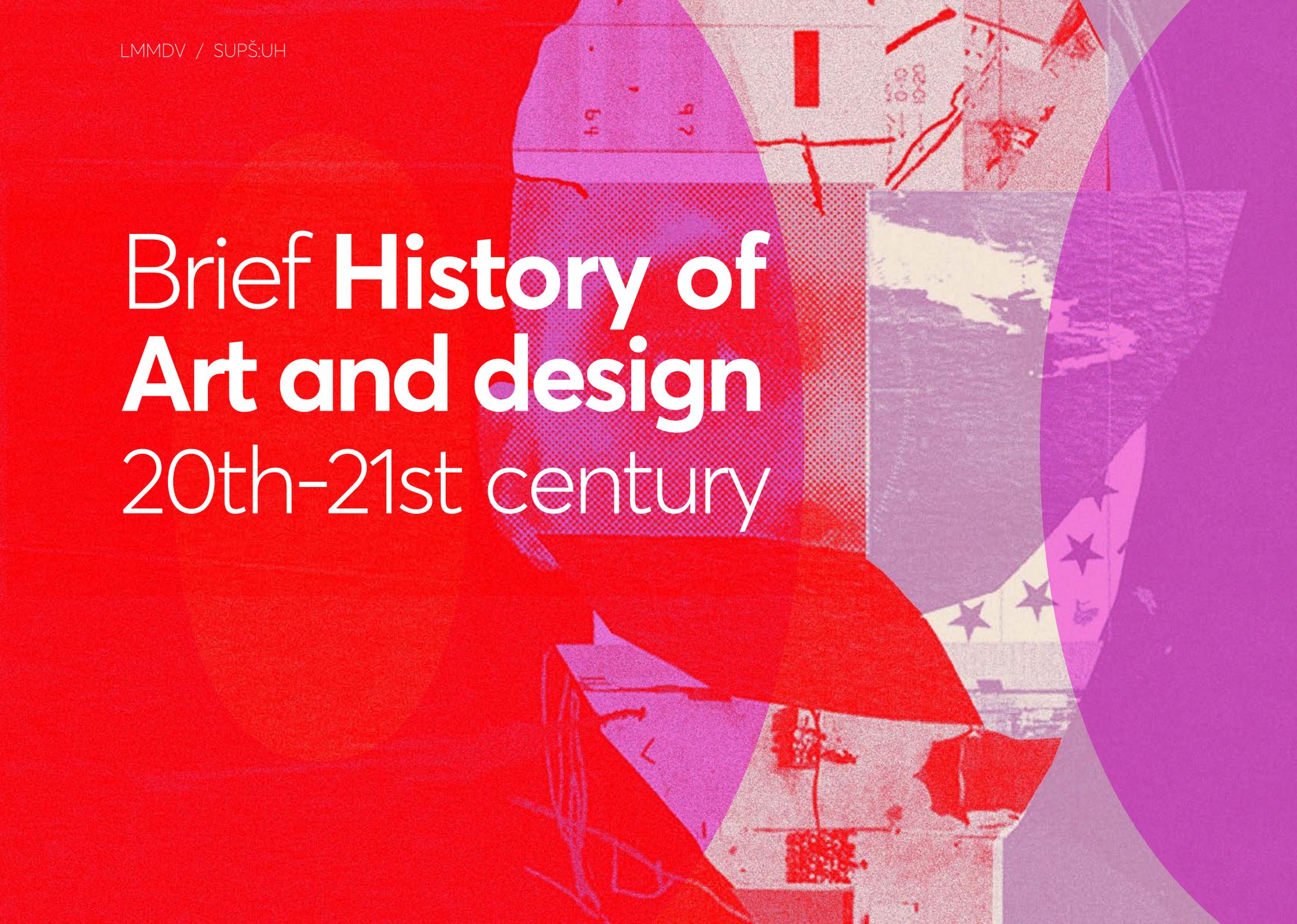


Brief **History** of **Art and design** 20th-21st century

The background is a complex collage of artistic and design elements. It features a prominent halftone pattern in the center, a map-like structure with various lines and shapes, and a banner with a star pattern. The overall color palette is dominated by red and purple, with white text. The collage also includes abstract shapes and patterns, such as a large red shape on the left and a purple shape on the right.

