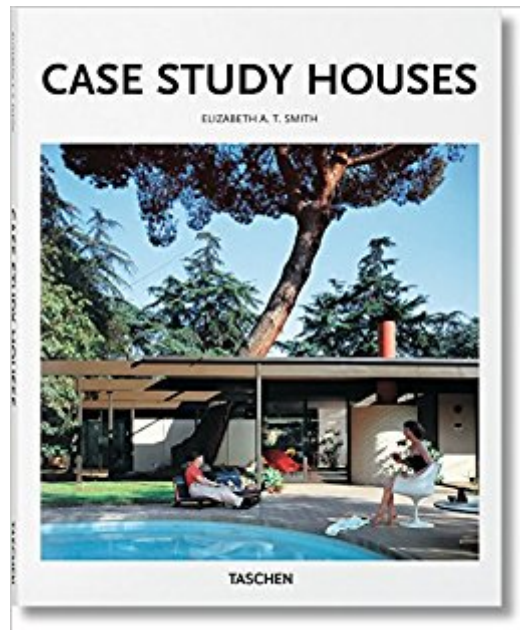


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# Case Study Houses (Basic Art Series 2.0)



## Synopsis

Modernism to the masses: Pioneering designs for affordable postwar homes  
The Case Study House program (1945–1966) was a unique event in the history of American architecture. Sponsored by Arts & Architecture magazine, the program sought to respond to the postwar building boom with prototype modern homes that could be both easily replicated and readily affordable to the average American. Concentrated on the Los Angeles area, the Case Study Houses included 36 model homes commissioned from such major architects of the day as Richard Neutra, Raphael Soriano, Craig Ellwood, Charles and Ray Eames, Pierre Koenig, Eero Saarinen, A. Quincy Jones, and Ralph Rapson. Their criteria included “using, as far as is practicable, many war-born techniques and materials best suited to the expression of man’s life in the modern world.” The results of the program would redefine the modern home and extend influence not only across the United States but around the world. This compact guide includes all of the Case Study Houses with over 150 photos and plans, as well as a map showing locations of all sites, including those that no longer exist.

About the series: Each book in TASCHEN’s Basic Architecture series features: an introduction to the life and work of the architect the major works in chronological order information about the clients, architectural preconditions as well as construction problems and resolutions a list of all the selected works and a map indicating the locations of the best and most famous buildings approximately 120 illustrations (photographs, sketches, drafts and plans)

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Basic Architecture features: • Each title contains approximately 120 images, including photographs, sketches, drawings, and floor plans • Introductory essays explore the architect's life and work, touching on family and background as well as collaborations with other architects • The body presents the most important works in chronological order, with descriptions of client and/or architect wishes, construction problems (why some projects were never executed), and resolutions • The appendix includes a list of complete or selected works, biography, bibliography and a map indicating the locations of the architect's most famous buildings --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Elizabeth A. T. Smith is an art historian, curator, and writer. She has worked as Chief Curator and Deputy Director for programs at the Museum of Contemporary Art in Chicago and as curator at MOCA Los Angeles, where she organized Blueprints for Modern Living: History and Legacy of the Case Study Houses. Smith has taught at the University of Southern California and the School of the Art Institute in Chicago. Peter G&Auml;ssel runs an agency for museum and exhibition design. He has published TASCHEN monographs on Julius Shulman, R. M. Schindler, John Lautner, and Richard Neutra as well as several architecture titles in the Basic Art Series.

This large format book is an important addition to the history of the Case Study Houses. This really oversize book is the same format as the RICHARD NEUTRA book. and contains site plans, floor plans and both black & white and color photographs. Anyone interested in Mid-Century architecture will enjoy this book as it presents the concept of early small and larger homes that could be mass-produced to make the single family homes affordable to the average American. This is the best book published on the subject.

All I wanted was a book with photos and diagrams of the Case Study Houses. This book fit the bill. And I only paid \$15 instead of \$150 for some book with lots of long dissertations on the houses. This one is a good buy. Highly recommended.

Great book! It has a lot of detail about each house. Found it isn't necessary to read cover to cover. It's more fun to experience each house as you find the interest.

I am a big fan of Pierre Koenig's style and his ability to create a beautiful design. I was interested in learning more about the case study program, and this book seemed like a bargain. It has sketches and drawings about each of the case study homes, even the ones that were never built. Also makes a nice coffee table book. I will be buying more of the Taschen books on architecture, art and design.

Ok, Ok, there's a beautiful, gigantic, definitive book on the Case Study Houses at \$136. Then there's this small, slick little book, presenting each and every case study house, in order, editorially excellent through and through. An outstanding summary of an under-documented era of modern architecture, one with a crucially democratic agenda. \$9.99. The book itself represents the case study ethic--great design at a price VERY within reach. Not a difficult choice. Highly recommended.

good pics. and useful informations

Excelent walk-through of post war housing concepts by some of the best arch.

This book is the next best thing to standing inside any of the Case Study Houses. I must admit, I use this book not only for reference, but to show off to anyone who comes to my house. This book tells my visitors that I love modernism, and that the Case Study Houses of California are some of my favorite houses in the world. If you feel the same, then you should also buy this book. If you just want to learn a little about the Case Study Houses, then *Case Study Houses: 1945-1966: The California Impetus* (Taschen Basic Architecture) is a great concise book. I received that one as a gift. At first I thought I wouldn't need it because I already have the jumbo book, but if I need to find out a quick piece of information I can usually go to the smaller book and find it more quickly. In conclusion, this is one of the top three most important books on architecture that I own.

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