

SIEGFRIED GIEDION

MECHANIZATION

TAKES COMMAND

a contribution to anonymous history

W W - NORTON & COMPANY

New York • London

CONTENTS

Part I

ANONYMOUS HISTORY

ANONYMOUS HISTORY	2
PROCEDURE	4
Toward a Typological Approach	10
Dates	11

Part II

SPRINGS OF MECHANIZATION

MOVEMENT

Movement* The Classical and Medieval Attitude	14
The Fourteenth Century, First to Represent Movement	16
The Nineteenth Century and the Capturing of Movement	17
<i>Organic Movement in Graphic Form, c. 1860</i>	17
<i>Visualisation of Movement in Space, c. 1880</i>	21
<i>Movement Investigated</i>	24

THE CREED OF PROGRESS

30

ASPECTS OF MECHANIZATION

31

Invention and the Miraculous	32
The Miraculous and the Utilitarian	34
The Mechanising of Production	37
<i>The Simple and the Complicated Craft</i>	38
<i>The Gothic Roots of the Highly Developed Craft</i>	39
Profile of the Decades	40
<i>The Sixties</i>	40
<i>The Time of Full Mechanisation, 1918-39</i>	41

Part III

MEANS OF MECHANIZATION

THE HAND

46

STANDARDIZATION AND INTERCHANGEABILITY	47
MECHANIZATION OF A COMPLICATED CRAFT	51
The Craft of the Locksmith	51
From Handicraft to Mechanical Production	52
<i>The Early Stage: The Safe and Burglar-Proof Bank Locks — The Refinement of the Bank Lock — Linus Yale's Bank Locks — Linus Yale's Invention — Linus Yates' Constructions</i>	

Archetypes	71
<i>The Wooden-Key Type</i>	73
<i>The Wooden-Key Type in Pennsylvania</i>	76
THE ASSEMBLY LINE AND SCIENTIFIC MANAGEMENT	77
The Continuous Production Line in the Eighteenth Century	79
<i>Oliver Evans</i>	79
The Beginnings of the Assembly Line	86
1804 — 1833 — 1839 — <i>The Sixties</i> — 1869	
The Appearance of Scientific Management	96
<i>Around 1900</i>	96
<i>The Factory as an Organism</i>	99
<i>Space-Time Studies in Scientific Management</i>	100
Scientific Management and Contemporary Art	101
<i>The Precise Recording of Movement, c. 1912</i>	102
<i>Movement in Successive Phases, c. 1912</i>	106
<i>Movement in Its Own Right, c. 1920</i>	107
Forerunners, Successors?	114
<i>Charles Babbage</i>	114
<i>Charles Bédoux</i>	114
The Assembly Line in the Twentieth Century	115
1913-14	115
<i>The Automatic Assembly Line, c. 1920</i>	118
<i>The Human Aspect of the Assembly Line</i>	121
Part IV	
MECHANIZATION ENCOUNTERS THE ORGANIC	
MECHANIZATION AND THE SOIL AND AGRICULTURE	
The Farmer in Structural Change	130
The Rediscovery of Nature in the Eighteenth Century	134
<i>Natural Science</i>	134
<i>The Soil</i>	135
<i>Agriculture, Man's Native Calling</i>	136
<i>The New Husbandry</i>	138
The Middle West and Mechanized Agriculture	141
The Prairie	141
<i>Time and the Social Moment</i>	143
The Carriers of Mechanization	146
<i>The Reshaping of Tools in America</i>	146
<i>Reaping Mechanized</i>	149
Agriculture in Full Mechanization	162
<i>The Tractor</i>	162
<i>Combined Processes</i>	163
<i>The Homestead and the Factory Farm</i>	164
<i>The Human Implications</i>	167
MECHANIZATION AND ORGANIC SUBSTANCE: BREAD	
The Mechanization of Kneading	169
The Mechanisation of Baking	172
<i>The Baker's Oven in the Handicraft Age</i>	172
<i>The Influence of Technology: The Indirectly Heated Oven</i>	173
<i>The Oven and the Endless Belt</i>	175

