

Philip Johnson Quotes

*Scary, Art, People, Architecture, Building, Want, Space, Cities, House, Thinking,
Wish, Looks, Real, Design, Moving, Glasses, Mean, Badass, Purpose, Funny*

Architecture is the art of how to waste space.

~Philip Johnson

To me, the drive for monumentality is as inbred as the desire for food and sex, regardless of how we denigrate it. Monuments differ in different periods. Each age has its own.

~Philip Johnson

I hate vacations. If you can build buildings, why sit on the beach?

~Philip Johnson

All architecture is shelter, all great architecture is the design of space that contains, cuddles, exalts, or stimulates the persons in that space.

~Philip Johnson

The future of architecture is culture.

~Philip Johnson

I got everything from someone. Nobody can be original.

~Philip Johnson

Architects are pretty much high-class whores. We can turn down projects the way they can turn down some clients, but we've both got to say yes to someone if we want to stay in business.

~Philip Johnson

I like to be buttoned onto tradition. The thing is to improve it, twist it and mold it; to make something new of it; not to deny it. The riches of history can be plucked at any point.

~Philip Johnson

Doing a house is so much harder than doing a skyscraper.

~Philip Johnson

Anybody can build a building, putting some doors into it, but how many times have you been in a building that moves you to tears the way Beethoven's 'Eighth' does?

~Philip Johnson

If architects weren't arrogant, they wouldn't be architects. I don't know a modest good architect.

~Philip Johnson

We do pretty much whatever we want to.

~Philip Johnson

Architecture is art, nothing else.

~Philip Johnson

Don't build a glass house if you're worried about saving money on heating.

~Philip Johnson

I guess I can't be a great architect. Great architects have a recognizable style. But if every building I did were the same, it would be pretty boring.

~Philip Johnson

Faith? Haven't any. I'm not a nihilist or a relativist. I don't believe in anything but change. I'm a Heraclitean - you can't step in the same river twice.

~Philip Johnson

The automobile is the greatest catastrophe in the entire history of City architecture.

~Philip Johnson

We all see the world differently. And thank God for that. Otherwise,

what a boring world this would be.

~Philip Johnson

There's no worse feeling than seeing my buildings and realizing the mistakes.

~Philip Johnson

I used to think that each phase of life was the end. But now that my view on life is more or less fixed, I believe that change is a great thing. In fact, it's the only real absolute in the world.

~Philip Johnson

The people with money to build today are corporations - they are our popes and Medicis. The sense of pride is why they build.

~Philip Johnson

You're going to change the world? Well, go ahead and try. You'll give it up at a certain point and change yourself instead.

~Philip Johnson

I'm a chameleon, so changeable. I see myself as a gadfly and a questioner.

~Philip Johnson

When a building is as good as that one, f#* @ the art.

~Philip Johnson

I think the collectors have made an enormous contribution, not only to the market but to painters themselves... These people that buy, that set standards, make everyone else itch to emulate.

~Philip Johnson

I haven't any wisdom - just a child like everybody else. I'm not as great as Frank Lloyd Wright.

~Philip Johnson

Architecture is basically the design of interiors, the art of organizing interior space.

~Philip Johnson

Maybe, just maybe, we shall at last come to care for the most important, most challenging, surely the most satisfying of all architectural creations: building cities for people to live in.

~Philip Johnson

All architects want to live beyond their deaths.

~Philip Johnson

Glibness will get you anywhere.

~Philip Johnson

To sum up the state of architecture in America: ninety percent of the buildings we live in and around aren't architecture. No, that's not right - 98 percent.

~Philip Johnson

Houston is undoubtedly my showcase city. I saved all my best buildings for Houston.

~Philip Johnson

I guess I want to make money just like other people, perhaps more than most people.

~Philip Johnson

Early unsuccessess shouldn't bother anybody because it happens to absolutely everybody.

~Philip Johnson

American megalomania is largely responsible for the growth of the Skyscraper School.

~Philip Johnson

I wouldn't build a building if it wasn't of interest to me as a potential work of art. Why should I?

~Philip Johnson

The best thing to do with water is to use a lot of it.

~Philip Johnson

In our universal experience unintelligent material processes do not create life

~Philip Johnson

Some of the opera houses in Italy had to be burnt down because people could neither see nor hear. They gave up seeing years ago, but they did enjoy the music.

~Philip Johnson

I wish someone would ask me to design a cathedral.

~Philip Johnson

The first complete sentence out of my mouth was probably that line about consistency being the hobgoblin of small minds.

~Philip Johnson

I call myself a traditionalist, although I have fought against tradition all my life.

~Philip Johnson

There's no such thing as old age. I'm no different now than I was 50 years ago. I'm just having more fun.

~Philip Johnson

Naturalism and materialism mean essentially the same thing.

~Philip Johnson

Purpose is not necessary to make a building beautiful.

~Philip Johnson

From the very fact the universe is on the whole orderly, in a manner comprehensible to our intellect, is evidence that we and it were fashioned by a common intelligence.

~Philip Johnson

So now the floodgates are open to the delight of pure form, whatever its origin. Anything goes.

~Philip Johnson

I get between nine and ten hours of sleep. Go to bed at 8:30 and get up at 6:00 or 6:30 if I oversleep.

~Philip Johnson

Pick very few objects and place them exactly.

~Philip Johnson

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