- 01** Bauhaus Movement and International Modernism (1919–1960)
- 02** Surrealism and Abstract Expressionism (1930–1960)
- 03** Pop Art and Pop Design in the Space Age (1955–1970)
- 04** Minimalism and Brutalism (1950–1980)
- 05** Conceptual and Radical Design and Art (1965–1980)
- 06** Street Art, Graffiti, and Urban Design, Feminist Art Movement and Social Design (1970–1980)
- 07** Postmodernism in Art and Design (1980–2000)
- 08** Installation, Performance (1990–nowadays)
- 09** New Media Art (1990–nowadays)
- 10** Global Contemporary Art and Design (2000–nowadays)

BRITISH HISTORY OF ART AND DESIGN 20TH CENTURY

Minimalism and Brutalism

(1950–1980)

THE VALUE OF ART IS IN THE OBSERVER.

Agnes Martin

Minimalism and Brutalism

(1950–1980)



Co-funded by
the European Union



LIEPĀJAS MŪZIKAS,
MĀKSLAS un DIZAINA
VIDUSSKOLA



SUPŠ:UH



Materials created within Erasmus+ Small-scale partnership project "EmpowerED: Fostering Employability, Cultural Understanding, and Digital Resilience in VET Education" No 2023-2-LV01-KA210-VET-000178458 Implemented from 1.04.2024. till 31.03.2026. by coordinator MIKC "Liepājas Mūzikas, mākslas un dizaina vidusskola" (Latvia) and project partner Střední umělecko průmyslová škola Uherské Hradiště (Czech Republic), total project budget is 60 000 euro.

Content

Exploring Reduced Forms in Art, Design, and Architecture	8
The development of minimalism	8
Qualities of minimalist art	10
Characteristics	10
Minimalism in Design	10
Conclusion	11
Brutalism	12
Qualities of Brutalism.....	12
Conclusion:	13

The Lasting Impact of	13
Minimalism and Brutalism	13

Brutalism Architecture in Latvia

Contrasting Minimalism and Brutalism with Surrealism and Abstract Expressionism.....	14
Key Comparisons.....	14
Applying Minimalist and Brutalist Principles to Latvian Design and Culture	15
Sources	15

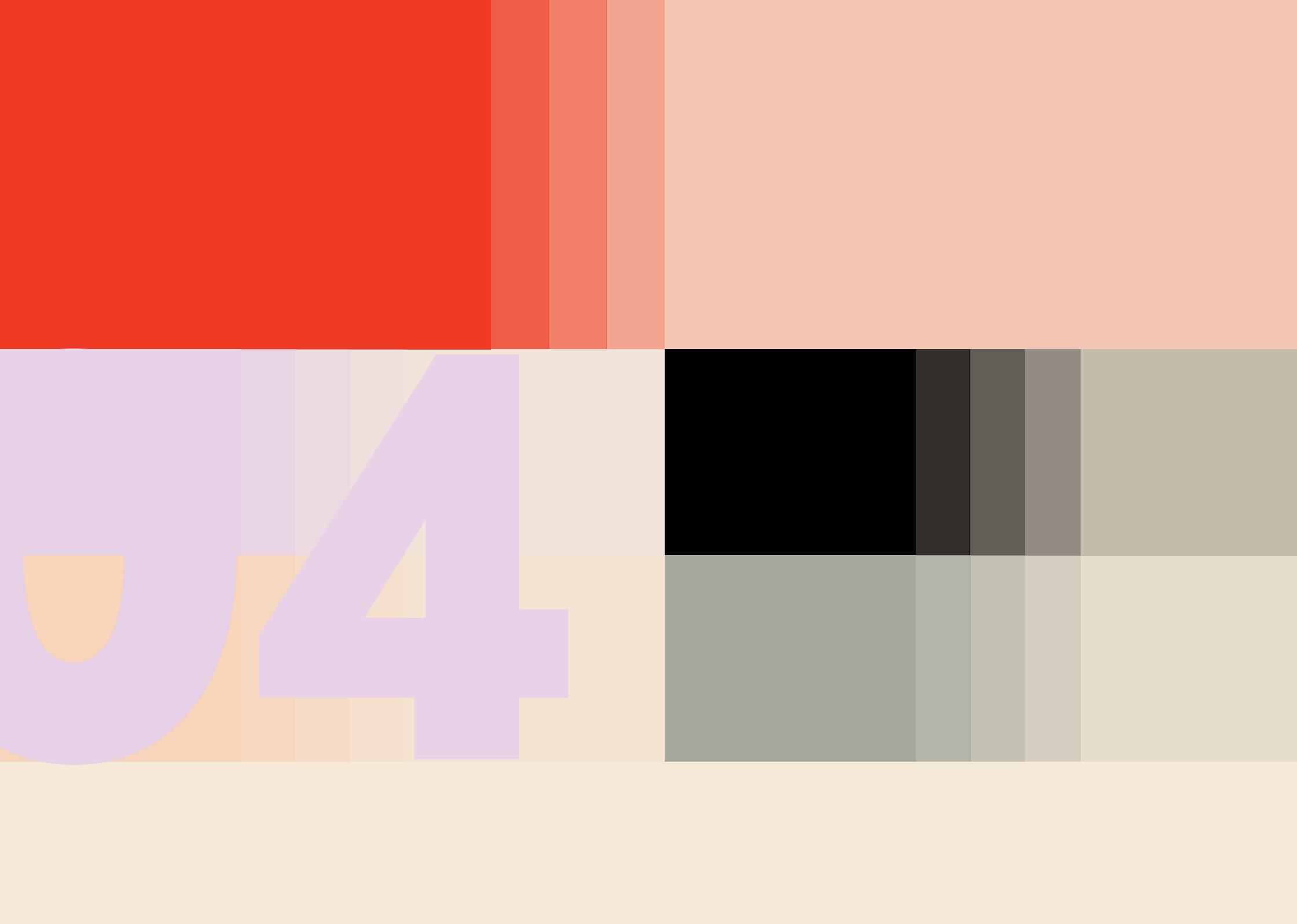
Czech Brutalism.....

