

Style

In Europe, before World War II, Mies Van Der Rohe emerged as one of the most innovative leaders of the modern movement, producing visionary projects for glass and steel and executing a number of small but critically significant buildings. In the United States, after 1938, he transformed the architectural use of the steel frame in American architecture and left an unmatched legacy of teaching and building.

After 1923, Mies's style shifted, and he came under the influence of Dutch neo-plasticism and Russian suprematism. Along with the work of Frank Lloyd Wright, Mies began to experiment with independent walls and ceilings arranged in an open plan design. This influenced Mies to consider the reduction of these elements into compositions of pure shapes in space. After his arrival in the United States in 1937, Mies van der Rohe went on to significantly change the American architectural landscape, particularly during the rebuilding after World War II.

Mies designed the Barcelona Pavilion in 1929, setting a major precedent for the Farnsworth House.

2

Aesthetic and functional elements.

The contrast of a simple structure in a simple environment gives an idea of blending in and using the. Rather than surroundings in its natural self. Instead of changing the environment the building enhances its location.

The I-beams are both structural and expressive. They are exposed to the eye and are used as support columns as well as enhancing the design, contrasting with the thick tree trunks surrounding it. Rather than being hidden by materials to conceal the structure of the building.

Also the smaller size of the Farnsworth house and the isolated area allows for calmness and simplicity—which was harder to be found in more larger urban projects.

3

Ludwig Mies Van Der Rohe



The Farnsworth House



History :

The architecture of the house represents the ultimate refinement of Mies van der Rohe's minimalist expression of structure and space. Designed in 1944 as a country retreat for Dr. Edith Farnsworth, and built in 1951. In 1947 its significance was recognised even before it was built when a model of the Farnsworth house was exhibited at the museum of modern art in New York. It was described as 'A radical departure from his last European domestic projects.'

1

Key features:

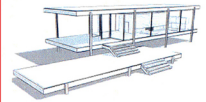
8 steel support columns framing a glass box.

It is made up of three strong horizontal forms—The terrace, the floor of the house and the roof—attached to the steel I-beam support columns.

It is one of the most minimized designs of the time.

An open plan interior design which changed the path of modernist architecture. With the open spaces and an unclutteredness that is blended with the simplicity of the structure itself.

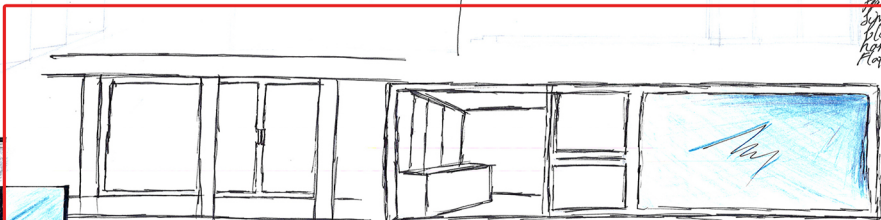
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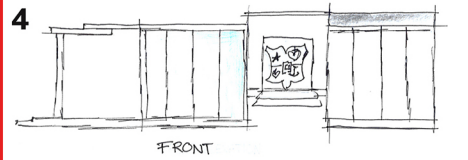
IDEA GENERATION



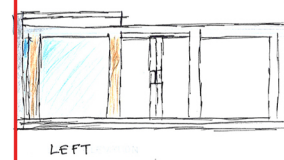
modernism
 Geometric shapes
 Squares/Rectangles
 Structure
 True nature of materials
 No ornamentation
 Simple/Minimalistic
 Functional/Useful
 Simplicity
 Glass
 Horizontal/Vertical
 Flat/Changing
 Reefs



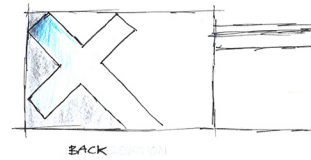
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4



