

**TALL STOREYS**

Taschen's reproduction of ten years of the iconic American magazine *Arts & Architecture* (£400), pictured here at the British Library, brings together in a ten-box collector's tome the magazine's groundbreaking (literally) architectural content and exceptional cover art and layouts

# Best book

## *Arts & Architecture, 1945-54* (Taschen)

Rather than fillet the finest bits from an iconic magazine, Taschen has gone the whole hog and reprinted the lot. The German publisher presents the complete run of America's *Arts & Architecture* magazine from 1945 to 1954 – more than 100 magazines – in a ten-box set.

Though almost demanding its own bespoke storage, this edition is certainly worth the investment in shelving. *Arts & Architecture* has attained legendary status over the years, thanks in part to three little words: Case Study Houses. John Entenza, the magazine's editor from 1939 to 1962, set up the Case Study Program in 1945, inviting architects to submit designs for low-cost, structurally

innovative flat-roofed houses. Entenza's timing was right as California's economy soared and the country was gripped by a housing boom. As a result, a generation of American modernists headed west to populate California's steep canyons and desert landscapes. The Houses came to symbolise this architectural opportunism, with the long, lithe forms of the emerging aesthetic captured by contributors such as Julius Shulman and Ezra Stoller.

The magazine published 36 designs, all chronicled through crisp photography and fluid, elegant renderings, with work by Richard Neutra, John Lautner, Rudolf Schindler, Eero Saarinen, Charles and Ray Eames, Pierre Koenig, and many more.

Ironically, Entenza's original emphasis on low-cost housing was eventually eclipsed, with the steel and glass pavilion now a highly aspirational space to live in.

*Arts & Architecture's* emphasis on modernism wasn't its only innovation. Entenza and his successor, David Travers, embraced contemporary design culture. With layouts that blended post-war industrial design, pop culture and mass production with a pre-war modernist aesthetic, *Arts & Architecture* was progressive in every way. This box set is an inspirational example of the magazine as a total work of art – a subject that's naturally close to our hearts. ★ [www.taschen.com](http://www.taschen.com)

Wallpaper\*