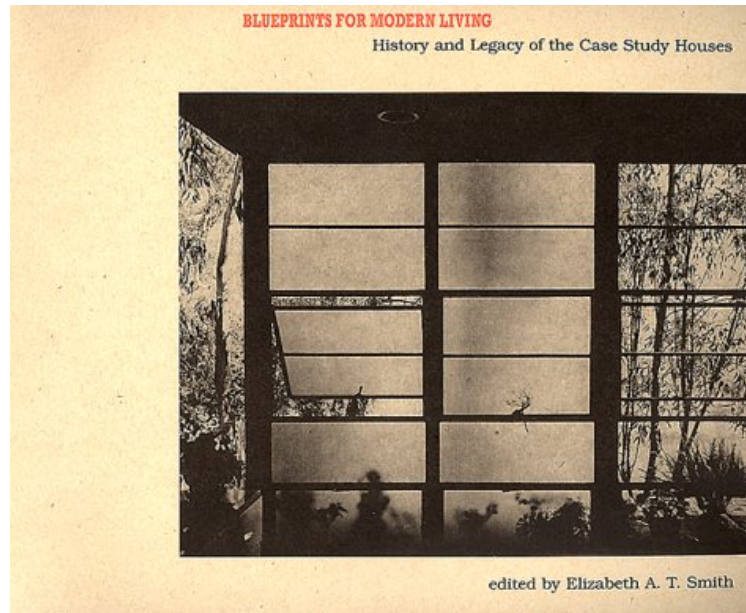


Blueprints for Modern Living: History and Legacy of the Case Study Houses

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From Brand: MIT Press : Blueprints for Modern Living: History and Legacy of the Case Study Houses before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Blueprints for Modern Living: History and Legacy of the Case Study Houses:

20 of 21 people found the following review helpful. The complete story...just brilliant. By Robin A first class study of the background to the Case Study Houses project created by the southern Californian Arts Architecture magazine. This book was originally published in conjunction with an exhibition of the program at the Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles in 1989-1990. It has plenty of photos and plans (though some the photos are just a little too dark) to illustrate the eight main essays. Editor Elizabeth Smith and Amelia Jones devote forty-two pages to the actual houses with succinct descriptions, plans and photos. The rest of this marvellous book has a huge amount of information relating to housing and the post-war environment and how the thirty-six prototype houses had a wide influence on the domestic architecture that followed. I particularly enjoyed the two essays by Thomas Hine and also Dolores Hayden's essay: 'Model Houses for the Millions: architects' dreams, builders' boasts, residents' dilemmas'. The back of the book has six contemporary architects ideas and plans for housing in 'Extending the Case Study Concept', followed by biographies, chronology, bibliography and index. Was the project worth it? Architectural writer Esther McCoy summed it up as... 'Perceived as a prototype that was to be enacted on a mass scale, the Case Study House program was a failure. Perceived as a prophetic statement, however, as a demonstration of trends and influences that would in one way or another achieve realization, the program must be judged a success. Perceived as art, finally, an approach suggested by their presence in The Museum of Contemporary Art, the Case Study Houses have won the right to be recognized and respected in the history of American design'. You might think that everything about the CSH was included in this book but Elizabeth Smith has just edited another one called (you guessed it) Case Study Houses

(Jumbo) a beautiful, very expensive and very heavy (twelve pounds) very big (opens up to over thirty-two inches wide) 440 page visual history with hundreds of photos (especially from Julius Shulman) plans and drawings. What was missing from this sumptuous volume was all the information in 'Blueprints for Modern Living' so if you go for both books you really will have the COMPLETE CSH experience. 15 of 16 people found the following review helpful. "The Search for the Postwar House" By Edward J. Shannon, ArCHNuetra, Soriano, Ellwood, Koenig - Blueprints for modern living is the catalogue for a major exhibit at the LA MoCA in the late 80's. It is an excellent sourcebook for those interested in post war residential architecture. Modern Architecture (with a capital A) was going to change the world, as these bold case-study house designs show. This book contains a great deal more than just documenting the Case Study Building Program of the 50's. There are essays by noted historians Esther McCoy, Thomas Hines and Reyner Banham and others as well. These essays provide the background for the case study program and the mood of the public (especially in California) after WW2. There is also an essay on publisher John Entenza and the Arts and Architecture Magazine that sponsored the program. The last chapter "Extending the Case Study Concept" documents the exhibit of six new designs (1987) commissioned by the Museum for a multi family housing project. Architects include: Eric Owen Moss, Toyo Ito and Hogetts Fung. Lastly there are bio's on the architects, a timeline of events for the program and resourceful bibliography. As always, the Julius Shulman photographs are stunning. This is a must have for the student of Modernism.

Winner of the 1999 Philip Johnson Award presented by the Society of Architectural Historians. essays by Reyner Banham, Dolores Hayden, Thomas Hine, Thomas S. Hines, Esther McCoy, Helen Searing, Elizabeth A. T. Smith, and Kevin Starr One of Southern California's most significant contributions to modern architecture was the Case Study House program sponsored by John Entenza's Art Architecture magazine. Between 1945 and 1966, thirty-six experimental prototypes were designed and the majority built. Featuring some of the most important architects of the region and generation including Charles Eames, Craig Ellwood, A. Quincy Jones, Pierre Koenig, Richard Neutra, and Raphael Soriano the program reflected the modernist goal of reinventing the house as a way of redefining living. A number of the essayists in the book suggest that what made the houses distinctive and influential was not so much their International Style modernism as how that style was domesticated and scaled to the single-family house. . . and how it forecast what came to be known as the California lifestyle. In addition to the eight main essays, the book, which was based on a 1989-1990 exhibition at the Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA), Los Angeles, contains entries by the exhibition curator, Elizabeth A. T. Smith, and research assistant Amelia Jones on the thirty-six Case Study projects, documentation of six projects commissioned by MOCA, biographies of the thirty architects involved in the program, and a wealth of photographs, drawings, plans, and scale models.