

## **Bridge-house**

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### **Abstract**

Some pivotal Modern buildings dramatically show the ideas of “joining”, essential to that peculiar artifact which is the bridge.

The *Bauhaus* building by Gropius, the *Kunsthal* by Koolhaas, the project for the Congress Palace in Venice by Kahn, for example, are certainly bridge-buildings. More manifestly bridge-like or viaduct-like are certain buildings by Valle and Gregotti.

The idea of bridge has inspired architects also at the smaller scale of the house. Starting with Mies, on this theme have speculated for example Amancio Williams with his *Casa sobre el Arroyo* and Craig Ellwood, in several cases in California. Similarly did the Brazilian masters Artigas, Reidy and Mendes da Rocha. All this happens because there is an inclination of the “bridge” to host other functions.

According to this inclination – well-known by Palladio – several inhabited bridges have been built. These are important urban typologies - actual “city extensions” and peculiar public spaces

The bridge-house acts in the private space introducing the theme of “crossing” with the domestic realm. Bridge-houses often turn out to be binuclear houses, using the term coined by Marcel Breuer. The paper will focus on these themes seeking design outcomes. Simmel and Heidegger speculation on the bridge will also be considered.