

EXAMPLES HOUSE

Case Study House No. 8

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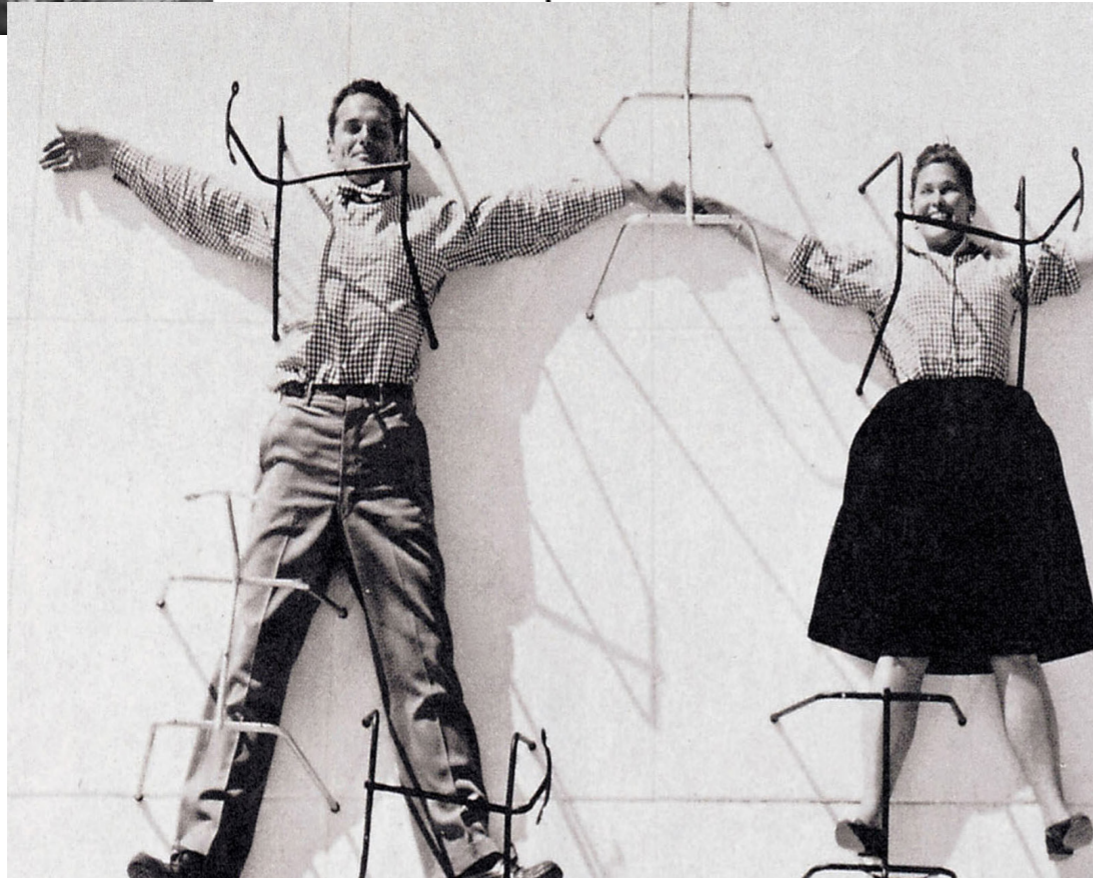
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Charles Eames
Ray Eames

THE ARCHITECTS



Around the early 1940s, John Entenza, the publisher of "Arts & Architecture magazine" spearheaded the case study program. In a challenge to the architectural community, the magazine announced that it would be the client for a series of homes designed to express man's life in the modern world. These houses were to be constructed and furnished using materials and techniques derived from experiences of the 2nd World War. Each home had to be for a real or hypothetical client, taking into consideration of the particular housing needs.

Charles and Ray Eames house was just one of roughly 2 dozen homes built in this program.

Charles and Ray proposed that the house they designed would be for a married couple whose children no longer live with them. This couple works in design & graphic art.

They wanted to create a home that would make no demands for itself, & would serve as a background for as Charles said "life in work".



BACKGROUND



The Eames house gained such success by its spatially pleasant modern residence. Charles & Ray designed this home in 1945 and constructed case study homes that had to focus on the use of new materials and technologies during WWII.

