

# CASE STUDY HOUSES

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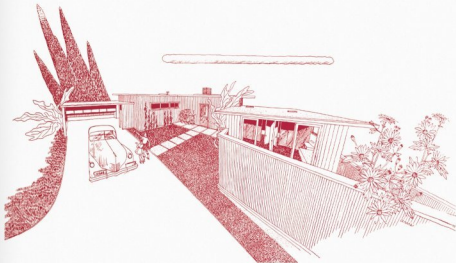
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## 1945-1949 • CSH#3

Chalon Road, Los Angeles

William W. Wurster and Theodore Bernardi



Exterior perspective by Arne Kartwold, 1945

### Left page:

#### Living room

Upholstered living room furniture and side table by Hendrik van Koppel and Taylor Green, manufactured by Van Koppel-Green. Coffee table by Isamu Noguchi, manufactured by Herman Miller, c. 1943. Birch wood supports, glass top. Desk (background) by George Nelson, manufactured by Herman Miller, c. 1947. Birch, veneered plywood, leather top and steel frame

Originally envisioned to be sited adjacent to the first design for Case Study House #1, this house was later built in the Mandeville Canyon area of Los Angeles. It underwent few changes from initial concept to built reality. Focusing on issues of space, flexibility, and low cost, the house contained no formal living room in its H-shaped plan. Instead, the architects designated a "living garden" that incorporated an actual enclosed garden within an open living area as the center of the family's social life. Responding to their ideal of an informal lifestyle between indoors and outdoors, their design provided additional related features that reflected this interest, such as a carport instead of an enclosed garage and a workroom alongside the kitchen. Wurster and Bernardi, unlike some of their contemporaries, omitted extensive built-in components in order to allow greater freedom to the occupants in furnishing and utilizing the space. They did, however, specify a color scheme that was based on the hues of native planting surrounding the site.



Exterior

## 1945–1949 • CSH#8, Eames House

Chautauqua Boulevard, Pacific Palisades  
Charles and Ray Eames



Initially designed jointly by Charles Eames and Eero Saarinen, the house was substantially modified during the construction process by Eames and his wife Ray, an artist and designer, to maximize its spatial area. The final design consists of two adjacent double-height pavilions—one used as a residence and one as a studio/workshop space. Demonstrating the possibilities of technologically based construction methods and materials, it is built entirely of industrial, prefabricated components including steel, glass, asbestos, and Cemesto board according to a modular system. The building's rectilinear character and structural assertiveness are enlivened by the use of a variety of textures, colors, and materials orchestrated by Ray Eames. Although conceived to be prototypical, it is a highly personal reflection of the seamless coexistence of work and leisure characteristic of these prominent American designers' unique way of life.

Left page:

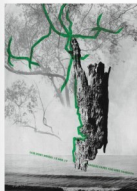
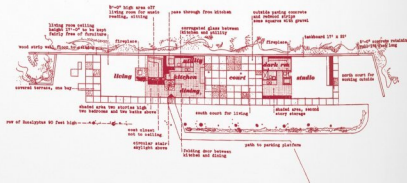
### Living Room

Lounge chair #670 and #671 by Charles and Ray Eames, manufactured by Herman Miller. Coffee table by Charles and Ray Eames, custom made for this house. Seating area by Charles and Ray Eames, custom made for this house. Couch (foreground) by Charles and Ray Eames, manufactured by Herman Miller.



Left:  
Living room interior  
Sculpture by Alexander Calder and chair by Eero Saarinen

Below:  
Ground plan



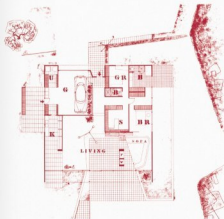
Layout in *Arts & Architecture*, December 1945

Above right:  
Studio with stairs leading to upper level

Right:  
Studio  
Side chair by Charles and Ray Eames, manufactured by Herman Miller. Dining table (far left) "DTW" by Charles and Ray Eames, manufactured by Herman Miller. Coffee table by Charles and Ray Eames, manufactured by Herman Miller







**Living Room**  
Coffee table "ETR" by Charles and Ray Eames, c. 1955, manufactured by Herman Miller. Plastic laminated plywood, steel wire bases. Chairs "DCM", "LCW", "LAW" by Charles and Ray Eames. Bench by George Nelson, manufactured by Herman Miller

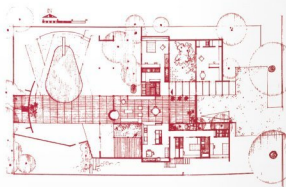
**Left:**  
**Ground plan**  
All functions, including the garage, are organized within a square plan. Kitchen (K), utility room (U), guest room (GR), bath (B), study (S) and bedroom (BR) are situated around the living room.

**Left page:**  
**Terrace with view of Case Study House #8**  
Outdoor furniture by Hendrik van Keppel and Taylor Green



Kitchen with view to living area

Right:  
Site plan



Living room and terrace

Left:  
Longitudinal section



Right:  
Exterior and carport seen from the north-west



Among the most radical and reductive designs of the Case Study House program—as well as one of its most iconic images—this house is a simple pavilion situated on promontory out of view of adjacent houses in the Hollywood Hills. Its L-shaped plan is organized around a swimming pool onto which all the major public rooms and private spaces face; a molded concrete footbridge provides passage over the pool from the carport to the entrance. Using only stock steel components to frame 20-foot wide modules of glass, Pierre Koenig succeeded in maximizing the potential of steel to enclose space in this extraordinarily minimal design. In the interior, the bedrooms occupy one wing of the plan, with dressing room and master bath clustered in the corner of the L adjacent to a utility core and the kitchen. The living wing of the house is entirely open, with steel columns and glass walls interrupted only by the kitchen appliances and cabinets and a freestanding steel fireplace that dominates the living room.