Characteristics of Czech Brutalism.....	16
---	----

Notable Architects and Their Works

Karel Prager (1923–2001).....	17
Vladimír Machonin (1920 – 1990) and Věra Machoninova (1928).....	17
Miloslav Hudec (1951)	18
Iconic Brutalist Buildings.....	18
Significance and Legacy.....	18

Czech Minimalism	19
Zdeněk Sýkora (1920–2011)	19
Karel Malich (1924–2019)	20
Milan Grygar (b. 1926)	21
Stanislav Zippe (b. 1943).....	22
Reference List	22
Students' Tasks	24



Exploring Reduced Forms in Art, Design, and Architecture

Minimalism and Brutalism are two significant movements that originated as responses to the social and cultural transformations after World War II. While Minimalism sought purity, simplicity, and order, Brutalism emphasized raw materiality and functional form. Both movements had far-reaching influences in art, architecture, and design.

The development of minimalism

Minimalism is an extreme form of abstract art that was developed in the USA in the 1960s and represented by artworks composed of simple geometric shapes based on the square and the rectangle.

<https://www.tate.org.uk/art/art-terms/m/minimalism>

Minimalism emerged in the late 1950s when artists such as **Frank Stella**, whose Black Paintings were exhibited at the Museum of Modern Art in New York in 1959, began to turn away from the gestural art of the previous generation. It flourished in the 1960s and 1970s with **Carl Andre**, **Dan Flavin**, **Donald Judd**, **Sol LeWitt**, **Agnes Martin** and **Robert Morris** becoming the movement's most important innovators.

Minimalist painter **Frank Stella** famously said about his paintings "What you see is what you see".



Frank Stella. The Marriage of Reason and Squalor, II, 1959



Sol LeWitt Two Open Modular Cubes/Half-Off (1972)

Tate © The estate of Sol LeWitt



Donald Judd Untitled (1972)

Tate © Donald Judd Foundation/VAGA, New York and DACS, London 2024



Carl Andre 144 Magnesium Square (1969)

Tate © Carl Andre/VAGA, New York and DACS, London 2024



Robert Morris Untitled (1965, reconstructed 1971)

Tate <https://www.tate.org.uk/art/art-terms/m/minimalism>

Qualities of minimalist art

Aesthetically, minimalist art offers a **highly purified form of beauty**. It can also be seen as representing such qualities as truth (because it does not pretend to be anything other than what it is), order, simplicity and harmony.

Characteristics

- / **Geometric Forms:** Minimalist art often employs simple, geometric shapes like squares, rectangles, and circles, arranged in ways that emphasize symmetry, repetition, and precision.
- / **Limited Color Palette:** Minimalist artworks frequently use a restricted range of colors—often monochromatic or neutral tones such as black, white, gray, and earth tones. The goal is to draw attention to form, texture, and space rather than vivid or expressive use of colour.
- / **Emphasis on Material:** The material itself becomes a central point in minimalist art. Artists use materials like metal, glass, concrete, and natural wood, often leaving surfaces unadorned to highlight the inherent qualities of the medium.
- / **Absence of Narrative or Symbolism:** Minimalist art aims to present objects as they are, without embedded stories or metaphors. This “objecthood” shifts the focus to the physical experience of the artwork, allowing viewers to interpret it in their own way.