The intention was for the house to be made of prefabricated materials that would not interrupt the site, be simple to construct and exhibit a modern style.

This is the only home that Charles and Ray ever designed and actually lived, this work also completely represents his collaboration with his partner/wife Ray Eames. Eames House is known to be one of the most important post-war residences built anywhere.

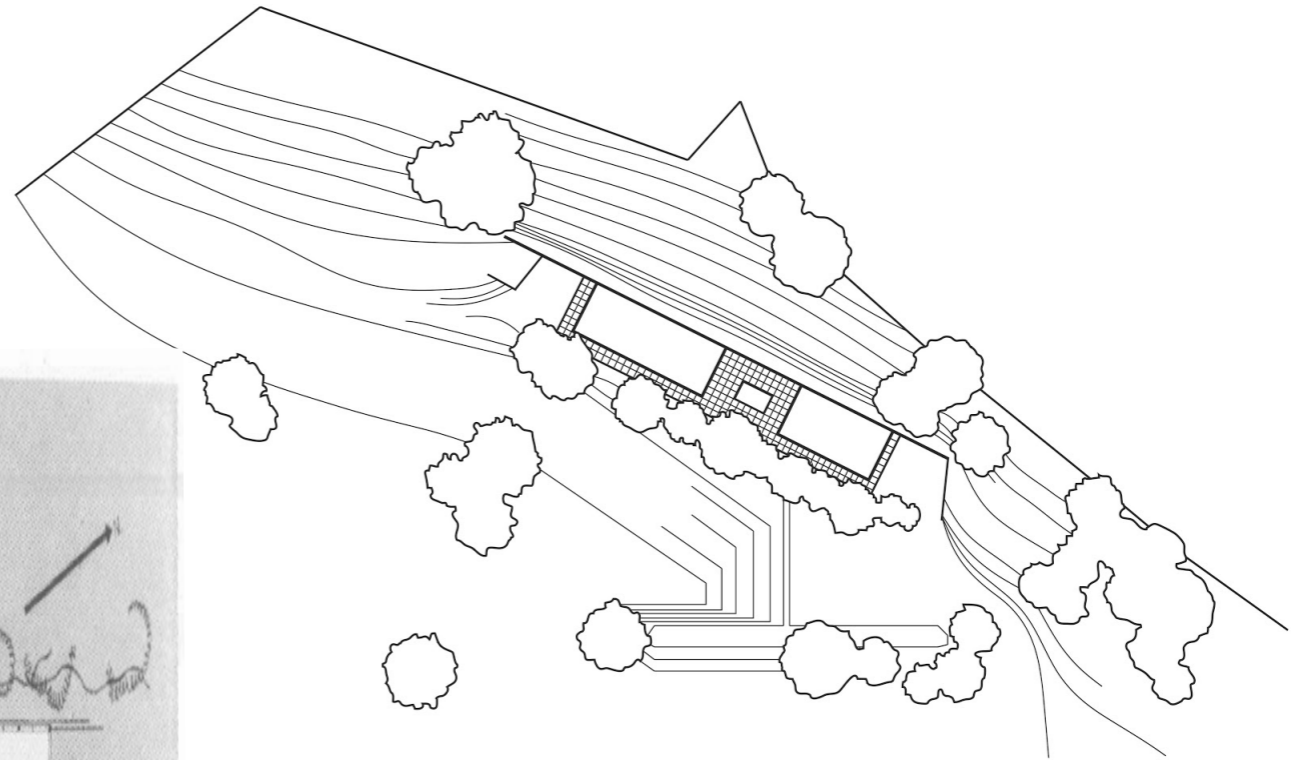
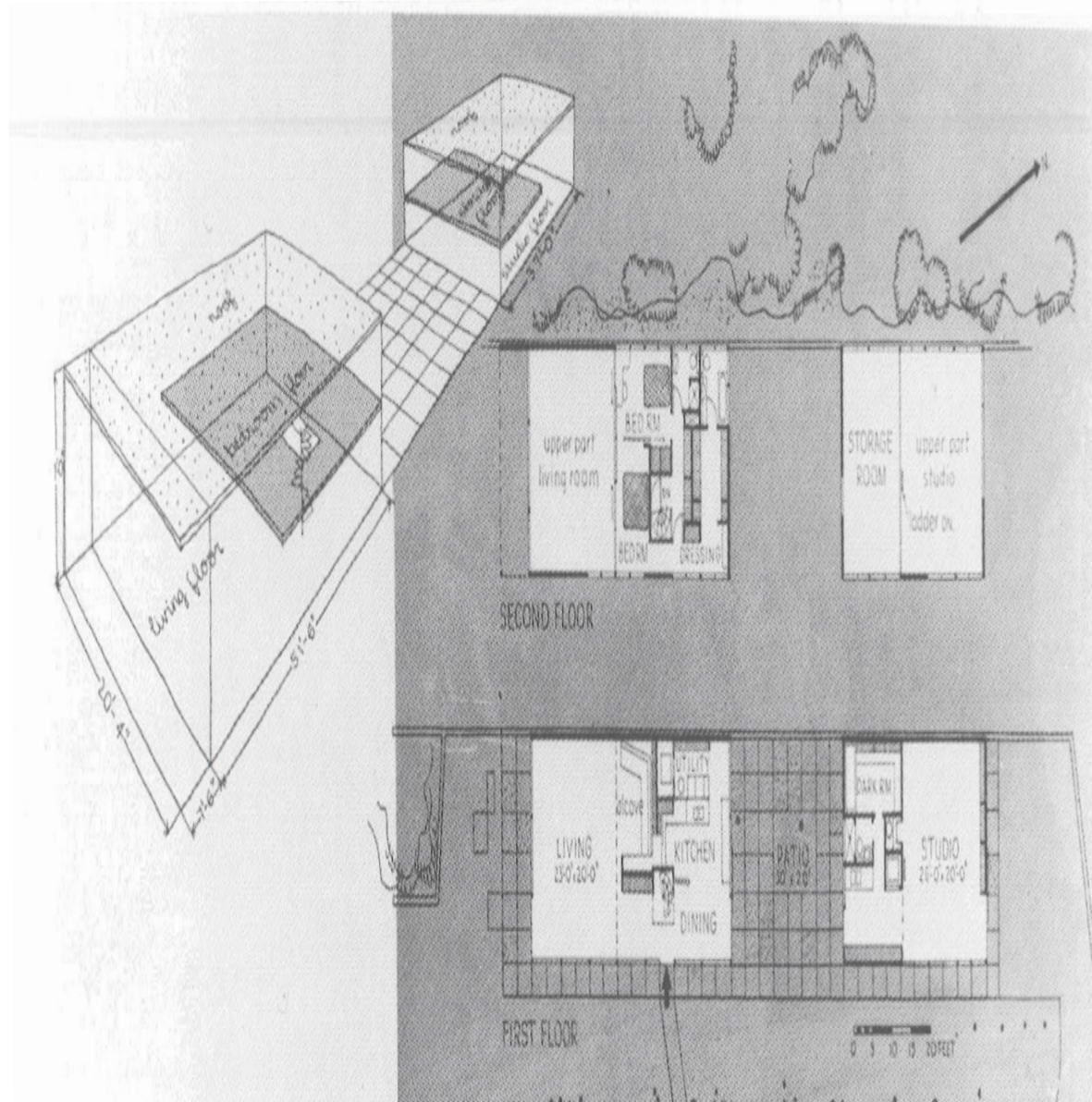