The Mechanization of Bread Making	179
<i>Bread and Gas</i>	180
The Human Aspect: Bread under Mechanization	187
<i>Flour in Mass Production</i>	188
<i>Full Mechanization: Bread on the Production Line</i>	191
<i>The Changed Nature of Mechanised Bread</i>	196
<i>Mechanization Alters Public Taste</i>	200
<i>Sylvester Graham (1794-1851) and the Devaluation of Bread</i>	201
MECHANIZATION AND DEATH: MEAT	
Centralization and Handicraft	209
<i>Paris, the Slaughterhouse of La Villette (1863-7)</i>	209
<i>La Villette and Union Stock Yards (1864)</i>	211
The Mechanizing of Meat Production in America	213
<i>The Beginnings of Mechanization: Cincinnati (1830-60)</i>	214
<i>Mechanization Extended: Chicago (1860-85)</i>	218
<i>Packers and the Packing Industry</i>	228
<i>Single Operations in Mechanized Meat Production</i>	229
<i>Mechanization and Organic Substance</i>	240
<i>The Mechanization of Death</i>	240
MECHANIZATION AND GROWTH	246
Seed	247
The Egg	248
Mechanical Fertilization	251

Part V

MECHANIZATION ENCOUNTERS HUMAN SURROUNDINGS

MEDIEVAL COMFORT

The Middle Ages and Mechanization	258
The Changing Conception of Comfort	260
<i>Posture in the Middle Ages</i>	262
<i>High Court of France, 1458 — Carnival in a Dutch Kitchen, c. 1475 — Upper Rhenish Interior, c. 1450 — Siciss Schoolroom, 1516 — A King's Board, c. 1460</i>	
The Chair Makes Its Appearance, c. 1490	268
The Nomadic Furniture of the Middle Ages	270
The Chest as Universal Furniture	273
<i>The Drawer</i>	276
Gothic Joinery	278
Movability in Gothic Furniture	281
<i>The Pivot</i>	281
<i>The Hinge</i>	291
<i>The Demountable Table</i>	291
Creation of Intimate Surroundings: Differentiation into Types	293
<i>Chairs in Romanesque Time</i>	296
<i>Flanders and the Creation of Intimate Surroundings</i>	297
Medieval Comfort, the Comfort of Space	299

COMFORT IN THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY

Francet Rococo and Nature	305
<i>The Building of Receptacles</i>	305
<i>The Creation of a Sitting Comfort</i>	309

Englandt Form and Mechanism	318
<i>The Gentleman Sets the Style</i>	321
<i>The Library</i>	323
<i>The Dining Room</i>	324
<i>The Rediscovery of Cleanliness</i>	324
<i>Movability</i>	325
THE NINETEENTH CENTURY: MECHANIZATION AND RULING TASTE	
The Beginnings of Ruling Tastes Empire Style	329
<i>Napoleon and the Devaluation of Symbols</i>	329
<i>The Founders of Empire Style, Percier and Fontaine</i>	332
The Mechanisation of Adornment	344
<i>Substitute Materials and Imitation Handicraft, 1820-50</i>	345
<i>Against Misuse of Mechanisation: The English Reformers of 1850</i>	347
The Reign of the Upholsterer	364
<i>The Upholsterer</i>	364
<i>Counter-Currents: The Engineer and the Reformer</i>	365
<i>The Furniture of the Upholsterer</i>	366
<i>What Happens to Man's Surroundings in the Nineteenth Century?</i>	385
THE CONSTITUENT FURNITURE OF THE NINETEENTH CENTURY	
Patent Furniture and Ruling Taste	389
<i>Furniture and Mechanisation</i>	392
<i>The Decades of Patent Furniture, 1850-90</i>	393
<i>An Approach to the Furniture of the Nineteenth Century</i>	394
<i>Furniture for the Middle Classes</i>	395
Posture in the Nineteenth Century	396
<i>Mobility</i>	398
<i>Posture Physiologically Considered</i>	398
<i>Sitting'</i>	400
<i>Lying</i>	407
Convertibility	423
<i>Metamorphosis in Mechanics</i>	423
<i>The Transmutability of Plane Surfaces</i>	426
<i>Combinations and Mimicry</i>	432
Railroads and Patent Furniture	439
<i>The Traveler's Comfort</i>	439
<i>The Coach and the Adjustable Seat</i>	441
<i>The Sleeping Car: Convertible Seat and Folding Bed</i>	448
<i>George W. Pullman and Luxury in Travel</i>	452
<i>Precursors of the Sleeping Car (1836-65)</i>	458
<i>Pullman's Expansion</i>	462
<i>The Sleeping Car in Europe</i>	463
<i>The Extension of Travel Comforts Dining Car and Parlor Car</i>	463
<i>Retrospect</i>	467
The Nomadic Furniture of the Nineteenth Century	469
<i>Light Camp Furniture*</i>	469
<i>The Hammock</i>	471
<i>The Hammock <mdy>Alexander Calder</i>	476
The Constituent Furniture and Its Significance	480
<i>Against Mechanisation ,it Furniture</i>	480
<i>Patent Furniture ondtfie 1920'a</i>	481

