



CALIFORNIA DREAMING

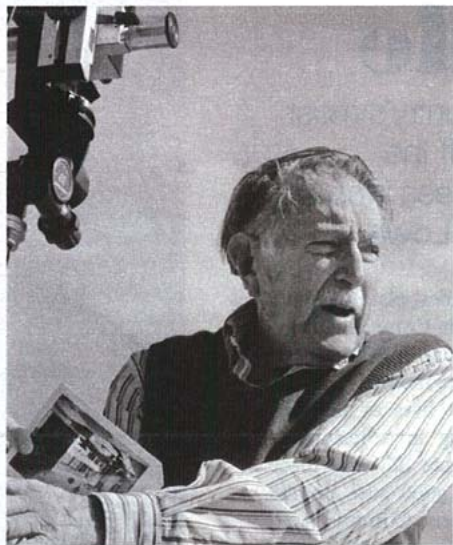
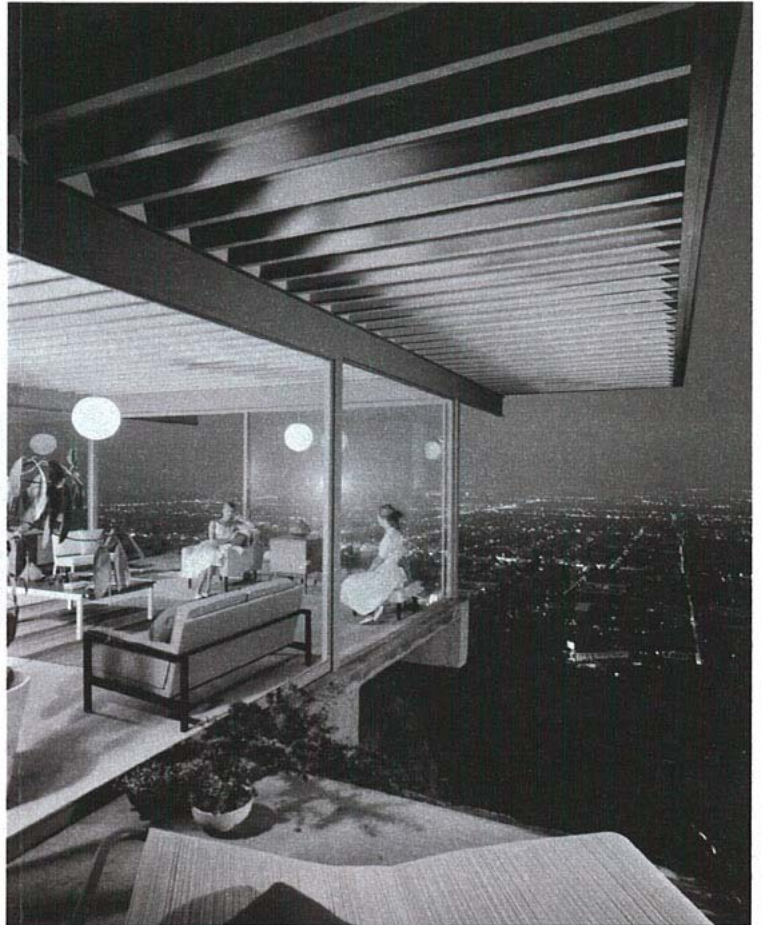
By populating his pictures, the celebrated architecture photographer Julius Shulman, who died last month, gave modernism a human face. **Ajesh Patalay** looks at his work

As the sun set over Los Angeles on May 9 1960, the renowned architecture photographer Julius Shulman, who died last month aged 98, captured probably the most celebrated architectural image of the last century. The photograph of Pierre Koenig's Case Study House No 22 shows two well-dressed women chatting in a glass-enclosed living-room that appears to hover over the Los Angeles nightscape. The women (girlfriends of two young architects under Koenig's charge who happened to be there) were asked to pose for eight minutes in the dark as Shulman double-exposed, first the city lights below and then the domestic scene inside. The shot, as the *New York Times* architecture critic Paul Goldenberger raved, is 'one of those singular images that sum up an entire city at a moment in time'.

With his images of glass houses in Los Angeles and Palm Springs, by architects such as Frank Lloyd Wright, Richard Neutra and John Lautner, Shulman captured the modern California dream.

'I sell architecture better and more vividly than the architect does,' he once said

Clockwise from left Frey Residence I, by Albert Frey, Palm Springs, built 1956; Stahl House, Case Study House No 22, by Pierre Koenig, 1958; Roberts Residence in Malibu, by Weston, Byles, 1953; Julius Shulman in 2007



'I sell architecture better and more vividly than the architect does,' he once said. But his photographs also sell a lifestyle. He incorporated the family into a photograph, arranging children's toys around the pool or posing models with props in the kitchen. Such contrivances, now commonplace but unheard of at the time, were, he argued, the best way to humanise architecture and expose the soul of a building. As such, Shulman brought modernism vividly to life. *'Julius Shulman: Modernism Rediscovered'* (Taschen, £19.99) is available from Telegraph Books for £17.99 plus £1.25 p&p (0844-871 1515; books.telegraph.co.uk)

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