LOCATION



The Eames House resides along the Pacific Coast between Malibu and Santa Monica, The site is a flat parcel on an otherwise steep land that creates a retaining wall to the west. Sitting on the lower plateau on the northern edge of Santa Monica Canyon. In order to preserve the beauty of its geographical area they took the approach to design around its site.

SITE & CONTEXT



The Eames House sits by the Pacific Palisades on a 1.4 acre lot, with a 7'-4" horizontal grid divided through the site. Charles and Ray focused on intergrating the interior with the lush exterior landscape, using glass and white panels to give a strong sense of intergration into nature.

The importance given to light in the design, with the exterior arranged in the particular way, this design can be tied to traditional japanese household influences.



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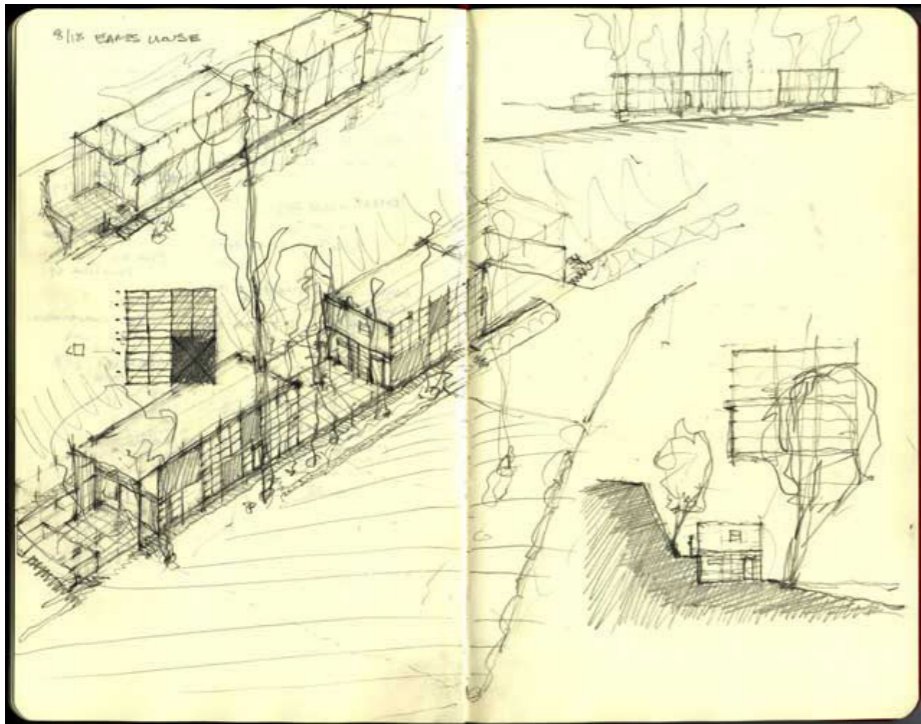
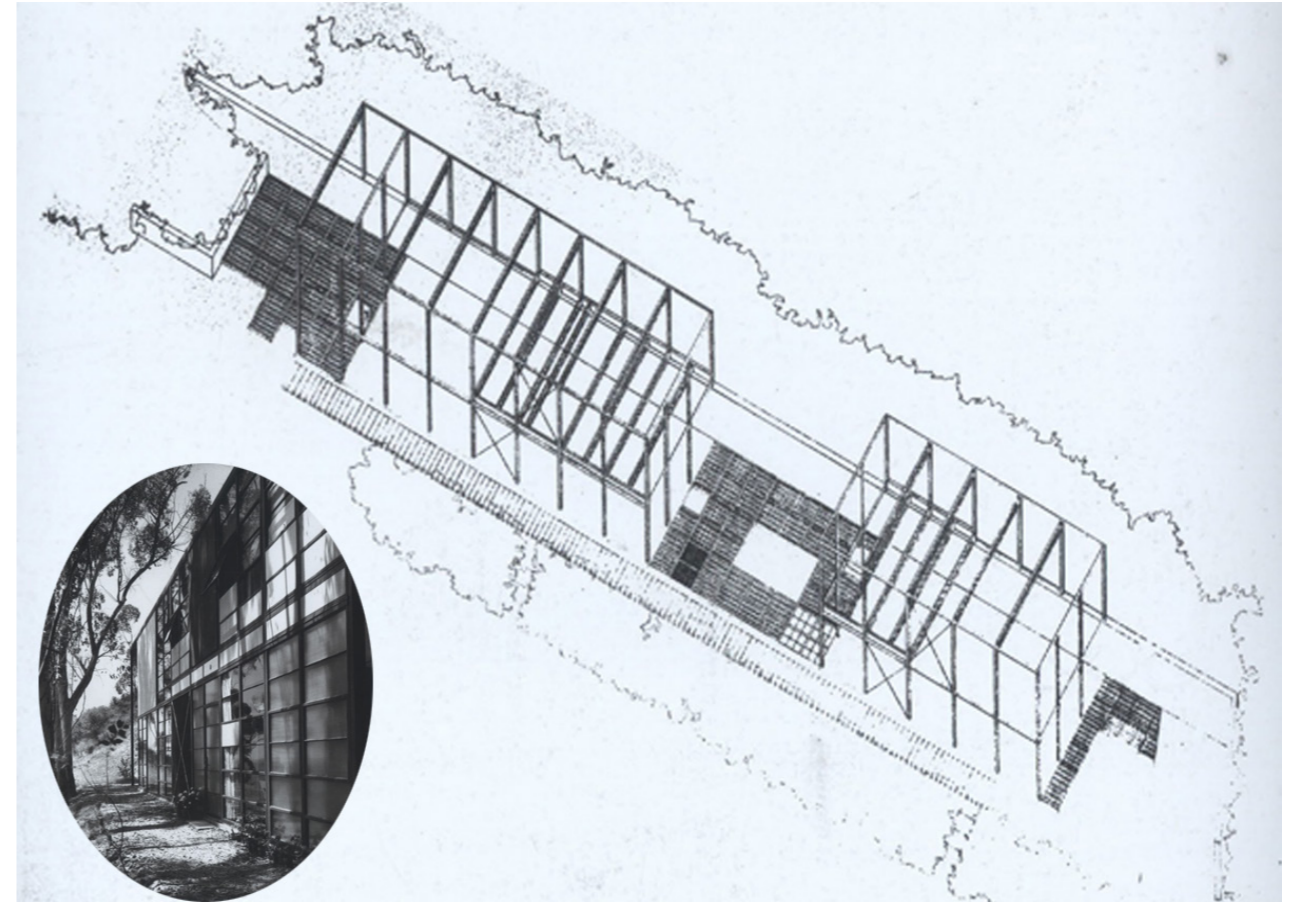
The materials were meant to emphasize the idea of mass production and metal through the use of a steel frame. The house's main materials were concrete, glass, stucco, wood, asbestos, metal and synthetics.

