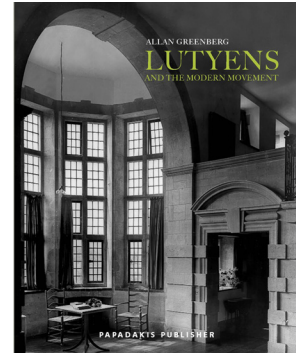


Lutyens & the Modern Movement

Note from the Publisher:

In the exclusionary world of high modern architecture, it is disconcerting to discover that two icons of the movement both admired the work of Sir Edwin Lutyens—an architect who had little or no interest in modernism. Le Corbusier and Frank Lloyd Wright created buildings that are very different, and the two men did not even like each other, but they shared a fascination for Lutyens’s distinctively non-international style architecture. This polemical text is an account of why this occurred. By exposing common aesthetic and structural themes in the architecture of these three giants, including the cities of New Delhi and Chandigarh, in India, the author explains why Wright and Le Corbusier may have had more in common with Lutyens than with many of their modernist peers.



Reading this text, it is easy to conclude that doctrinaire accounts of the architecture of the 20th century may be inadequate. In fact, they may actually blind us to more powerful undercurrents that would revise our understanding of the architecture of this period. One such undercurrent is the long neglected early work of these architects. By adopting a more inclusive point of view we may see that they share differences as well as hitherto neglected common ground.

The primary text in the book was written in 1967 and was published in a student journal in the United States with a small circulation. It has remained an underground classic since then—perhaps because its contents are so disruptive of our current views of 20th century modernism.