Adolf Loos and Le Corbusier were pioneers of Modern Architecture. In the production of the single family house, they were influential through their built work and their written work. The formal strategies of the Raumplan - plan of volumes - of Adolf Loos and the plan libre - free plan - of Le Corbusier were used to develop new models of dwelling in the period from 1919 to 1930.

The house before Loos and Le Corbusier could be exemplified by three models - the Red House by Philip Webb, the "Haus eines Kunstfreundes" by Charles Rennie Mackintosh and the Palais Stoclet by Josef Hoffman. In contrast, both Loos and Le Corbusier had strong ideas on what a house was.

The Raumplan of Loos was complemented by the careful and deliberate use of materials. The plan libre of Le Corbusier cannot be separated from "The Five Points of a New Architecture" of which it was a part of. The houses of Loos and Le Corbusier showed a sophisticated use of these formal elements. However, the Raumplan and the plan libre were essentially means to achieve the ends of a functionally expressive interior within a prismatic exterior.

Friedrich Nietzsche claimed that modern man was modern by virtue of an unprecedented split between his interior and exterior. Modern culture was essentially interior. The houses of Loos and Le Corbusier were expressive of this notion. The Raumplan and the plan libre had an interior-exterior dichotomy. The Raumplan was used by Loos to give primacy to the interior. Le Corbusier used the plan libre to emphasize the window. Both strategies defined an interior space for the interior modern culture and modern man.