LEFT

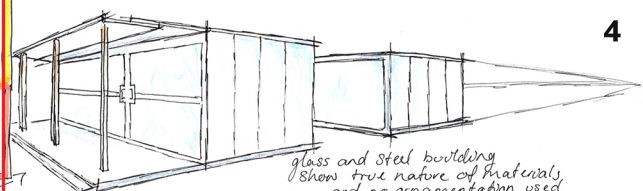
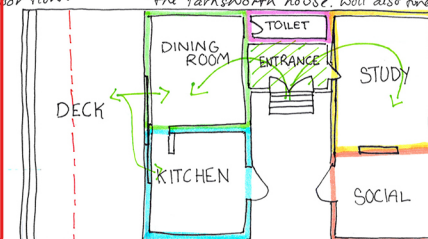


BACK

Cross includes school character while still maintaining modernist design ideas.

Double doors
 increase indoor/outdoor flow.

open plan living spaces link to the layout of the farnsworth house. will also function well for year 13 students.



4

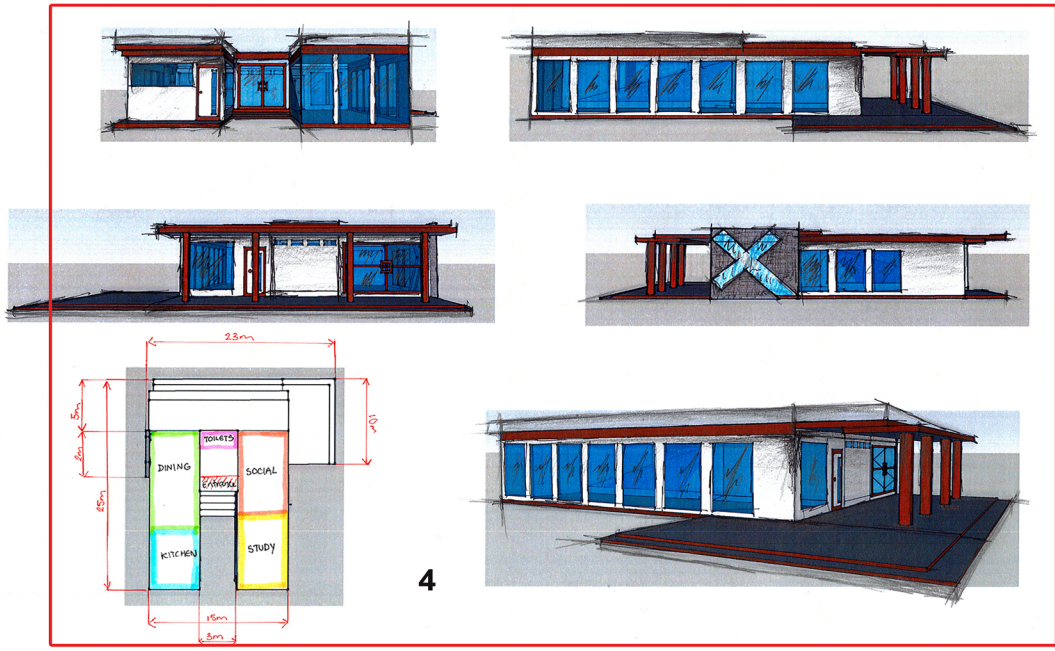
glass and steel building shows true nature of materials, and no ornamentation used links onto modernism.

