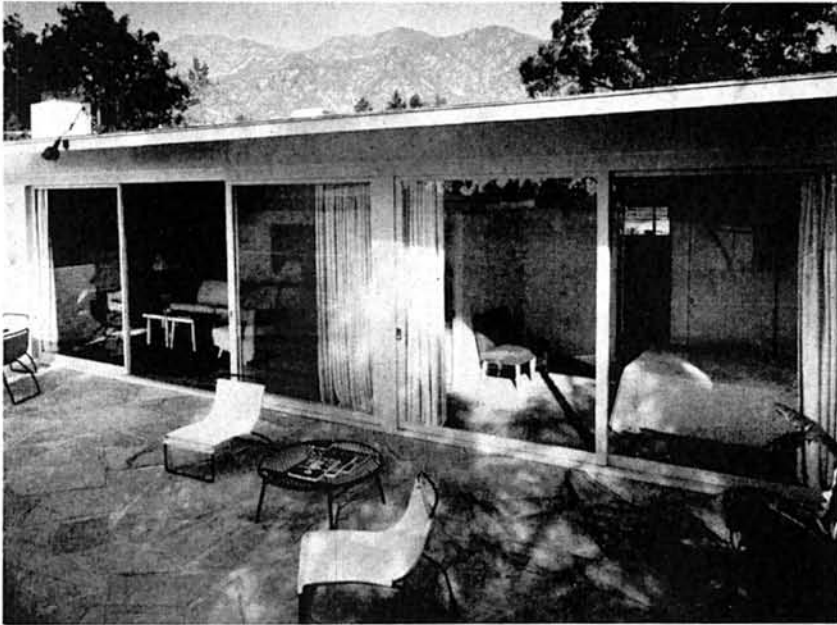




## CASE STUDY HOUSE #15

Designer: J. R. Davidson  
 Location: La Canada, California  
 Second of Arts & Architecture's Case Study Houses.  
 Public showings during December and January.



1. Living area of house faces south. Five floor to ceiling glass panels, each six feet wide, form south walls of living room and master bedroom. Two panels slide, opening the two rooms onto a walled flagstone patio. Gate at left leads to garden surrounding house.

2. Entrance hall is partially screened from living room by sheet of Plexiglas. Frosted glass panels on side and over front door admit light. Entrance hall leads to kitchen, left, and dressing room of master bedroom, right. Dining room chairs form corner grouping when not in use around table.

3. East wall and ceiling of living room are lacquered birch plywood. Bookshelves utilize space under plastic screen in entrance hall. Large birch chest extends into dining table. Door at right leads to master bedroom.

4. Dining chest takes two 24-inch leaves. Although set up for only four places here, it seats six persons. When not in use at dining table, three chairs go in living room, two in master bedroom and one in second bedroom. Hardwood floor at dining end of living room is bare.

5. Three sections, covered in chartreuse fabric, and two corner tables group around fireplace. Light trough at end of room carries fluorescent tube for indirect lighting. Heavy nap rug is terra cotta color.

6. Vertical redwood siding on front of house are stained gray-brown. Trim is light gray. This side of house is made up of utility rooms—bath, dressing room, entrance hall, kitchen. Double garage is on right. Living area is at back of house. Wall on left is windowless for privacy from street.

7. California foothills are background for this house, which is planned for outdoor living most of the year. Flagstone patio is furnished for both eating and lounging. Patio and inside floor are the same level, making easy transition between indoors and outdoors. Four-foot roof overhang prevents direct glare of sun in summer but allows some solar heating in winter.

