top Cover of the South Bank Exhibition Guide for the Festival of Britain 1951, designed by Abram Games. Licensed to public domain.

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of Pa[illegible] and [illegible] sense [illegible] only [illegible] reasons [illegible] prosperity, or pie[illegible] good ones, for [illegible] cannot be [illegible] structure. It is in[illegible] the Pyramid, the Gre[illegible] tacade, and jus[illegible] from their associated struc[illegible] feature from its proximity to th[illegible]

Dome of Discovery, by taking the [illegible] more easily see how [illegible] proper symbo[illegible] for the mi[illegible] gical [illegible] triumphs and disa[illegible] science [illegible] infinites of [illegible] with the prim[illegible] ive and th[illegible] and [illegible] planet [illegible] might read these [illegible] of prim[illegible] and [illegible] and an atomic rocket [illegible] of a number of similar [illegible]

[illegible] for the symbolism is unnecessary [illegible] like Bramante visualising St. Peter's [illegible] William Hurley visualising the Octagon, or [illegible] gives a purely structural problem – how to make an exclamation mark in [illegible] was a balloon, and from the [illegible] to this 250-foot aluminium needle [illegible] on a cradle of cables forty feet above the ground. The structural principles are as simple as those of a bell tent, but reduced to the point where they become eloquent as a work of art: the paired supporting cables [illegible] hung from the tops of three slender pylons, splayed outwards and braced by [illegible] from anchorages in the ground, while the [illegible] stabilizing guys which spring from the haunches of the needle are secured to the same points. When the assembly is complete, somewhere about Easter, the temporary bracing wires will be removed and the three supporting pylons will each be jacked up [illegible] twelve inches to draw all the cables piano-tight. This is necessary to ensure that every cable remains taut, however strongly the wind blows and from whatever quarter. A slack cable would not only look unsightly, but also menace the safety of the structure [illegible] bending the other cables beyond their safety point.

The skeleton of the needle will be covered by hollow aluminium tins separated by spaces as wide as themselves. These gaps will serve to let the wind blow through the structure, and also to let light shine [illegible] from within. [illegible] will glow [illegible] day, and [illegible] with its [illegible] dull red at the base, and with mounting intensity toward the tip, where it will gleam with a brilliant white light.

To create so effective a symbol as this requires the ability to sum up and boldly express ideas which are in the air – so much in the air that the spoken word [illegible] you to catch up [illegible] Powell and Moya's bold conception [illegible] the structural device which will be most [illegible] of this exhibition, the double-tapered [illegible] ice which is very [illegible] of our technol[illegible] fluted aesthetic nebulous. The [illegible] ns, we had some experience both of the [illegible] kind of [illegible] which it [illegible] the [illegible] but it would be [illegible] to find elegant English [illegible] of the [illegible] ernacless, some [illegible] to be found if [illegible] ations are to do justice to the architectural [illegible] ects of the festival, [illegible] of the m[illegible] – the Do[illegible] us over the riv[illegible] hanging [illegible] ther of his [illegible] the most effective solution to the problem of [illegible] ut subject [illegible] compression [illegible] ne leans he [illegible] top of a walking [illegible] very much, but if one or three [illegible] slender [illegible] stems were to tend to the same extent it would [illegible] ble [illegible] and collapse, and to prevent this they are [illegible] and the middle, where the tendency to [illegible] is greatest. Such double tapered pylons have a long and respectable history in civil engineering, where they [illegible] instances bridges and similar structures [illegible] debut in "fi[illegible] 1956, in a design [illegible] such [illegible] such structures will [illegible] been [illegible] as a work of art [illegible]

January 1959

Co[illegible]b at Seventy

Of all the major personalities of modem art, Le Corbusier is the most accessible to the layman. Superficially that is, since face to face he is often arrogant, defensive and impenetrable. But the public figure, as revealed in his works or in the exhibition to honour his seventieth birthday, now at the Building Centre, emerges as a comprehensible and fascinating image of the painter as man of action, the architect as poet, a visionary whose aims make sense at the level of practical building techniques. His career, too, a pattern of applied energy that would have made a fit subject for the pen of Samuel Smiles, has been marked out by struggles and rewards, snubs and honours, triumphs and reverses, with the cliff-hanger impartiality of a TV serial.

Much of the life is common property: the beginnings as the white hope of a provincial art-school trying to climb on the Art Nouveau bandwagon after it had ceased to roll; the travels all over Europe and the Near East; the return to his native Chaux de Fonds to head the Section Nouvelle of the school there, and build two houses and a cinema that he has since been at pains to suppress; the mysterious departure for Paris

390 cm

Notre-Dame-du-Haut [illegible] by Le Corbusier. Photo [illegible] Licensed under Creative [illegible]