Minimalism in Design

Interior and Architecture

- / **Focus on Functionality:** In minimalist interiors, every piece of furniture or decor serves a purpose, and unnecessary elements are avoided. This creates spaces that feel open, airy, and uncluttered.
- / **Neutral Colors and Simplicity of Form:** Spaces feature clean, straight lines and smooth surfaces. The color palette is typically neutral, with shades of white, gray, and beige, often highlighted with natural materials like wood or stone.
- / **Negative Space:** The use of empty or negative space is key, allowing elements to “breathe” and creating a sense of tranquility and order. This approach can make rooms feel larger and more serene.

Natural Light: Minimalist interiors often incorporate large windows or open spaces to maximize natural light, enhancing the sense of openness and connection to the environment.

Use of Raw Materials: Like in art, minimalist architecture and interior celebrates materials in their raw state—concrete, glass, and steel are often left exposed. This approach emphasizes the honesty of the materials and their textures.

Notable Architects

- / **Tadao Ando:** Known for his use of concrete and light. He creates serene spaces that blend with the natural environment.
- / **John Pawson:** A pioneer in minimalist design. Pawson's architecture is known for its purity, simplicity, and sense of calmness.

Minimalism in Graphic Design

Characteristics

- / **Typography:** Minimalist graphic design often uses sans-serif fonts and a clean, straightforward approach to text layout, ensuring legibility and simplicity.
- / **Ample White Space:** White space is used generously to avoid clutter, guiding the viewer's eye to the most important elements.
- / **Limited Elements:** Minimalist designs focus on a few core elements, often reducing complex ideas into simple icons or symbols.
- / **Examples:** The visual identity of brands like Apple, with its focus on sleek, functional design and clean packaging, is rooted in minimalist principles. Similarly, website interfaces that prioritize user experience through simplicity are influenced by minimalism.

Conclusion

Minimalism in art and design is a celebration of simplicity, stripping down to the core elements that define a piece of work or a space. It embraces an aesthetic of restraint and clarity, allowing the beauty of materials, form, and light to come to the forefront. By focusing on what is essential and eliminating the superfluous, minimalism creates a sense of calmness, balance, and harmony that continues to resonate across different disciplines and cultures. Its influence is deeply felt in everything from modern architecture to everyday objects, providing a pathway to appreciate the beauty of simplicity.

Brutalism

One of the stylistic movements of modernist architecture from 1950 to 1977.

The brutalist movement first emerged in the 1950s. Led by French-Swiss architect Le Corbusier, its central tenants were the use of concrete, unfinished industrial materials, strong structural elements, rigid shapes, and a monochromatic color scheme. (The name was derived from the French term for raw concrete: *béton brut*.) Brutalist buildings and interiors were intended to project a utilitarian image, with famous examples including the now Frick Madison in New York City, the Barbican in London, and the Cathedral of Saint Mary of the Assumption in San Francisco.

Brutalism is a style with an emphasis on materials, textures and construction, producing highly expressive forms. While Brutalism is best known in architecture, its influence extends to visual art, interior design, and graphic design. Brutalist design prominently features concrete, steel, and glass. In non-architectural applications, this translates to unpainted metals, unfinished wood, and simple materials in their natural state.

Qualities of Brutalism

- / Rough surfaces
- / Use of varied or contrasting textures and materials
- / Massive forms
- / Creating a sense of mass, weight, and scale
- / Unusual shapes
- / Expression of structure
- / Creating a memorable and powerful image



Royal National Theatre, London. Architect Denys Lasdun, 1976



Frick Madison (the Breuer Building) . architect Marcel Breuer 1966

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OO2Sd-a4KUo>

Ugliest buildings in the world? A (fun) beginners' guide to Brutalism | Alternative Architecture from Victor & Albert muzeum video tour.

By the late 1970s, Brutalism gradually began to lose its significance in architecture. This was partly due to certain aspects of the style's architectural qualities, which, over extended periods of building use, could prove unsustainable and expensive to maintain. The untreated concrete surfaces aged poorly under various external conditions (rainwater runoffs and stains formed due to climatic effects, graffiti as a result of vandalism, etc.), which could diminish the initial visual impact.

