

# Height

At the end of 1936 a young architecture student stepped into a building on 35 rue de Sèvres in Paris. He walked down the great hall of the ground floor. He went up the small, dark, dilapidated staircase, and shyly he stopped at the door of Le Corbusier's studio.

He almost turned around to leave without daring to open that door. He did not know that his entire life was going to heavily depend on that decision. He opened the door. He went in.

A stern-looking secretary came up to him. He asked if it would be possible to meet with Le Corbusier for a few moments, some time. She said, "It's difficult. He's very busy. I'll go see." She left and did not come back. Le Corbusier himself came.

It was then that he saw Le Corbusier.

A strange memory has remained with him of that first vision. He was very surprised that Le Corbusier wasn't taller than he was. He had read *Towards a New Architecture*; he was so enthused by his ideas and his projects, he expected to meet such a great man that he would not have been surprised if Le Corbusier had been five or six meters tall. And yet, there he was, so simple, and no taller than that shy, puny student.

Immediately, Le Corbusier met with him for an hour and a half, asked him all kinds of questions and, much less intimidating than his secretary, talked to him with warmth and simplicity. That same evening, after dinner, the young student started working at the studio as a draftsman. He did not know that he was going to work with Le Corbusier for twenty years, and to know him closely for thirty years.

