



## Case Study Houses: The Complete CSH Program

*Elizabeth A.T. Smith, Peter Gossel (Editor)*

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The Case Study House program (1945-66) was an exceptional, innovative event in the history of American architecture and remains to this day unique. The program, which concentrated on the Los Angeles area and oversaw the design of 36 prototype homes, sought to make available plans for modern residences that could be easily and cheaply constructed during the postwar building boom. The program's chief motivating force was Arts Architecture editor John Entenza, a champion of modernism who had all the right connections to attract some of architecture's greatest talents, such as Richard Neutra, Charles and Ray Eames, and Eero Saarinen. Highly experimental, the program generated houses that were designed to re-define the modern home, and thus had a pronounced influence on architecture. With comprehensive documentation, brilliant photographs from the period and, for the houses still in existence, contemporary photos, floor plans and sketches.

## **Case Study Houses: The Complete CSH Program Details**

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Author : Elizabeth A.T. Smith , Peter Gossel (Editor)

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# From Reader Review Case Study Houses: The Complete CSH Program for online ebook

## Dan says

A reasonable little introduction. It seemed to me that the photography could have been updated in many cases. The book would be greatly improved if the photography could have reflected the major design features discussed in the text.

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## Sean says

A nice little overview of the Case Study House program started by Arts & Architecture magazine in the 1940's. Each house (and there are many more than I had originally realized) is given a small description citing major innovations, interesting or unusual facts or features, and how it fit into the overall arc of the program. The text is accompanied by floor plans, original renderings by the architects, and photographs taken for publication shortly after construction. The book only touches briefly on the program's significance and mentions almost nothing about its wider cultural influence. This is mostly pretty drawings and pictures, but you do get a very strong sense of the aesthetic and values that the architects were pursuing. At 96 pages and \$25 dollars, you're better off photocopying the images you like at the library. I was just amped on the book because I've long had an interest in the work of Charles and Ray Eames (maybe you saw "The Powers of Ten" in your high school physics class?), who designed and built one of the most famous of the Case Study houses.

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## Gary Gilbert says

Nice short synopsis on each house with pictures and drawings of the structures.

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## Lorenzo Diaz campos says

Desde 1945 y hasta 1966 se crearon 36 viviendas prototípico que cambiaron la manera de vivir en los Estados Unidos de Norteamérica, casas que proponían nuevas formas del habitar.

En los años de la postguerra John Entenza lideró un programa visionario que buscaba crear prototipos para la vida moderna. El editor en jefe de la revista "Arts & Architecture" se propuso invitar a una serie de notables arquitectos a idear y construir una serie de casas que materializaran el pensamiento y la búsqueda alrededor del nuevo vivir. El resultado fue notable y las casas construidas, que no fueron todas las diseñadas, cambiaron el curso de la historia.

Este gran volumen es una edición cuidadosa y meticulosa del material disponible sobre estos proyectos. Caso por caso, casa por casa la documentación deja claro la relevancia de este inigualable proyecto. Con gran detalle y estudiados a profundidad cada diseño sobresale sobre el anterior y revela su trascendencia.

El volumen es impecable, la calidad de fotos y planos, la diversidad de material y la riqueza de los textos y documentos históricos hacen de su lectura una delicia. En un formato muy generoso y con 440 páginas el libro destaca y deleita.

La comprensión de las famosas “Case Study Houses” es clave para descifrar la arquitectura contemporánea norteamericana y de gran parte del mundo, su concepción cambió sin duda el arquetipo de la vivienda y definió gran parte del habitar moderno metropolitano.

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### **Megan says**

The future of the past is an amazing place to be. In the 1945 Arts and Architecture magazine instituted a project that re-imagined the post war home. Architects were asked to design homes that used industrial materials to make homes that are simple but beautiful. 28 houses and 2 apartments were designed, most built in the Los Angeles area. This book is a testament to the bright sense of possibility post-war America held with it, allowing visionaries to re-think and redesign this present world.

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### **Mark says**

A beautiful, beautiful, beautiful huge retrospective of the major contributors to the residence design trend we now call mid-century modernism. I drool over every house in this book.

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### **Max says**

How I love house porn.

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### **Gacanti Swastika says**

i absolutely love this book!! this one is a true catch, pencil manual drawings and all the ideas of famous houses by architects whom i admire. it's nice to learn how they think and design. although my idea on design and how to create space and environment is 100% opposite of true modernism, but it's still nice to see

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### **Mid Century Books says**

The Case Study Houses were the brainchild of the editor of a Los Angeles-based magazine, called 'Arts & Architecture,' that had become a progressive voice for all things modern. So the editors gave incentive to young architects, to use modern design to address the housing problem, given pent-up demand after the war; they created a competition, promising to publish the plans of these houses. Full review at [MidCenturyBooks.Net](http://MidCenturyBooks.Net), Case Study Houses

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### **Lexi Wright says**

I didn't realize how just many Case Study Homes were intended to be built in close proximity to one another, for extended family or close friends. It's high time we revisit this (and center-home freestanding fireplaces).

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### **Andy says**

America took a radical turn architecturally after the Second World War and boy, does this book emphasize that point. Julius Shulman's camerawork makes Southern California look like some isolated planet, illustrating intergalactic deserts and mountainsides around the mostly rectangular homes. The architect's blueprints/designs of the homes are also quite an eyeful. One home even had a heliport designed for the rooftop!

Of all the designers in the book I was the most partial to Charles Eames, who designed one of the few multi-level homes (most are only one story). This is the condensed premium priced version of the book which should wow architecture acolytes quicker than the larger, more expensive version.

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### **Paul says**

amazing view of what American architecture could have been. Favorite book from a collection point of view.

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### **the gift says**

this is why i ever wanted to be an architect

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### **Tarin says**

wonderful ~simplistic~ modern architecture! I like this stuff!

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### **Christoph Weber says**

Das Buch ist recht günstig zu bekommen, das ist gut, denn der Inhalt ist doch minimalistisch. Pro Haus maximal drei Seiten... nicht, dass die Häuser heutzutage noch so passend wären. Oder gar für Österreichs Klima

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