Ray and Charles Eames were respected architects who were entrusted to make a home that could be functional, affordable and easily replicated for American families. Using pre fabricated materials from a catalog is really what made this home so efficient.

The design of the house focused on preserving the surrounding landscape, such as the Eucalyptus trees. When first designing the house, they initially used the placement method on the site. Modifying it later to include the landscape and view of the meadow.

During the end of WWII it was important to use economically compatible materials to make the home affordable to returning soldiers and their families.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND



SPATIAL RELATIONSHIPS

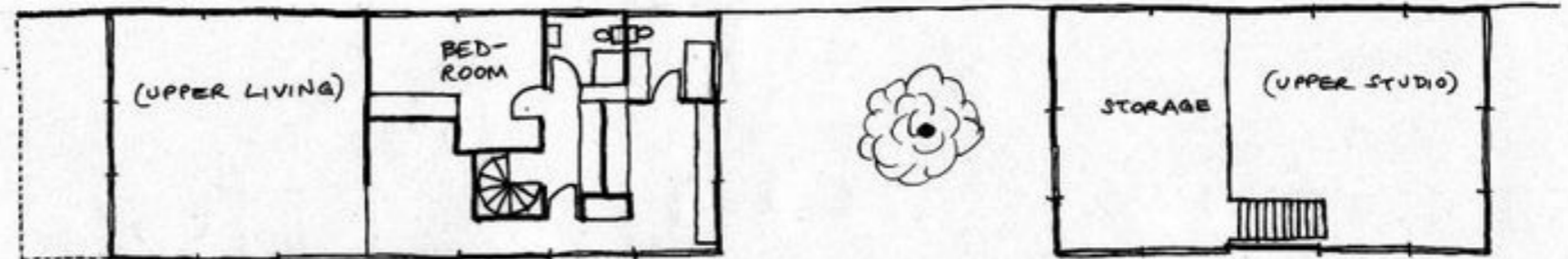
The site is a flat parcel on an otherwise steep land that creates a retaining wall to the west. The response to this condition was a concrete retaining wall that ties together the 2 boxes adjacently through sharing a common space (the courtyard) for the client to experience the landscape. The importance given to light in the design, with the exterior arranged in the particular way, this design can be tied to traditional japanese household influences. The site is a flat parcel on an otherwise steep land that creates a retaining wall to the west. The response to this condition was a concrete retaining wall that ties together the 2 boxes adjacently through sharing a common space (the courtyard) for the client to experience the landscape. The importance given to light in the design, with the exterior arranged in the particular way, this design can be tied to traditional japanese household influences.