Conclusion:

The Lasting Impact of Minimalism and Brutalism

Minimalism and Brutalism celebrate simplicity, honesty, and functionalism in art, design, and architecture, continuing to influence disciplines from graphic design to urban planning. By focusing on essential forms and materials, they create an aesthetic of clarity and resilience that resonates with contemporary values, especially in places like Latvia, where cultural and environmental sustainability are the key. Their contrast with more expressive movements like Surrealism and Abstract Expressionism highlights the diverse ways art and design can respond to societal needs and emotions.

In learning about these movements, we gain an appreciation for how art and design shape our environments, cultural identities, and even our emotions—whether through the stark, imposing forms of Brutalism or the balanced simplicity of Minimalism.

Brutalism Architecture in Latvia



Riga. Office building at 48 Maskavas Street. 1979–1990. J. Skalbergs.

Contrasting Minimalism and Brutalism with Surrealism and Abstract Expressionism

Surrealism and Abstract Expressionism emerged in response to cultural shifts, much like Minimalism and Brutalism, but they took vastly different approaches:

- / Surrealism: While Minimalism emphasizes simplicity, Surrealism embraces fantasy and irrationality. Surrealist artists like Salvador Dalí created dreamlike, bizarre imagery, which continues to influence areas of design that challenge reality, such as fashion and advertising.
- / Abstract Expressionism: Unlike the restraint of Minimalism, Abstract Expressionism prioritizes emotion, spontaneity, and gestural mark-making. Artists like Jackson Pollock and Willem de Kooning used chaotic compositions to convey intense feelings, contrasting with Minimalism's emphasis on control.

Key Comparisons

- / Minimalism vs. Surrealism: Minimalism values clarity and purity of form, while Surrealism introduces chaotic, dreamlike elements that challenge our perceptions of reality.
- / Brutalism vs. Abstract Expressionism: Brutalism is raw and utilitarian, while Abstract Expressionism is expressive and emotional. Where Brutalism uses heavy materials to make a statement, Abstract Expressionism uses color and texture to evoke feeling.

These comparisons can spark discussions on how different art movements interpret reality, emotion, and structure.

Applying Minimalist and Brutalist Principles to Latvian Design and Culture

- / Latvian Architecture and Interior Design: Modern Latvian design often incorporates minimalist principles with a strong emphasis on natural materials. Ziedonis Hall in the National Library of Latvia exemplifies minimalism with its clean lines, open spaces, and attention to natural light.



Ziedonis Hall in the National Library of Latvia

- / Latvian Cultural Identity and Art: In post-Soviet Latvia, there has been a shift from Brutalist influences to a more minimalist aesthetic, symbolizing a connection to nature, simplicity, and sustainability. This evolution reflects Latvia's journey from a period of imposed architectural styles to a modern era focusing on cultural heritage and environmental harmony.

Sources

"Arhitektūras stili Latvijā" Jānis Krastiņš

http://e.znet.lv/Arhitekt_stili_Latvija_Text.pdf

<https://www.tate.org.uk/art/art-terms/m/minimalism>

<https://www.archdaily.com/772979/ad-classics-royal-national-theatre-denys-lasdun>

<https://www.architecture.com/explore-architecture/brutalism>

<https://www.vogue.com/article/why-brutalism-is-making-a-comeback-in-2023>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OO2Sd-a4KUo>

Barnabas, Ch., Raw concrete: the beauty of brutalism, London, William Heinemann, 2016.

Banham, R., The New Brutalism: Ethic or Aesthetic?, London, Architectural Press, 1966.

<https://enciklopedija.lv/skirklis/87775-brut%C4%81lisms,-arhitekt%C5%ABr%C4%81>

Czech Brutalism

Czech brutalist architecture from the second half of the 20th century is a striking and often polarizing chapter in the country's architectural history. Emerging as part of the global brutalist movement, it reflects the unique cultural and political context of socialist Czechoslovakia, combining functionality, monumentality, and a raw aesthetic. An overview of its key aspects, architects, and buildings is listed below:

Characteristics of Czech Brutalism

/ Material:

/ Exposed concrete (**béton brut**) was the dominant material, often used in its raw, unpainted form.

/ Some structures incorporated steel, glass, or stone for contrast, but concrete remained central.

/ Form:

/ Massive, blocky forms with repetitive modular elements.

/ Bold geometric designs, cantilevered sections, and dramatic overhangs were common.

/ Emphasis on texture, with concrete surfaces often rough or ribbed for visual interest.

/ Functionality:

/ Focused on utility, reflecting the socialist ideals of serving the people through practical, durable structures.

