

## DeStijl (Short but *Vital*)

### The De Stijl Movement (The Style)

- Launched in the Netherlands in late summer of 1917
- Theo van Doesburg — founder, guiding spirit
- Defined by the architect H.P. Berlage as "unity in plurality."
- Based on the rectangle and the use of black, white, gray, and the primary colors
- Movement did not survive van Doesburg's death



15-43. Theo van Doesburg and Laszlo Moholy-Nagy, book cover, 1925.



15-46 & 15-47. Vilmos Huszar, cover and title pages for *De Stijl*, 1918.

### A Pure Design Movement

- Concerned with developing a utopian style and spirit
- Calvinist in its austerity
- Major influence on modernist designers.



15-54. Gerrit Rietveld, the Schroeder House, Utrecht, 1924.



15-61. Vilmos Huszar, "The Paintings of Diego (de la) Rivera." *Wendingen (Changes)*, magazine cover, 1925. Inspired by Aztec architecture and the colors of the Mexican flag. (Meggs 305)

### Mondrian

- Most well known of the DeStijl artist
- Resign from the movement, on principle—when the other artist started using diagonals!
- He believed the universal harmony of the work and sought to create 'an art of pure relations.'
- He wanted work that was dynamic, not static, and asymmetrical as in balanced through opposing tension.



15-42. Piet Mondrian, *Composition with Red, Yellow, and Blue*, 1922.



15-53. EL Lissitzky, cover and page from *De Stijl*, 1922.

### The International Congress of Constructivist and Dadaists in Weimar Organized by Theo van Doesburg in 1922

