CASE STUDY HOUSE
A HOUSE DESIGNED AND BUILT FOR THE MAGAZINE ARTS & ARCHITECTURE
architects

CHARLES EAMES
EERO SAARINEN
This house planned as a project for the Case Study House program was first published in the December 1945 issue of the magazine. In its final realization it has not substantially changed in general plan or idea. Oriented on over an acre of meadow that looks to the sea, it incorporates the land as a part of the living scheme, depending upon this interrelationship for an extension of its space feeling and establishing an intimate association with its natural environment. There is a direct and unobstructed view across the meadow through old trees to the Pacific.

In general, the purpose was to enclose as much space as possible within a reasonably simple construction. Four steel columns in the center are so placed as to allow cross bracing as well as continuity, with most of the joist load transmitted to the outer rim of the rectangle, all carrying members inside bearing a fairly light and equal load.

The large social area has been designed to serve separate or organized activities and divides naturally into the basic requirements for eating, living, entertaining, and conversational exchange with few or many.

In preparation the house progressed from idea to drafting board, to model, to reality, with remarkable clarity of purpose and with a sure sense of concept, which when completed lacked utterly that sense of stunned surprise that very often confronts those who see their handiwork complete and real for the first time. All this came very probably from a consistency of idea and purpose which created and carried the whole to completion. There is, of course, a sense of delight and discovery—however, for those of us who have worked with it, it is not surprising that it is beautiful and satisfying, and, in the best sense, integrated and complete within the limits defined by the need and the purpose and the objective.

This house like the other (which is a part of the same overall project) is, among other things, the statement of an attitude, and, as such, we are very proud of it, and feel that within its reasons for being it is immensely successful.

As is usual in such projects, it has, of course, in the actual construction been subjected to innumerable vicissitudes and a host of the customary occurring and recurring problems. However, it is one of the wonders of all such undertakings that they get done at all, and in this case we are deeply gratified that, having done it, it is not only successful structurally but that it is also a beautifully created human environment.
Opposite page: Living area from lower level with expanse of beige carpeting by Alexander Smith & Sons. Allen Rubber-Loc rug cushions with Roberts Tackless Carpet Strips were used. The skylight is screened with pylon plastic. A light painting by Herbert Matter hangs on the far wall; bench by George Nelson for Herman Miller. The speaker housing containing Allen Lansing equipment, designed and installed by Kierulf & Company, is on the wall dividing this area from the kitchen. The sofa upholstered in tangerine wool is designed by Von Keppel-Green; chair and coffee table by Charles Eames. Above, left: Structure over service entrance of steel and ferro-concrete ceiling material; right: View of hallway to bedroom area looking to corrugated glass wall, showing Tucson steel closets with sliding doors. Below: View from seating area showing fireplace in foreground.
Top: View of the house from a man-made mound showing the service entrance and a far view of the large living terrace backed by a concrete block wall. The siding of the house is Truscan Firreboard painted gray.
Center: Meadow side of the house showing wall of glass by Libbey-Owens-Ford with Truscan steel window framing. Bottom: East side of the house showing windows from master bedroom and bath, bathroom terrace, and wall of Rocklite lightweight building blocks. Section of living room wall of Firreboard siding painted in alternate stripes of white and gray. All landscaping and interior plants by Evans & Reeves Nurseries.
Opposite page: View from living area showing the carpeted sitting steps and lower level Dato flooring immediately adjacent to the terrace. The square glass top table is designed by Edward Wormley for Dunbar Furniture Company; the molded chair by Charles Eames for the Herman Miller Company; on the terrace a large Hawk brazier and Van Keppel-Green outdoor chaise.
General Contractor: Paul Lamport

Beginning August 12 until September 3, 1950, the house will be open from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays.
Views from the seating area showing the sliding wall of the upper level bedroom both open and closed. The track for the sliding wall is by Grant Pulley & Hardware Company. The built-in seating arrangement is covered in imported Belgian linen and was upholstered by C. W. Hennell & Son. Below: The record storage cabinet and control system containing Welte and record changer and Newcomb amplifier from Kienzle & Company. The house is equipped with a Talk-O inter-communication system installed by Jewell Summer Company. Sliding panels in the record cabinets are Plywood by Swedlow Plastics Company.

Opposite page: View showing carpeted area in relation to the fireplace level. Large chair by Eero Saarinen for Knoll. The ceiling which is continuous throughout the house is of tubular from Panbarth Lumber Company and lighting enclosures contain equipment from Century Lighting Company. The patterned draperies are of "The Squared Circle" by Laverne Originals. The plain draperies are of beige wool by Deering-Milliken. All drapery hardware by Kirsch; the draperies were made by Frank Bros. Ceiling heating vents are air diffusers by Air Factors used in conjunction with the Payne Forced Air Heating System.
Opposite page: Sink area of the kitchen with Kaisen hydraulic dish washer and Kohler double sink. Berger steel cabinets have counter tops of Formica. Electric range and refrigerator are Nash Kelvinator, and all appliances are Sunbeam. The kitchen flooring is Volei rubber tile and meets the Diasto mastic surfacing of the dining area floor. All bathroom fixtures are Kohler.
Opposite page: Meadow side of the house showing the terrace looking toward the sea. The outside lighting fixtures are from Gotham Lighting Company; terrace is surfaced with Leukol asphalt. Below: From the bedroom with sliding wall opened. Upper right: Looking into garage from the service section to a planted area against a wall of Mississippi corrugated obscure glass. This page, below: The fireplace area showing Tuscan architecturally projected windows with moveable sash. The face of the fireplace is painted a lively orange-red.