

Drawing and painting materials. Top brand and all colours. Ed's Christmas gift.

Nowadays hardly any kid would be glad with such a present. Hundred years ago it was different. This present can figure as the principle of the development in his younger years. Charles Edouard Jeanneret got through all his youth the best help, education and stimulation a talent could wish for. He was generously stimulated by important people (his parents, teachers) to expand his talent. Actually he was meant to be a watch designer. The place where he grew up Chaux-de-fonds is well known of the watch craftsmanship. All kind of parts of the industry were located and tributed their speciality to the watch. The family of Eduardo had a specialty in designing the watch cases. It was obvious he would go to the local art school. But first post primary school. At his former school he was already much further in his class than his fellow students. Ed was always the best in the class but lately he got a bit troubled. He annoyed the other students and paid less attention. Where was the sublimity of this kid. It all makes sense when he went to the Ecole de art. The kid needed the inspiration. His trouble was easy, he was just not interested. Keep talents stimulated.

So ed went after post primary school to the local art academy. That was something totally different then where we are on now. No painting and sculpturing but designing, everything they did was functional and was supposed to help the local economy. With his family past, ed started in design class where his mentor was Charles l'Eplattenier. He saw great talent in this boy.

When l'Eplattenier had spotted ed, he stimulated him with several assignments and at a early age he joined designing contest. He'd won some prizes. After some contest his teacher was so kind to fix him his first big assignment (there were a lot of rich people in this town). So at an age of eighteen years, he builded with the help of an architect his first house (villaallet). The result is nice. Also here we see the love he has for the local architecture and ones relations to landscape. The owners liked the house, and ed gained more assignments (still in school). After four years he was finished at the Ecole. His teacher sent him away on a trip through Europe. To investigate some architecture and art. (this was in this time very common for young architects).

Ed travelled a lot. He made several trips. One through Germany where he worked. And some years later to Italy and Istanbul. He travelled with company, another young architect joined him in his journey. But this man was not his only companion. Ed read a lot, he had a book with him from Ruskin. This art critic; that also said a lot about architecture, inspired Ed. The most of the time he disagreed about the things he saw in real and the things he read about in Ruskins books. He was very critic. And then wrote back to his teacher that some things he saw were totally over rated. This potential architect didn't saw anything in some of the biggest renaissance buildings. He skipped some very big names, they were not even mentioned! The ones he liked was the Palazzo Vecchio and the Brunelleschi chapel. He still had the love for designing.

When he came back from his trip he studied further and became a teacher for himself. And ofcourse one of the most important figure in architect of the 20th century. But he couldn't come that far, if he hadn't had all the wind in his sails and that's what he had. He got all the helps and needs so that he could get the best out of himself. His background was so influential that it made a new way of looking to art and architecture. It there is one person you could say that he was formed in his youth it was Le Corbusier. He wasn't that kind of a rebel, he just had a very strong own sense of space _

Rick Van Den Berg. Gerrit Rietveld Academie, September 2007.

Sources: by [H. Allen Brinks](#)

Le Corbusier's Formative Years: Charles-Edouard Jeanneret at La Chaux-de-Fonds

In het labo voor een nieuwe wereld was Le Corbusier een dichter.

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http://www.dbnl.org/tekst/beka003verz01_01/beka003verz01_01_0059.htm