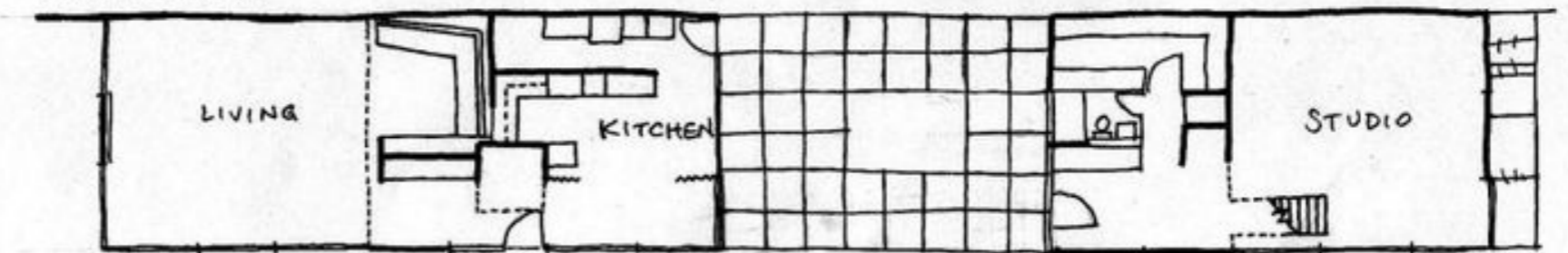
PROGRAMS

There is a strong similarity between the designer and the client, both envisioning a home that gives modern elements into an American styled home. The layout supports the separation between work and family spaces, while still allowing them to integrate within one another to promote a harmony within the space. The rear west facing area allows the most privacy while the large white walls allow the sense of integration with its natural elements. The courtyard between the 2 masses were designed in order to provide a dialogue between the adjacent spaces both internally and externally.

UPPER LEVEL



LOWER LEVEL

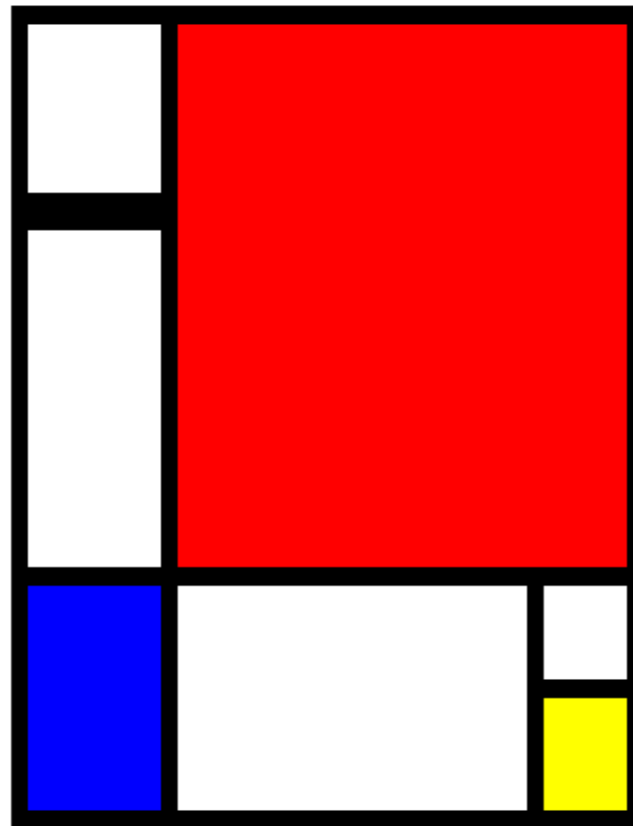
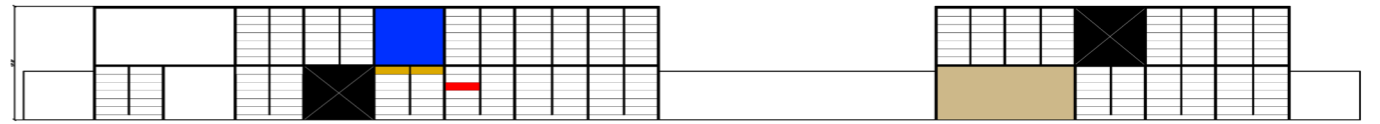


EAMES HOUSE Floor Plan

ASETHETICS

The main visual cue of this design stem from its bright color panels on the front of the home, similar to the Mondrian Art of the early 30s. This also compliments of the open glass panels to allow illumination, inspired by traditial japanese home styles.

