

Koenig (Basic Architecture Series) (Paperback)**by Neil Jackson****Taschen, ISBN 978-****3822848913, £5.99****Reviewed by Catherine Croft**

If you fancy a bit glamour on the cheap, look no further than our Trustee Neil Jackson's latest book in this amazingly good value series. *Pierre Koenig* (1925-2004) starts with a ten-page summary of the Californian modernist's life and a succinct analysis of the context and significance of his work. This is followed by illustrated studies of his individual houses (constructed from 1950-1996) and a useful, timeline map and bibliography. Plans and drawings are small but readable, and the excellent photographs include period shots and up to date views.

Jackson has written previously about Craig Ellwood and on Steel Houses, so this is a logical subject for him to tackle—and he has the advantage of having known Koenig. Whilst Koenig's early work—especially the two Case Study houses, have been extensively published, there are later works that will be much less familiar—such as the Schwartz House, a metal-clad silver cube rotated within a black steel frame.

Jackson commends Koenig as a sole-practitioner with a pioneering interest in both industrialization and prefabrication, and in sustainability. As such his work has much to teach architects today.

This is an excellent overview of a career, and as ever Jackson's writing is accessible, entertaining and insightful.