

**MAANDBLAD VOOR DE MO-
DERNE BEELDENDE VAKKEN
REDACTIE THEO VAN DOES-
BURG MET MEDEWERKING
VAN VOORNAME BINNEN- EN**

The Painter Piet Mondrian is probably the best known de stijl practitioner but it was Gerrit Rietveld and Theo van Doesburg who translated these ideas into three dimensions

Van Doesburg was an arrogant, self-assured man who was totally convinced that symmetry in architecture was the only way to create true harmony and balance. It was stubbornly held views like this that kept the Bauhaus and other from welcoming van Doesburg's opinions.

However it was Gerrit Rietveld that most successfully put de stijl principles into practice.

The group was founded in 1917 and was made up of confident, even arrogant artists. They shared a belief in the importance of geometric abstraction and its application in art and design.

As Holland was not, directly, involved in World War 2, these artists and architects were able to try out their ideas well before many other nations.

They investigated the use of pure colour and form in their respective disciplines.



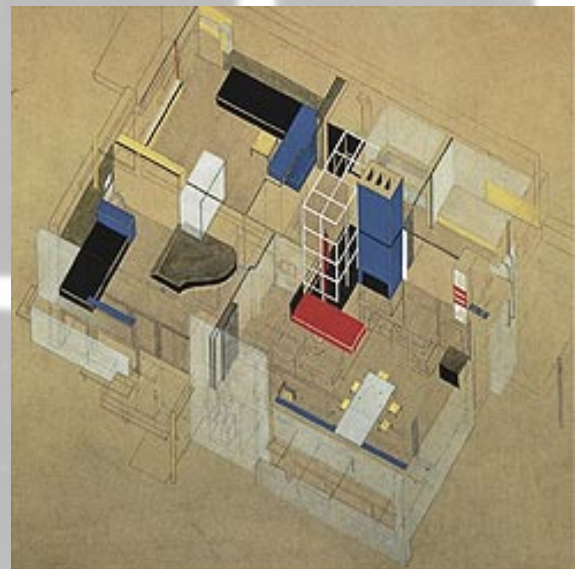
- **Red and Blue Chair 1917-1918** (Beech/Plywood, painted) is like a 3-D Mondrian painting offering flashes of positive and negative space.



- **The Schroeder House, Utrecht, 1923-24** (Steel Frame/Reinforced Concrete) - Opposite of van Doesburg's symmetry idea, the forms of wall/balcony/door/window overlap and are intersected by lines of railing and frame. These are heavily influenced by the Prairie Houses of the American Frank Lloyd Wright.

- The Schroeder House is built around a steel frame which supports its entire weight. This meant that there need not be any set plan to the internal dimensions of rooms, with walls positioned where desired rather than where necessary.

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- This steel frame idea was also being investigated and developed by the French-based architect Le Corbusier at the same time. He called it 'The domino building system'.

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