbau and Just Swiss), this new model follows three of the core principles of the original system: prefabricated elements assembled on site; provision for a locally sourced enclosure or cladding; and the assembly of a unit that can be multiplied horizontally or vertically, as if a domino piece.

This building (of the twentieth-century’s most iconic modern architectural drawing) by the AA School for the 2014 Venice Architecture Biennale is the first part of ‘Happy Birthday Dom-ino’ – a year-long celebration of the project’s centennial. Built as a transportable, flat-pack installation, this 1:1 model will travel from Venice to London, Tokyo and other cities worldwide. In this mobile form, Dom-ino 2014 offers a demonstration of the project’s other fundamental expectation: that modern architectural principles are (and remain) a project for the entire world, for architecture, cities and people everywhere.

This initial installation, in front of the Italia Pavilion at the centre of the biennale, will remind visitors not only of modern architecture’s most foundational project, but of an architectural instinct made even more apparent today than it was at the time of its original conception; namely that architecture always operates in the space created by a contrast between architecture as already known, and what it might yet become.

The Architectural Association School of Architecture is grateful for the generous support, advice and assistance of many individuals who have made this project possible.

Project Credits:

Original Design: Le Corbusier, 1914, with thanks to the Fondation Le Corbusier, Paris

Reconstruction Commissioned by: Brett Steele (Director, AA School)

Project Architect: Valentin Bontjes van Beek (vbvb studio)

Project Collaboration: Joshua Penk, Sreerag Palangat Veetil (drawings & models)

Structural Engineering: Juerg Stauffer (Just SWISS)

Fabrication: Neue Holzbau AG

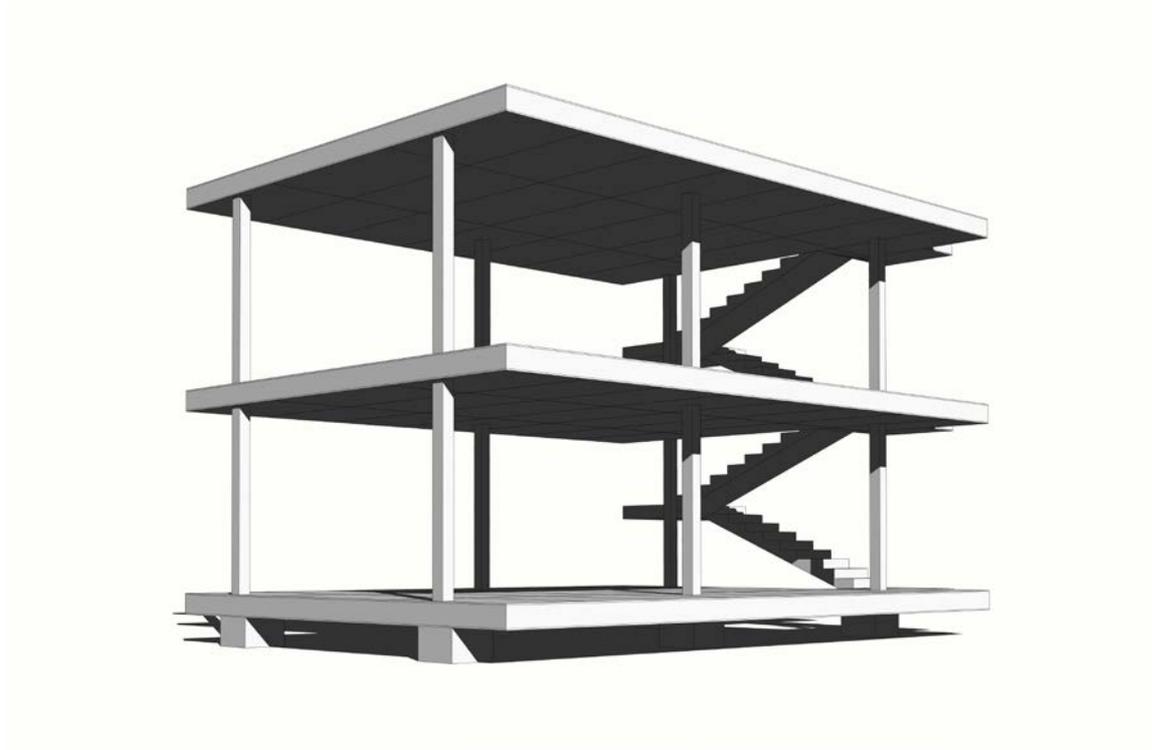
Assembly Venice: AA Exhibitions

Owner/Client: AA School of Architecture, London

Sponsorship & Support: Just Swiss/Neue Holzbau

Images: A selection of press images can be downloaded from:

http://www.aaschool.ac.uk/Downloads/press_releases/press_images/domino.zip



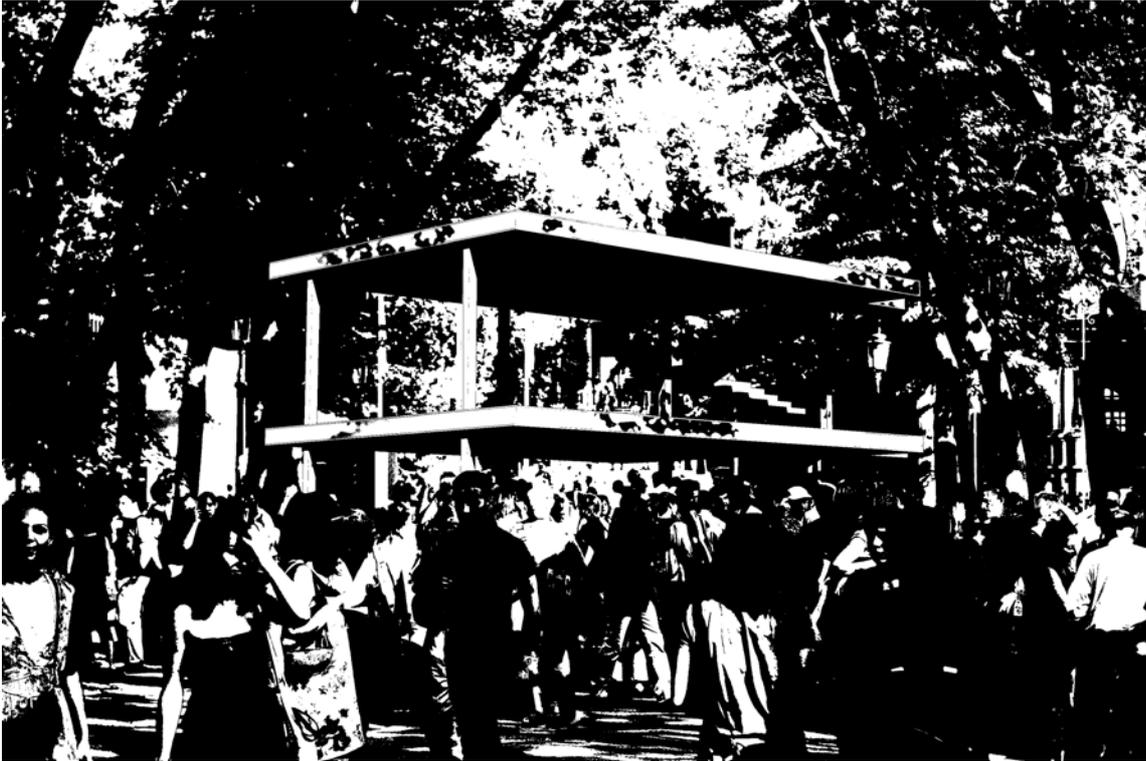
Dom-ino. Copyright vbvb studio, 2014.



Dom-ino @ Bedford Square. Image by Sreerag Palangat Veetil, 2014.



Dom-ino @ Bedford Square. Copyright vbv studio, 2014.



Dom-ino @ Venice Biennale. Copyright vbvb studio, 2014.

Notes

About the AA: The Architectural Association School of Architecture was set up in 1847 as a public forum and learned society. Unique, dynamic, independent and international, the AA is much more than the UK's oldest school of architecture – as a vibrant members' organisation, a charity, a gallery, a publisher and an archive the school is at the centre of contemporary architectural culture.

The AA's public programme of exhibitions, lectures, symposia, open workshops, performances and publications seeks to bring together new audiences for architectural ideas and projects. AA exhibition projects, both at the gallery and through international touring exhibitions, investigate and promote architectural practice in all its complex and multi-disciplinary forms.

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Press Release Ends