

Ivorypress presents

JEAN PROUVÉ

1901-1984 Industrial Beauty



Portrait of Jean Prouvé at his house in Nancy | © Centre Georges Pompidou | Courtesy Ivorypress

Exhibition: from 1 September to 12 November 2011

Panel discussion and presentation: 'Industrial Beauty: Prouvé today', 7 September 2011, 12:30 pm
Elena Ochoa Foster, Catherine Drouin-Prouvé, Norman Foster and Luis Fernández-Galiano.

Venue: Ivorypress Art + Books Space I C/ Comandante Zorita 48 (Madrid)

Official opening: 7 September 2011, 7:30 pm

As from 1st September 2011, Ivorypress Art + Books Space I presents the show *Industrial Beauty*, dedicated to the outstanding French engineer, artisan and designer Jean Prouvé (Paris, 1901 – Nancy, 1984). Curated by the architect Norman Foster and by the Professor of Architecture Projects Luís Fernández-Galiano, the exhibition revisits the whole of Prouvé's career.

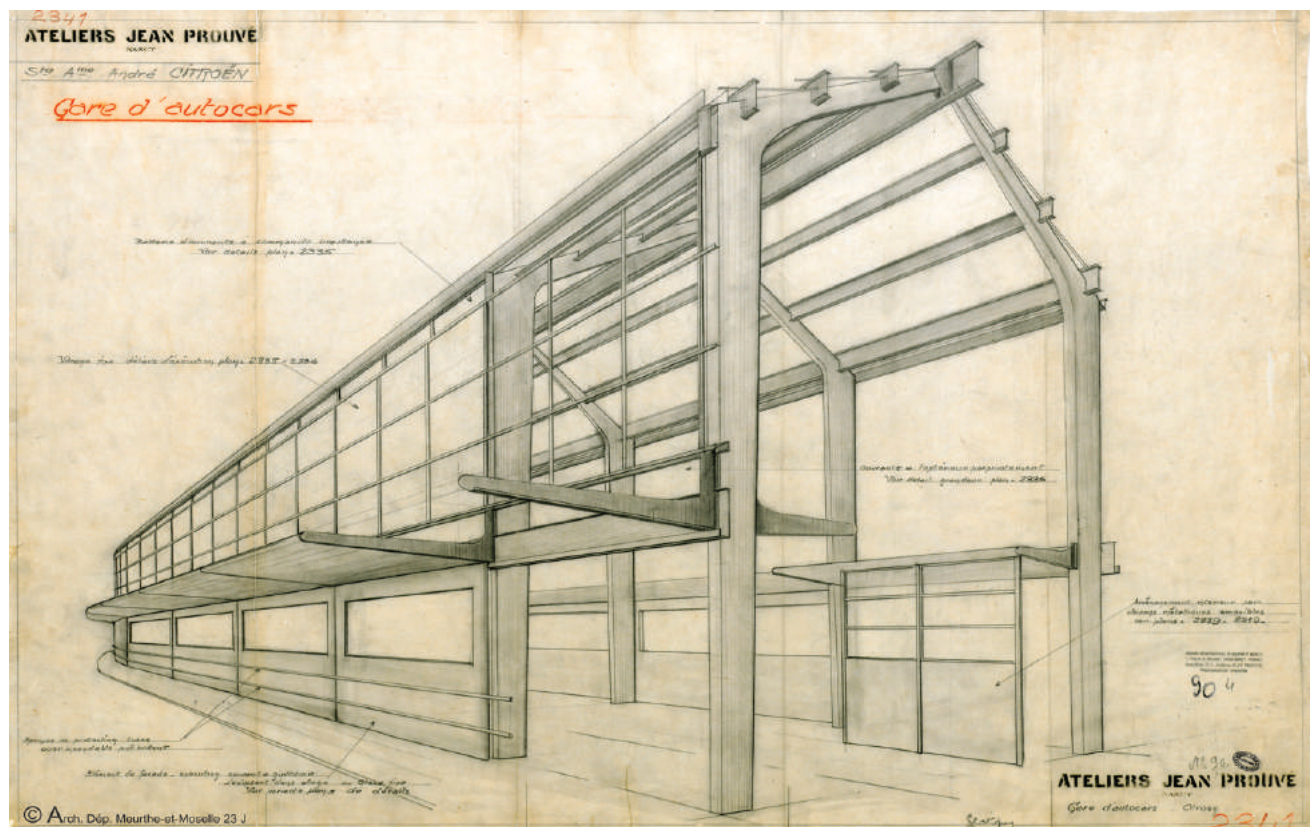
From the originality of his earlier furniture to the sophistication of his later constructive systems, the oeuvre of the French genius is an example of committed engagement with prefabrication and industrialisation, but also with an inexhaustible thirst for experimentation that makes him such a unique case in the history of design and architecture of the 20th century.