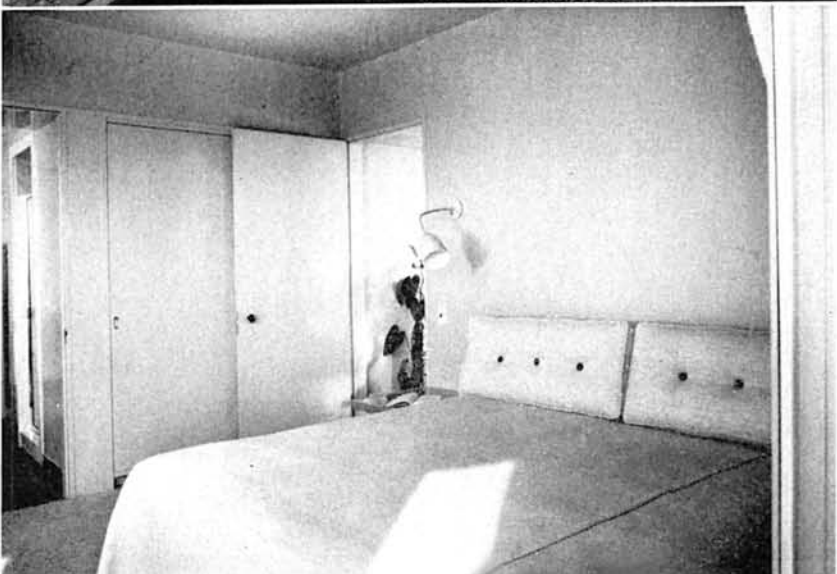
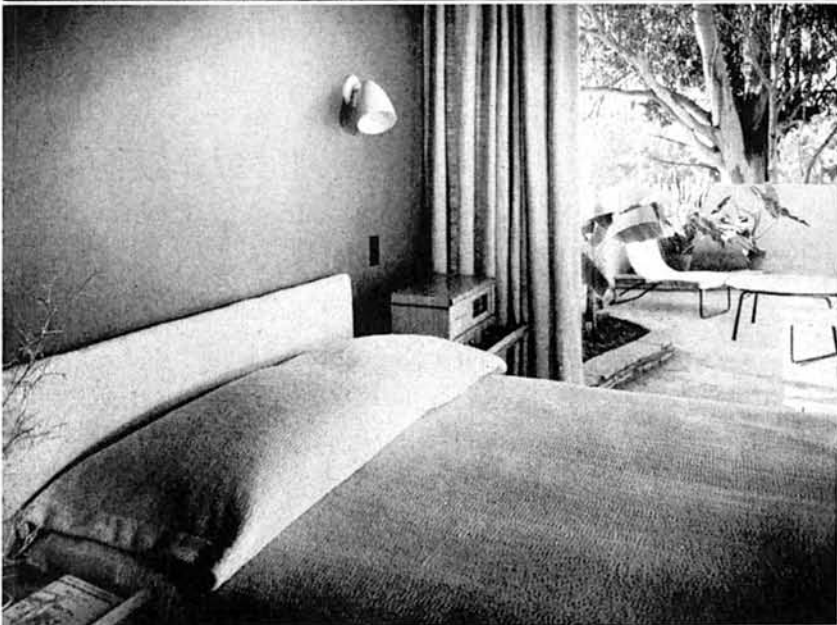
8. Only furnishings in master bedroom are double bed, night tables and two straight chairs. There is an adjustable reading spot light on each side of bed. Color combination in this room is peach and gray-brown with beige spread, drapes and wall-to-wall carpet.

9. Twin beds in second bedroom are covered by single spread. Bolsters replace headboard. Night stands are glass topped "egg crate" tables. A goose neck lighting fixture is on each side of beds. Colors in this room are beige and aqua marine. Door on left leads to bathroom. Shelf closets and wardrobes in both bedrooms make chests of drawers unnecessary.

10. Two sectionals in living room are placed for view of both patio and fireplace. Deeply indented right side removes the suppressed look of a small fireplace.

11. Kitchen is L shaped with work space confined to narrow passageway. Breakfast table and built in bench are on left. Cabinets extend along whole wall and are built around gas refrigerator. Counters on both sides of stove and sink are covered with stain-proof, burn-proof plastic. Walls are lemon yellow, cabinets aqua marine and floor green linoleum.

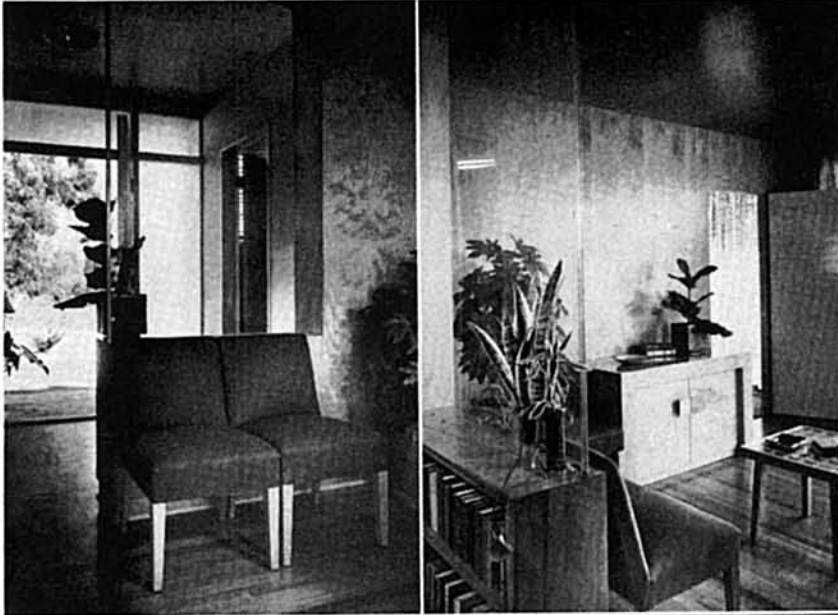
12. Corner table in living room is a yard square with nine inches between shelves. Lamp with black and white ceramic base has shade of same loosely woven material used in drapes. Sectionals are placed away from wall to permit passageway to second bedroom.



