Maison Cook, the French Hotel, and Synthetic Cubism

Various authors, such as Colin Rowe and Alanロック, have noted that Le Corbusier’s 1920s villas have aspects reminiscent of the eighteenth-C

teenth-Century French Hotel. Rowe has commented on Le Corbusier’s use of “those ideas of coordenance and coordonnable dispersed in the impression planning of the Roman hotel, the background of a social life or crisis more amplified and intense.” In a similar vein, Zigerli has noted Le Corbusier’s exploitation of the system of “composing a system of poche, which becomes the structure of the Buren [sic] hotel” in many other eighteenth-century Parisian houses. “The whole system of decorum and privacy demanded a very elaborate series of service corridors and stores racked away from the main living areas and the ‘Parisian tradition,’ in definition. The analogy between Le Corbusier’s villas and the eighteenth-century Parisian house is a rich one not yet exhaustively examined by these predecessors.

Le Corbusier’s strategy of the ‘villas of simplicity’ covering a highly varied habitat is essentially that of the French eighteenth-century hotel—an up-to-date, if traditional Parisian type. Combined toward 1790, the new order of the modern world and the new Parisian style are indeed nowhere more obvious than in the new houses, where Le Corbusier employed the system of the eighteenth-century French hotel, where it was “translated into the new modern, where it becomes a new type of building.” The problem of reconciling national tradition with modernity is thus the problem of reconciling the architecture...