/ Many buildings housed public services, institutions, or government offices.

/ Cultural Context:

/ Brutalism in Czechoslovakia was shaped by the centralized economy, prioritizing efficiency and standardization.

/ It often embodied the utopian ideals of socialism, representing progress and modernity.

Notable Architects and Their Works

Karel Prager (1923–2001)

Prager was a leading figure in Czech brutalism, known for his innovative designs that combined structural daring with aesthetic boldness.

Key Works



- / **New Stage of the National Theatre (Nová scéna, 1983):** A glass-and-concrete structure with a futuristic aesthetic, incorporating brutalist and high-tech elements.

- / **Federal Assembly Building (1973–1978, now New Building of the National Museum):** A striking combination of brutalist and modernist design, featuring a bold cantilevered structure and extensive use of glass and concrete.

Vladimír Machonin (1920 – 1990) and Věra Machoninová (1928)

The Machonins were a husband-and-wife duo who designed some of the most iconic brutalist buildings in the country.

Key Works



- / **Kotva Department Store (1975):** Located in Prague, this hexagonal, honeycomb-like structure showcases brutalist geometry with functional design.
- / **Thermal Hotel in Karlovy Vary (1977):** A monumental concrete building designed for the international film festival, combining brutalist and functionalist principles.

Věra Machoninová is a trailblazer for women in architecture, she was instrumental in shaping the brutalist landscape of Czechoslovakia.

Miloslav Hudec (1951)



Faculty of Civil Engineering, Czech Technical University (1970s): A massive structure with a fortress-like quality, featuring exposed concrete and large, open interiors.

Iconic Brutalist Buildings

Hotel Praha (1981, demolished 2014)

- / Located in Prague, this luxurious government hotel symbolized socialist opulence. Its demolition sparked significant public outcry due to its architectural and historical value.

Cultural Center in Ostrava (Dom Kultury Vítkovice, 1960s)

- / A raw and imposing example of brutalist public architecture.



Significance and Legacy

- / Brutalist architecture in the Czech Republic is deeply tied to the socialist era, often symbolizing progress and ambition but also oppression and rigidity.
- / After 1989 (the Velvet Revolution), brutalism fell out of favour, with many buildings being neglected, altered, or demolished.
- / Today, there is growing recognition of its historical and architectural value, with efforts to preserve key structures and reappraise their place in Czech cultural heritage.

Czech Minimalism

Zdeněk Sýkora (1920–2011)

Life

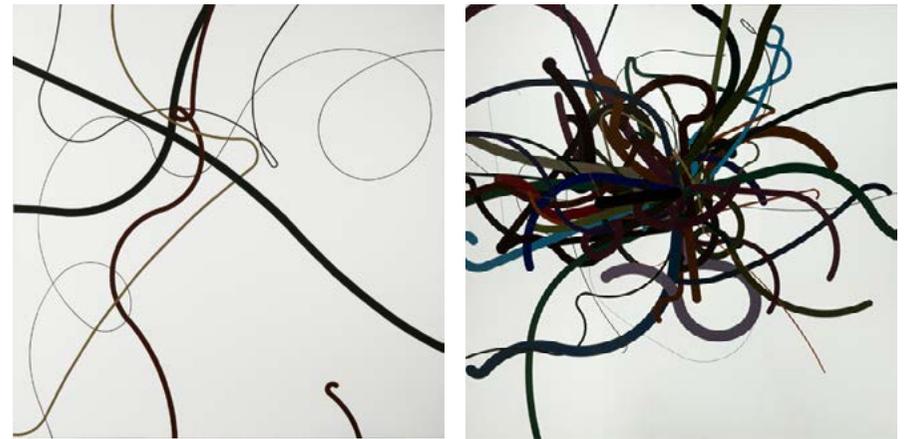
- / Born in Louny, Sýkora studied at Charles University in Prague, where he initially worked in figurative and landscape painting.
- / By the 1950s, he shifted to abstraction, influenced by the international modernist movement.
- / In the 1960s, Sýkora began collaborating with mathematicians to incorporate computer algorithms into his work, making him a global pioneer of computer art.

Art and Legacy

- / Sýkora's **"Structures"** series emerged from his experiments with geometry and randomness, blending hand-drawn elements with computer-generated designs.
- / His **"Lines"** series became iconic for their vibrant colours and intricate, layered movements, demonstrating how mathematical precision could evoke organic fluidity.
- / He exhibited widely in Europe and beyond, helping place Czechoslovak modernism on the international stage. His influence can be seen in contemporary computational and algorithmic art.