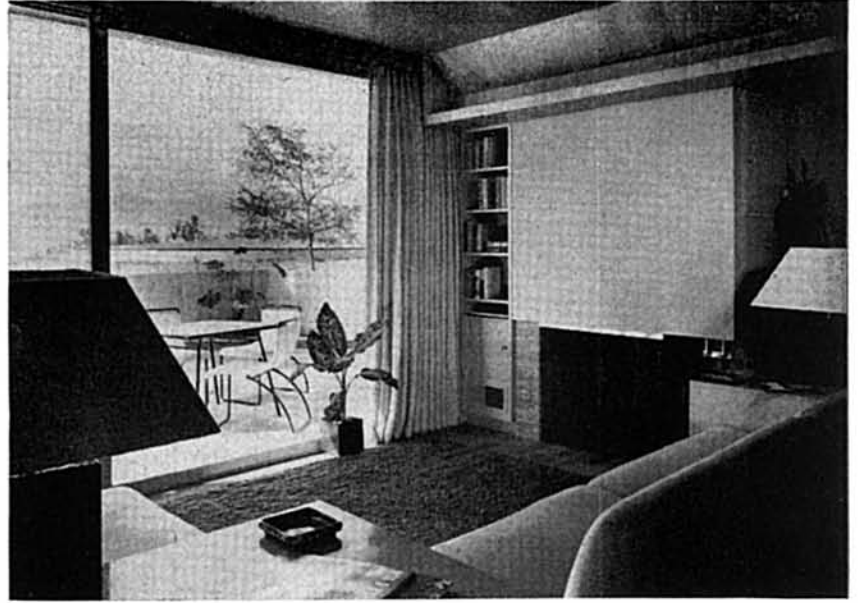
General contractor: Myers Brothers  
 Interiors: Chazan's Furniture Company  
 Furniture: Glenn, Incorporated



1



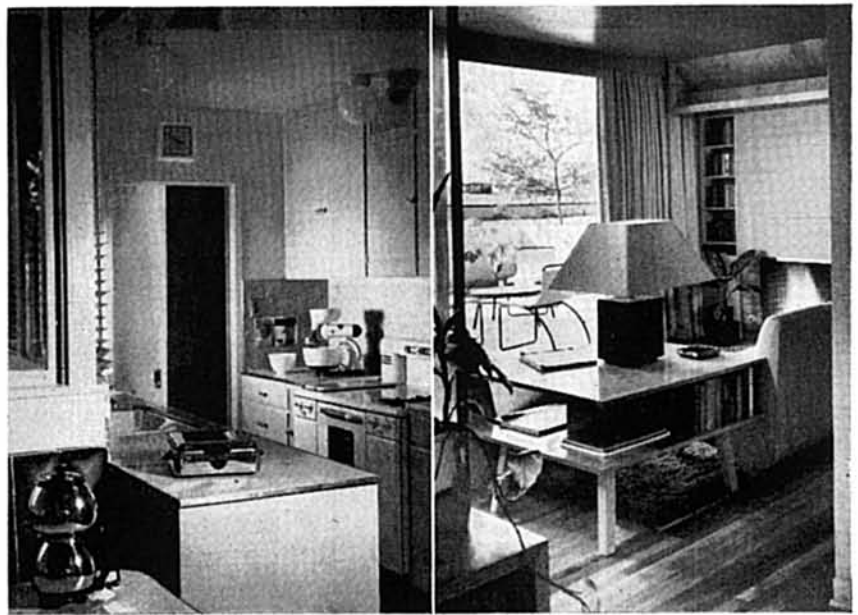
2, 3



10



4



11, 12



5



### New Furniture

Furniture designed for a limited budget is used throughout Arts & Architecture's Case Study House number 15. It is manufactured in California by Glenn, Incorporated.