THE CONSTITUENT FURNITURE OF THE TWENTIETH CENTURY

Furniture and Its Shapen	482
<i>The 'Craftsman'</i>	482
<i>The Architect, Former of Types</i>	483
The Shaping of the Types	485
<i>G. Rietveld, the Precursor</i>	485
<i>The Shaping of the Tubular Type</i>	488
<i>The Cantilever Tubular Chair</i>	493
<i>The Mobile Tubular Chair</i>	497
<i>The Cantilever Plywood Chair</i>	504
The Diffusion	508

Part VI

MECHANIZATION ENCOUNTERS THE HOUSEHOLD

MECHANIZATION ENCOUNTERS THE HOUSEHOLD

The Feminist Movement and the Rational Household	512
<i>The Statu* of Woman</i>	512
<i>Female Education and the Feminist Question</i>	513
<i>The Servant Problem</i>	515
Organization of the Work Proecess	516
<i>Organisation of the Work Process, 1869</i>	518
<i>Organisation of the Work Process after 1910</i>	519
<i>Organization of the Work Process in Europe around 1927</i>	522
Mechanisation of the Hearth	527
<i>The Ranges Concentration of the Heat Source</i>	527
<i>The Cast-Iron Range</i>	528
<i>The Time of the Gas Range, 1880-1930</i>	537
<i>The Electrical Heat Source</i>	542
MECHANICAL COMFORT IN THE HOUSEHOLD	548
Mechanisation of the Smaller Tools around 1860	553
The light Power Unit	556
The Mechanisation of Cleaning: Laundering	560
<i>Imitation of the Hand — The Two Ways of Mechanisation — Faltering Introduction — Home Laundering Fully Mechanised</i>	
Thr flawing* Ironing	571
The Mechanisation of Cleaning: The Dishwashing Machine	576
The Mechanisation of Cleaning: The Mechanical Garbage Disposer	579
The Mechanisation of Cleaning: The Vacuum Cleaner	582
<i>The Early Portable Machines* c.1860 — The Street and the Carpet — Early Stages of the Vacuum Cleaner — The Vacuum Cleaner, c. 1900 — The Question of Origins — The Vacuum Becomes a Household Tool</i>	
REFRIGERATION MECHANIZED	596
Natural Ice — Mechanical Refrigeration after 1800 — Home Refrigeration Mechanized — Froxen Foods	
STREAMLINING AND FULL MECHANIZATION	607
The Industrial Designer — The Origins of Streamline Style	610
..Organisation of the Work Process, c.1935	612
<i>Industry Enters the Field</i>	614

<i>The Kitchen in the Servantless Household</i>	620
<i>The Abandoning of the Isolated Kitchen and Isolated Dining Room</i>	623
<i>The Kitchen-Dining Room?</i>	624
<i>The Bouse and the Mechanical Core</i>	625
Part VII	
THE MECHANIZATION OF THE BATH	
THE MECHANIZATION OF THE BATH	
Types of Regeneration	628
<i>External Ablution or Total Regeneration?</i>	628
<i>Regeneration in Antiquity</i>	630
<i>Itinerary of the Regeneration Types</i>	634
<i>Regeneration in Islam</i>	636
The Steam Bath as a Social Institution	644
<i>The Late Gothic Vapor Bath — The Russian Vapor Bath — Popular Regeneration through Western Eyes</i>	
The Decay of Regeneration	651
<i>Regeneration in the Middle Ages</i>	651
<i>The Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries</i>	653
<i>Medicine Paves the Way</i>	654
<i>Natural Education</i>	655
The Bath in the Nineteenth Century	659
<i>Hydropathy and the Return to Nature</i>	660
<i>The Vapor Bath as a Private Cubicle, c. 1839</i>	662
<i>Attempts at Total Regeneration, c. 1850</i>	667
<i>The Atmospheric Bath, c. 1870</i>	671
<i>The People's Bath in the *Eighties: The Shower</i>	676
The Bathroom Becomes Mechanized	682
<i>From the Nomadic to the Stable</i>	682
<i>Running Water</i>	684
<i>The English Bathroom around 1900</i>	686
<i>Bathroom Equipment and Ruling Taste</i>	689
<i>The American Bath Cell, c. 1915</i>	693
<i>The Chaos around 1900</i>	701
<i>The Shaping of the Standard Type, c. 1920</i>	702
<i>The Bathroom and the Mechanical Core</i>	706
Regeneration a Gauge of Culture	711
IN CONCLUSION	
MAN IN EQUIPOISE	714
On the Illusion of Progress	715
The Ending of Mechanistic Conceptions	717
Dynamic Equilibrium	719
LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS	725
INDEX	735