overhanging roof

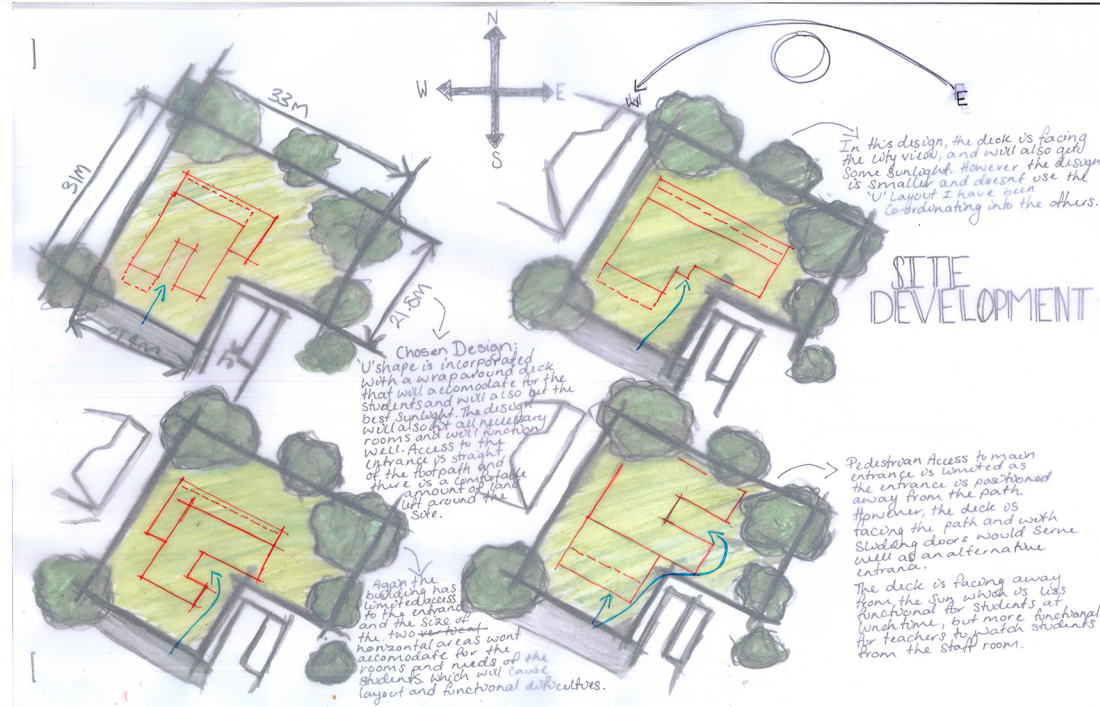


Support frames.