A reasonable retail price is a limitation placed on every piece in this furniture line before design is begun. The product is intended for small houses. In planning manufacture, the designers work from a five or six room contemporary home. Furnishings necessary for such a house are determined and a price, figured from a maximum budget of about \$2500, is allocated to each piece. Designs are subjected to cost analysis and any project design which runs over its allocation is rejected.

The results so far produced are a clean simplicity and maximum utility. Best examples of utility for a small home is a dining chest. As a shelf chest 29 inches high and 48 inches wide, it projects from a wall only 22 inches. It extends to receive up to three two-foot wide leaves. When the table is fully extended eight places may be set. With one leaf it may be set up as a writing desk. Armless, upholstered dining chairs may be used in several rooms of the house either singly or pushed together into love seats, corner groupings or lounges. Light-colored woods—birch, bleached mahogany and ash—are used in all this furniture. Tables and chairs have tapered legs with no cross member. Besides tables, chairs and the dining chest now produced, the designers have developed an armless sectional 42 inches long and 22½ inches deep with a 29-inch back. Short, solid birch legs are the only exposed wood. Two or three of these in a living room permit wide flexibility of furniture arrangement.

## PRODUCT NOTES -- CASE STUDY HOUSE No. 15

• Case Study House No. 15 was constructed by Myers Brothers of Los Angeles from plans by Designer J. R. Davidson. Floor plan is basically that of another Davidson house, Case Study House No. 11.

However, some changes in the original plan were made by the general contractor. Patio shape became oblong, small planting areas were added, living room wood panelling was given a high gloss, a basement utility room was excavated, private entrance to the second bedroom was eliminated and a double garage replaced the single garage in the original plans.

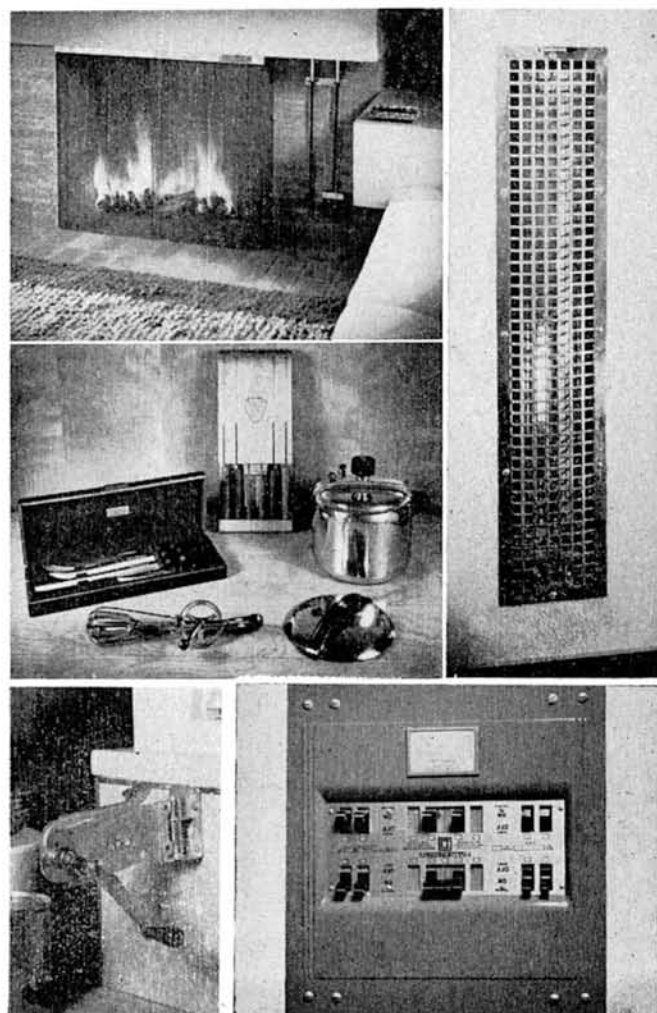
Like most building jobs in 1946, Case Study House No. 15 was one of constant delays and shortages of materials. There were weeks of almost no work while shipment was pending on key items. The job finally came out even six months after ground breaking.

