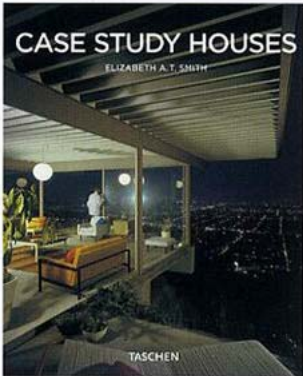




# Case Study Houses



This new addition to Taschen's Basic Architecture Series shows the famous Case Study Houses in Southern California. It documents what was a remarkable and unique experiment in American residential architecture. Initiated and sponsored by John Entenza - the editor and publisher of Arts and Architecture magazine - it became a hotbed of innovation and experimentation of modern house design through the development and construction of 36 prototype houses.

Making many of Channel 4's 'Grand Designs' seem bland and unadventurous

by comparison, these modern houses were conceived in the wake of World War 2, to inspire domestic design in new directions. From 1945- 66 architects such as Eero Saarinen, Craig Ellwood, Richard Neutra and Charles and Ray Eames designed these crisp steel and glass boxes that sing out from the American Dream.

The photography of Julius Shulman captures perfectly the spirit of the times: open plan glamour living under the ubiquitous Californian sunshine. The cars, the clothes, and the 'gals' caught in time in rich Technicolor on the



architectural widescreen. Scattered amidst Beverly Hills, West Hollywood and Pacific Palisades, American architecture has never looked better. If you think you have seen some of them before, then it is probably in movies. No sooner were these houses finished than Hollywood came knocking. But if Tinseltown and its styles have changed, then these houses have simply matured into classic American icons of modern architecture.

those intrigued by these wonderful houses there is also a map to locate them across the Los Angeles area. And if your passions are aroused even further, there is always the massive sister publication of the same name that details the whole programme in every detail. For many Case Study Houses are the high watermark of American residential architecture. ■

**Paul Clarke**

**Case Study Houses**  
By Elizabeth A.T. Smith,  
96 pp, £4.99,  
[www.taschen.com](http://www.taschen.com)

Concise and extremely well illustrated, this is a useful reference book. For