Artworks

- / **"Structures" (1960s):** These paintings combine geometric forms and vibrant colours, with compositions often based on mathematical calculations.
- / **"Lines" Series:** Using algorithms, Sýkora created dynamic, overlapping lines that seem to pulse with energy. The works explore rhythm, movement, and visual interaction.



https://sbirky.ngprague.cz/en/dielo/CZE:NG.O_17596

- / His **"Colour Fields"** combine vibrant, modular patterns into vast visual systems.

Karel Malich (1924–2019)

Life

- / Malich was born in Holice and studied at the Academy of Fine Arts in Prague. His early career focused on abstract expressionist landscapes and portraits.
- / The 1960s marked a turning point as he explored metaphysical ideas, cosmic energy, and the immaterial, translating these into sculptures and drawings.
- / His philosophy was deeply tied to nature, energy flows, and the universe, reflected in his use of organic materials and forms.

Art and Legacy

- / Malich's **wire sculptures** are celebrated for their weightlessness and spiritual resonance, creating forms that seem suspended between physicality and imagination.

Artworks

- / **"Wire Sculptures" (1970s):** Delicate, airy structures made from bent wires and synthetic materials. These works evoke natural forces, such as the flow of wind or cosmic vibrations.
- / **"Energy Landscapes" (Drawings):** Minimalist compositions in pastel or ink that symbolize spiritual and cosmic connections.
- / **"Model for a Monument" (1960s):** A study in balancing geometric simplicity with emotional and conceptual depth.
- / His **pastel drawings** are equally significant, often resembling energy fields or mystical visions.



<https://www.zdeneksklenar.cz/en/artists/karel-malich>

Malich is considered a visionary in Czech modern art, combining minimalism with an intuitive, almost mystical sense of form and material.

Milan Grygar (b. 1926)

Life

- / Born in Zvolen, Slovakia, Grygar studied at the Academy of Arts, Architecture, and Design in Prague.
- / His early career involved traditional drawing and painting, but he soon became interested in the connections between sound, movement, and visual art.
- / Grygar's practice has always been experimental, creating art that invites viewers to experience multiple senses simultaneously.

Art and Legacy

- / His **acoustic drawings** are groundbreaking, where the act of drawing produces sound as an integral part of the artwork.
- / Grygar's **performances** explore the relationship between gesture, rhythm, and space, often involving live sound production.
- / He remains an influential figure in Czech and European avant-garde art, with a career spanning over seven decades.

Artworks

- / **"Acoustic Drawings" (1960s):** Grygar uses tools like brushes, sticks, or strings to create sound as he draws, recording both the marks and the sounds produced.



<https://www.zdeneksklenar.cz/en/shop/product/155-milan-grygar--acoustic-drawings-and-scores>

- / **"Black and White Series" (1980s):** Minimalist works using stark contrasts to focus on tension and balance.
- / **"Sound Performances":** Live events where Grygar demonstrates the synthesis of sound and visual art.

Stanislav Zippe (b. 1943)

Life

- / Born in Prague, Zippe studied sculpture and design. He became part of the kinetic and minimalist art movements of the 1960s.
- / His works reflect interest in industrial materials, light, and motion, drawing on the advancements in science and technology of his time.

Art and Legacy

- / Zippe's **kinetic installations** often use simple geometric shapes combined with mechanisms to create movement, light effects, or optical illusions.
- / His exploration of **light and shadow** creates immersive experiences that blur the line between physical and virtual spaces.
- / He continues to inspire younger generations of artists interested in integrating art, science, and technology.

Artworks

- / **"Kinetic Sculptures" (1960s–1970s):** Interactive installations that change as viewers move around them. Often made of glass, metal, or acrylic.
- / **"Light Art Installations":** Works that use reflections and minimalistic structures to explore the effects of light on space.
- / **"Rotating Forms":** Simple geometric shapes that slowly rotate, transforming the viewer's perception of space.