• A Comfortaire furnace (Hammel Radiator Engineering Company) is used both for winter heating and summer ventilation. The system is forced air, gas fired. It is automatically controlled, operating from a thermostat in the living room. Two registers in the living room solve the problem of heating a room with one entire wall of glass. One register directs a blanket of heat over the whole glass area. The other distributes heat generally throughout the room.

Smoke, dirt, dust and pollens are filtered out of air before it is blown into the house. Circulation is constant but almost imperceptible and temperature is kept even by the sensitive thermostat.

For quietness the unit is equipped with squirrel-cage blower capable of developing a static pressure sufficient to overcome resistances of the warm air distribution system. The blower and the resilient motor mount are suspended from the frame by a combination of helical springs and rubber bumpers which absorb all vibrations. For cool air ventilation a switch on the furnace cuts in the blower without operating the burners.

• Quick heat for bathrooms is provided by Thermador electric heaters built into the walls. Infra-red warmth is almost instantaneous from the coils of these units. Illustrated is the Long Radiant Bath-



room Heater designed as an antidote for cold showers. These heaters are made by Thermador Electrical Manufacturing Company of Los Angeles.

• Like most contemporary houses, this one uses unadorned blocks of color as the only decoration, focusing attention on the skill of the painter. Ceilings in both bedrooms are in sharp contrast with the walls, and the junction is simply where one color stops and the other begins. The job was handled by J. P. Carroll Company of Los Angeles.

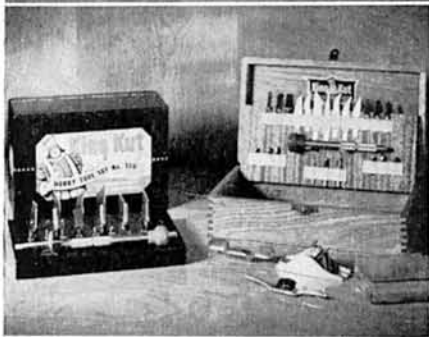
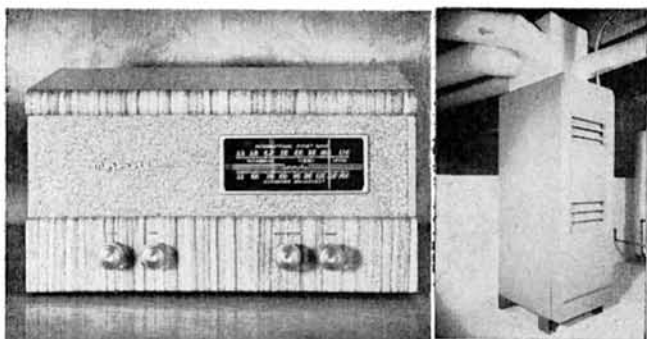
• The house is protected from summer heat by three factors. Above the ceiling and under the air space between ceiling and roof are blankets of Kimsul (Kimberly-Clark Corporation) insulation, a fire and fungus resistant material that comes in rolls. The air space is ventilated through a screened slot running around three sides of the house at the edge of the roof overhang. Roofing material is asphalt-saturated felt and asphalt (Pioneer-Flintkote) with a surface of white dolomite (Sno-Hide) which reflects heat of the sun. The roofing was applied by Economy Roof & Insulation Company of Los Angeles.

• There are no fuses to blow in the house. Instead of a fuse box it is equipped with a Square D Company Multi-breaker. Electrical overloads break the circuit. Power is restored by flipping a switch located in the utility porch.

• Walls of the basement are completely sealed against seepage, giving the house a dry, comfortable play room in all seasons. Surface of the walls was treated with Aquella (Prima Products, Incorporated). This is a compound finely enough ground to penetrate deeply into the concrete, filling even microscopic pores. Instead of being painted on the walls it is scrubbed in. When water contacts it, the material expands to form a tough bond. Applicator was Anderson Sales Organization.

• Both bathrooms are equipped with vitreous china lavatories and toilets (W. A. Case & Son). The lavatory stands on chromium legs, leaving room beneath for a laundry hamper and for easy cleaning. The toilet is a free standing fixture, has a low slung water tank and is nearly silent in operation.

• Bathroom cabinets (F. H. Lawson Company) are seamless metal with chromium edges around heavy plate glass mirrors. Glass shelves



Pictured on this page are some of the products used in equipping and furnishing Case Study House #15. A complete list of materials and products for the house may be found on page 16.