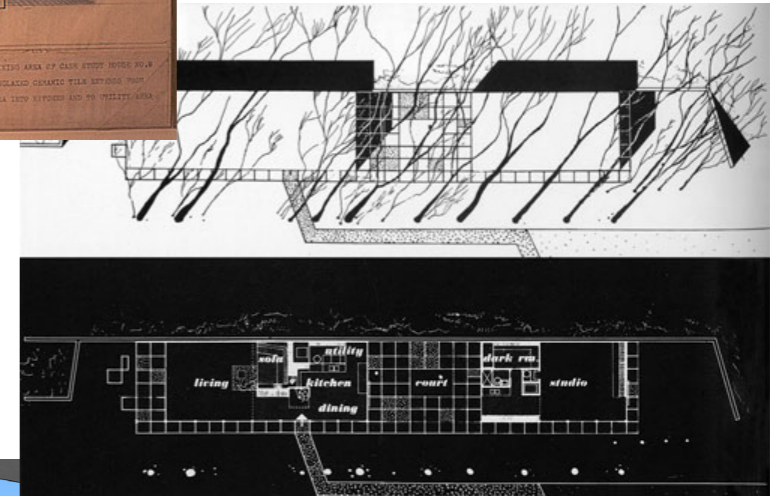
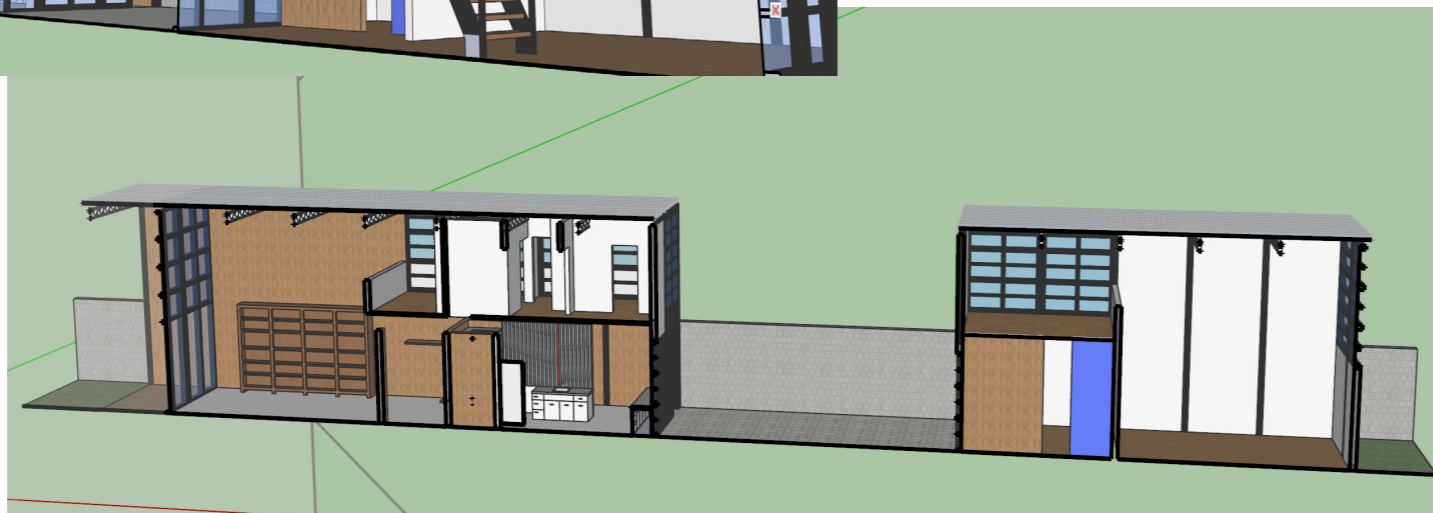
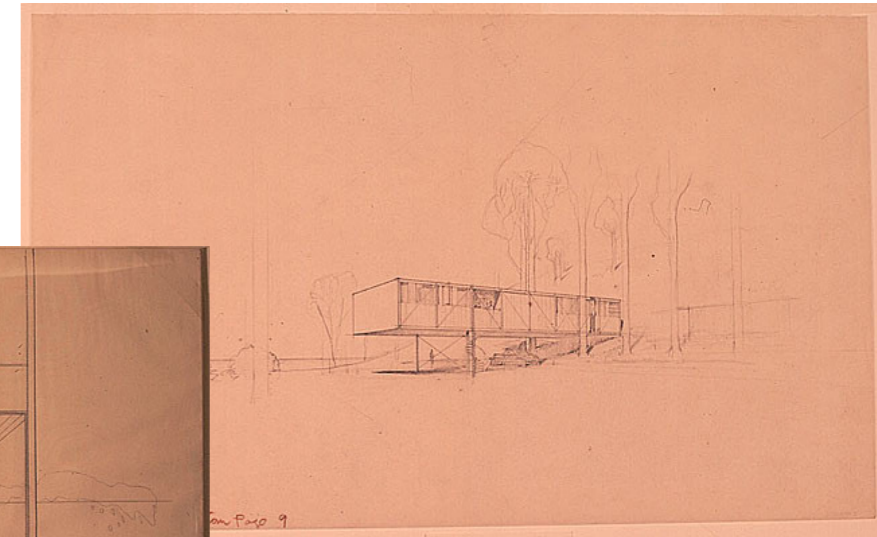
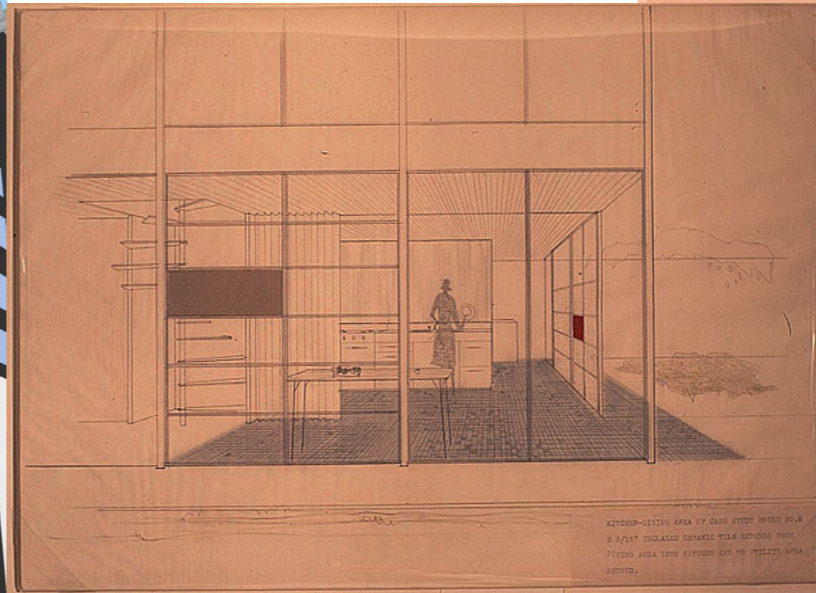
The need for the meadow to be preserved and in direct view of the site allowed the design to be intergrated with its landscape, this is also demonstrated with its adjacent space connected through the courtyard. Within the interior, double height glass windows occupy a majority of the site wall space with the color panels allowing moments of privacy within the house, exuding the designs primary goal: flexibility, illumination and spatial relations.



Piet Mondrian, Composition II in Red, Blue, and Yellow, 1930

DRAWINGS

RENDERINGS



Throughout my analysis of the Eames House, I was able to visual how one is placed in the home through renderings, being able to see section views and plans of the house really helps one to see the house from all angles. The sketches also played a key role in those visual cues.

SUSTAINABILITY



Ray and Eames made sure the environmental integrity of this home would remain untouched, they worked with the site and made sure the design of the house would synchronize with the landscape. The house also worked incorporate te natural greenery as much as possible, even making sure to not disturb or re-locate and of the trees on the site. The materials of the home still remain virtually intact, with only visible maturation of the landscape.



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