Reference List

Kraštinš, J. (n.d.). *Arhitektūras stili Latvijā*. Retrieved from http://e.znet.lv/Arhitekt_stili_Latvija_Text.pdf

Web Resources

Tate. (n.d.). *Minimalism*. Retrieved from <https://www.tate.org.uk/art/art-terms/m/minimalism>

ArchDaily. (n.d.). *AD Classics: Royal National Theatre - Denys Lasdun*. Retrieved from <https://www.archdaily.com/772979/ad-classics-royal-national-theatre-denys-lasdun>

Royal Institute of British Architects. (n.d.). *Brutalism*. Retrieved from <https://www.architecture.com/explore-architecture/brutalism>

Vogue. (2023). *Why Brutalism is Making a Comeback in 2023*. Retrieved from <https://www.vogue.com/article/why-brutalism-is-making-a-comeback-in-2023>

Latvian National Encyclopedia. (n.d.). *Brutālisms arhitektūrā*. Retrieved from <https://enciklopedija.lv/skirklis/87775-brut%C4%81lisms,-arhitekt%C5%ABr%C4%81>

Museum and Artwork References

Tate. (n.d.). *Frank Stella*. Retrieved from <https://www.tate.org.uk/art/artists/frank-stella-1994>

Tate. (n.d.). *Carl Andre*. Retrieved from <https://www.tate.org.uk/art/artists/carl-andre-648>

Tate. (n.d.). *Dan Flavin*. Retrieved from <https://www.tate.org.uk/art/artists/dan-flavin-1101>

Tate. (n.d.). *Donald Judd*. Retrieved from <https://www.tate.org.uk/art/artists/donald-judd-1378>

Tate. (n.d.). *Sol LeWitt*. Retrieved from <https://www.tate.org.uk/art/artists/sol-lewitt-1504>

Tate. (n.d.). *Agnes Martin*. Retrieved from <https://www.tate.org.uk/art/artists/agnes-martin-1583>

Tate. (n.d.). *Robert Morris*. Retrieved from <https://www.tate.org.uk/art/artists/robert-morris-1669>

Tate. (n.d.). *Two Open Modular Cubes/Half-Off* by Sol LeWitt. Retrieved from <https://www.tate.org.uk/art/artworks/lewitt-two-open-modular-cubes-half-off-t01865>

Tate. (n.d.). *Untitled* by Donald Judd. Retrieved from <https://www.tate.org.uk/art/artworks/judd-untitled-t06524>

Tate. (n.d.). *144 Magnesium Square* by Carl Andre. Retrieved from <https://www.tate.org.uk/art/artworks/andre-144-magnesium-square-t01767>

National Gallery Prague. (n.d.). *Zdeněk Sýkora: Structures*. Retrieved from https://sbirky.ngprague.cz/en/dielo/CZE:NG.O_17596

Zdeněk Sklenář Gallery. (n.d.). *Karel Malich*. Retrieved from <https://www.zdeneksklenar.cz/en/artists/karel-malich>

Zdeněk Sklenář Gallery. (n.d.). *Milan Grygar – Acoustic Drawings and Scores*. Retrieved from <https://www.zdeneksklenar.cz/en/shop/product/155-milan-grygar--acoustic-drawings-and-scores>

Films and Video Resources

YouTube. (n.d.). *Ugliest Buildings in the World? A (Fun) Beginners' Guide to Brutalism | Alternative Architecture from V&A Museum Video Tour*. Retrieved from <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OO2Sd-a4KUo>

Sources

PageFive. (n.d.). *Brutal Prague*. PageFive.

Phaidon. (2018). *Atlas of Brutalist Architecture*. Phaidon.

Spurný, M. (2019). *Making the most of tomorrow: A laboratory of socialist modernity in Czechoslovakia*.

Zupagrafika. (2017). *Brutal East: Build your own Brutalist Eastern Bloc*. Zupagrafika.

Students' Tasks

To deepen students' understanding of these movements and their impact on design, here are some activities and discussion prompts:

1. **Creative Task: Design a Public Space** – Have students choose a public space and imagine redesigning it using Minimalist or Brutalist principles. Ask them to explain their design choices in terms of simplicity, materiality, and function.
2. **Comparative Discussion** – Encourage students to discuss the different emotions evoked by Minimalism, Brutalism, Surrealism, and Abstract Expressionism. Which style resonates with them more and why? How does each movement interpret reality differently?
3. **Analysing Architecture** – Assign students to research a Brutalist or Minimalist building and analyse its features. How does it reflect the principles of its respective movement?
4. **Art Critique and Comparison** – Show students images of Brutalist and Minimalist architecture and international examples of Surrealist and Abstract Expressionist art. Ask them to write a comparative essay discussing how each piece represents the values and aesthetics of its movement.
5. **Debate: Functionalism vs. Expression** – Divide students into two groups to debate the value of functional design (Minimalism and Brutalism) versus expressive design (Surrealism and Abstract Expressionism). How do each of these approaches serve society, and in what contexts might one be more appropriate than the other?