The exhibition follows a chronological layout in ten sections, each one featuring original drawings and photographs accompanied by critical texts.

Architect-Engineer

Founding member of the Union of Modern Artists, active in the French Resistance, Mayor of Nancy, director of a factory self-run by over 300 workers in Maxéville, teacher at the Conservatoire National des Arts et Métier in Paris, independent consultant ... Prouvé's career is a prime example of engagement with the technological and social advances of his time.

Brought up in the artistic setting of the Art Nouveau School of Nancy (of which his father, the painter Victor Prouvé, was a founding member) and apprenticed in metalworking, Jean Prouvé (Paris, 1901 – Nancy, 1984) nevertheless defined himself as a “constructor”, and Le Corbusier—one of the many groundbreaking architects who worked with Prouvé—called him “the architect-engineer”. His career was centred on a search to make the most of the techniques and materials available at any given time, especially in the field of metal. To this end, he employed a highly elaborated constructive and structural



Jean Prouvé | Design of bus station of Citroën | Arch. dép. de Meurthe-et-Moselle, fonds des Ateliers Jean Prouvé © SCE Jean Prouvé | Courtesy Ivorypress



Jean Prouvé | Shed roof of printing house, in Tours (France) | © Fonds Jean Prouvé | Courtesy Ivorypress

intuition underpinned by the praxis and creation of prototypes, which led him to conceive and fabricate with equal success everything from exquisite pieces of furniture (such as the Cité or Visiteur armchairs, true icons of 20th century design) to components for construction and even whole flat-packed, industrialised buildings.

Among his most significant architectural works are such seminal examples as the Maison du Peuple in Clichy (in conjunction with the architects Eugène Beaudouin and Marcel Lods, and where Prouvé designed one of the first 'curtain walls'); the Maison Tropicale (a prefabricated house featuring ingenious insulation and ventilation systems, designed with his brother, the architect Henri Prouvé); his own home in Nancy (built with pieces salvaged from the factory in Maxéville, precisely during the years in which the company's financial backer took over control); the pavilion for the Centennial of Aluminium (one of the few buildings for which he is wholly responsible, and completely dismountable); the pump room for the Cachat spring in Évian-les-Bains (where he rehearsed the original structural system of 'crutches' which he would later use in various schools); or the Grenoble Exhibition Centre (together with his son, the architect Claude Prouvé, and the engineer Léon Petroff, and where he developed a new, highly efficient lattice structural system).

The selection of works by Prouvé on view at Ivorypress Art + Books until 12 November 2011 mirrors the diversity of this multifaceted creator. Besides his original drawings, the show also includes a large number of pieces of furniture, scale models, fragments of buildings and even a 6x6 House: spectacular prefab emergency housing for refugees from the Second World War, which is also a powerful statement of Prouvé's interest in lightness and industrialisation in architecture precisely in the years of greatest want. The objects and documents on view, the immense majority for the first time in Spain, come from the collections of Centre Georges Pompidou (Paris), the Archives Départementales de Meurthe-et-Moselle (Nancy) and Galerie Patrick Seguin, Paris.

The exhibition will be accompanied by a bilingual Spanish-English monograph, profusely illustrated and with essays penned by major specialists in his work, including his daughter Catherine Drouin-Prouvé and Peter Sulzer, the editor of Jean Prouvé Complete Works. The monograph, edited by the curators Norman Foster and Luis Fernández-Galiano, will be published by Arquitectura Viva.

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