IDEA EXPLORATION

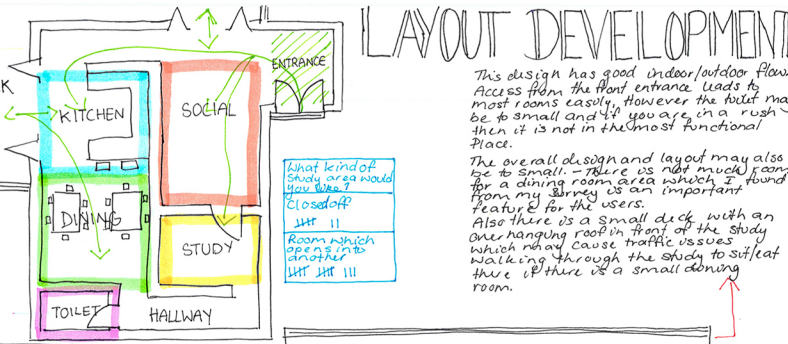


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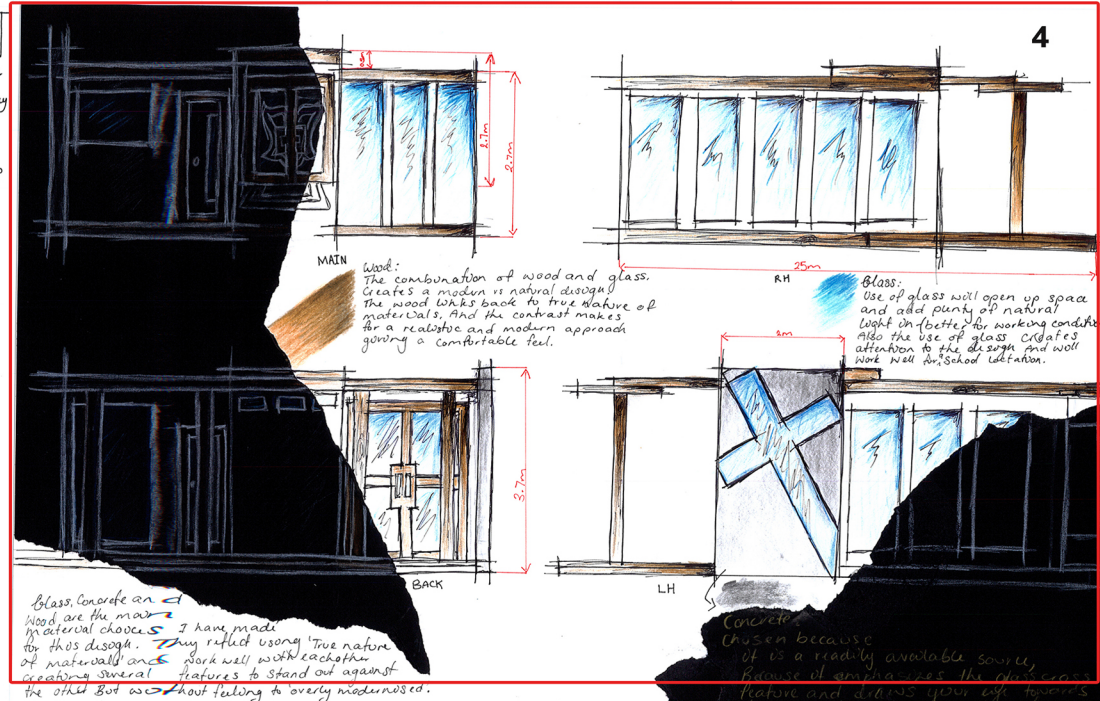
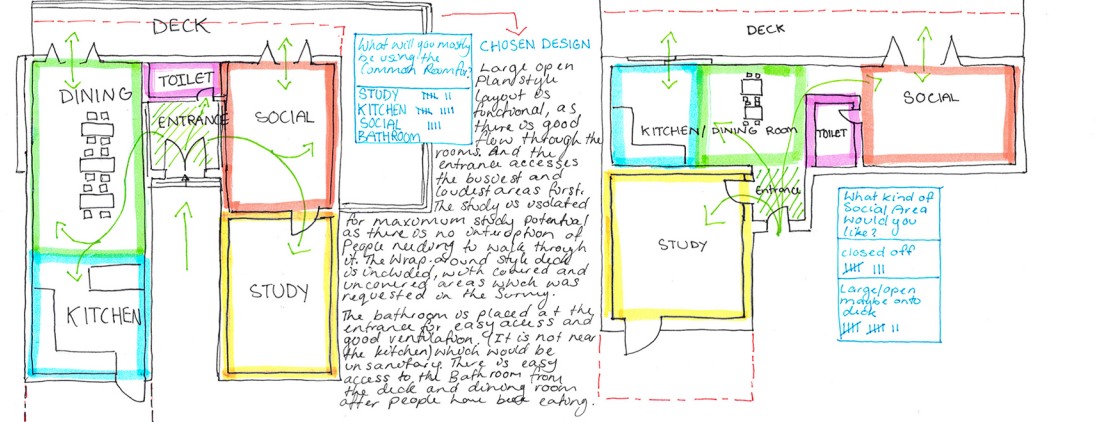


ELEVATIONS

In this design the entrance has been moved from the centre to the right, creating a more 'L' shaped design. It includes functional indoor/outdoor flow from the entrance through the rooms and the wrap around deck creating more access. The open plan design does work well, however, too much noise from the kitchen, dining and social rooms will be carried through to the study which may not be functional. Also the toilets may be too small for 100+ students to be sharing.



LAYOUT DEVELOPMENT



MATERIALS

Glass, concrete and wood are the main material choices I have made for this design. They reflect using 'true nature of materials' and work well with each other creating several features to stand out against the other but without feeling too over modernised.

Concrete chosen because it is a readily available source. Because of this, it is the most practical feature and draws your eye towards it. Also, from the wood, creating good substrates and involving the school character.