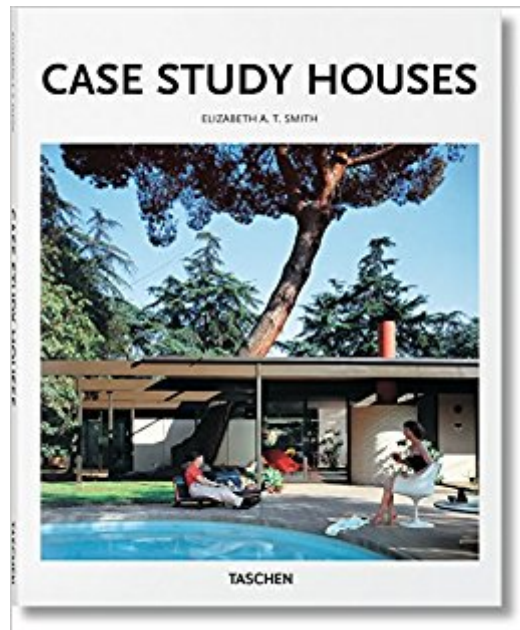




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# Case Study Houses (Basic Art Series 2.0)



## 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

Be aware that the edition that Cohen is describing in the critic's review @ the top of the page is a previous edition. This new revised copy is not nearly 400 and some pages at all, coming in @ just under 100. Recently, I found this available @ my local Barnes & Noble(if I had seen it sooner, I definitely would not have purchased this). There is very little about each of the case study homes-with literally next to nothing on a few of these. Those that get the most attention receive a couple black and white, sometimes color, photos-often only a 5 inch photo. There is a decent paragraph on each of these-but that is it as far as information goes. I would highly suggest the volume 'Contemporary' by Leslie Jackson for a much more detailed bio on the case studies-as well as this period of design in itself. That book has 100s of photos, often black and white, but, for the most part, those that are in color here are also in that book. Not to mention the photos in Jackson's book are commonly much larger, as is the book itself. Most the pictures in Jackson's reference take up a good amount of the page, as well. The description and time given these houses in Jackson's book is much fuller and well rounded. That is just simply the real book to get here, also including some design in fabric, furniture, and glass of the time. However, it is mainly on the design of the rooms of the midcentury-modern abode, most pics being the case studies. Also, for a companion piece, pickup Taschen's 'Decorative Art-the 60s'. That one IS the common Taschen reference size, coming in @ nearly 600 pages!!! It includes hundreds of photos, mainly black and white, on the room designs of the midcentury home(the real innovations in these houses came out of the later 50s-early 60s, anyway).

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