

# Postmodernism

Architecture

The case against modernism made from inside architecture, and what it proposed.

*Roughly 1966 to 1990.*

## The charges against modernism

It could not communicate with the public

It ignored history and local meaning

Its cities were sterile and hostile

Purity was a taste dressed as a truth

Its housing projects were failing

## The texts

Venturi, Complexity and Contradiction, 1966

Jacobs, Death and Life, 1961

Learning from Las Vegas, 1972

Jencks, Language of Post-Modernism, 1977

Rossi, The Architecture of the City, 1966

Venturi: 'less is a bore', against Mies. The duck versus the decorated shed asks whether a building is a sign or wears one.