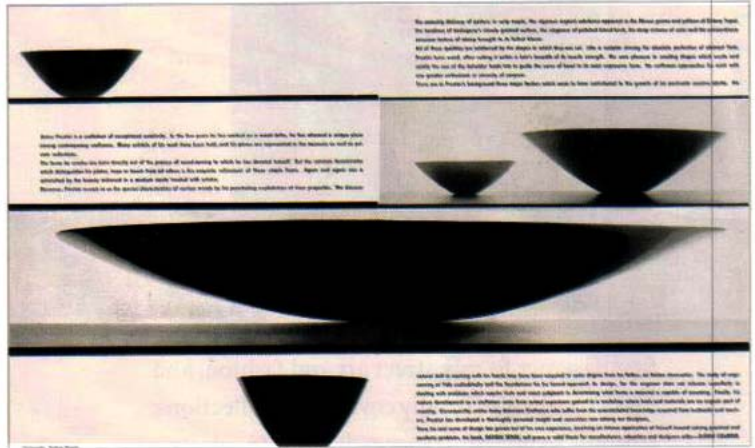


ARTS & ARCHITECTURE In 1945, a bold, young architecture journal devoted a groundbreaking program to the most unlikely of structures: the American Home. Dedicated to the “expression of man’s life in the modern world,” *Arts & Architecture’s* Case Study House Program lasted until 1967 and was an unprecedented exploration of this structure that shapes every aspect of modern living.

Comprising the entirety of the modern era, *Arts & Architecture: The Complete Reprint* is a full reproduction of the journal in the two decades that followed. More than a case study showcase, it is an aesthetic and critical snapshot of life in post-WWII America: Architecture and art, music and cinema, economy and politics.

Introducing the collection, former publisher David Travers fondly evokes the magazine’s early days as a place where bright young architects—John Rex and Charles Eames among them—tossed around revolutionary ideas. “The World War II years and the post war period in the United States were an energetic mix of culture and politics, and *A&A* was at the leading edge in architecture, art, music—even in the larger issues of segregation in housing and education and other manifestations of racial bias before they became codified as civil rights,” he writes.

The collection is nothing less than a real time analysis of one of the most compelling times in American history. It’s all here, from California’s boxy “sing fam” dwellings to Frank Gehry’s debut, to Isamu Noguchi and irrigation in the Southwest. Throughout is *A&A’s* unique editorial voice—championing the avant-garde.



Whether those same editors would embrace the new *now* is up for debate. The magazine shuttered its operation in 1967, and the sparse geometry of West Coast modern has since given way to an age of extravagance, of star-architects, which Travers denounces in his introduction as “seriously silly.” With the chance to relive 20 years’ worth of *Arts & Architecture’s* glory days suddenly at hand, even those who scold on behalf of the avant-garde would surely agree: a little reminiscing can lead to great inspiration

■ *Kat Rosenfield - Arts & Architecture, 1945-54: The Complete Reprint, 10 boxes (6,076 pages) and limited to 5,000 copies, \$700.00, Taschen, taschen.com*