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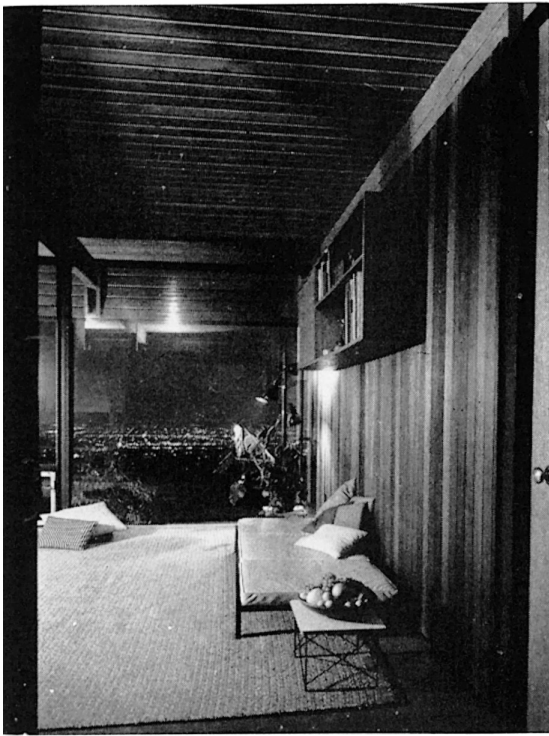
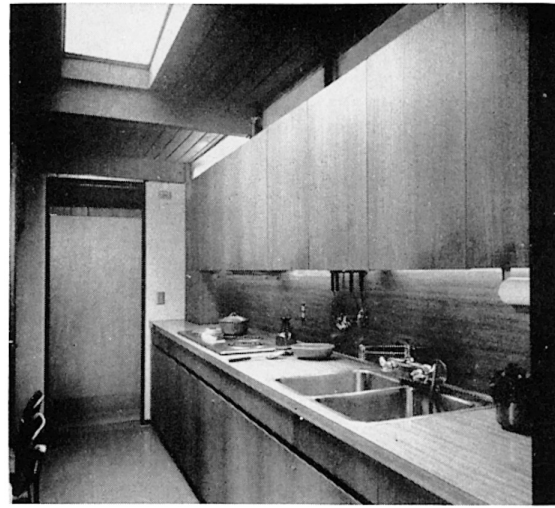
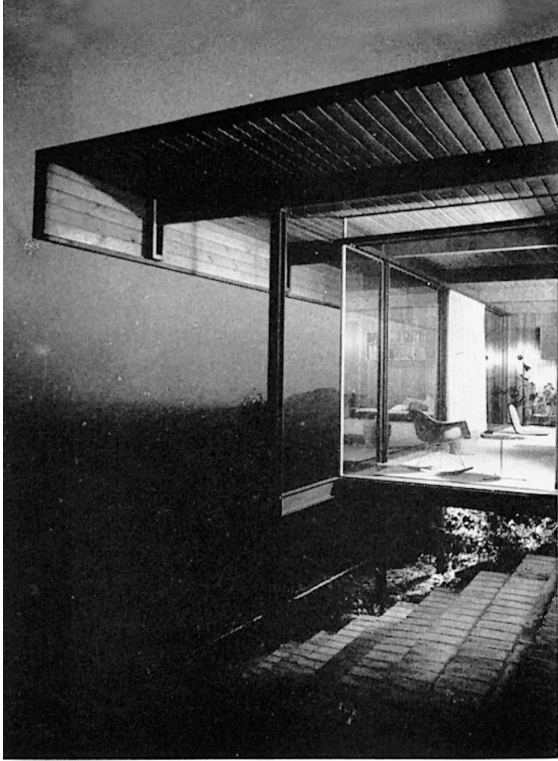
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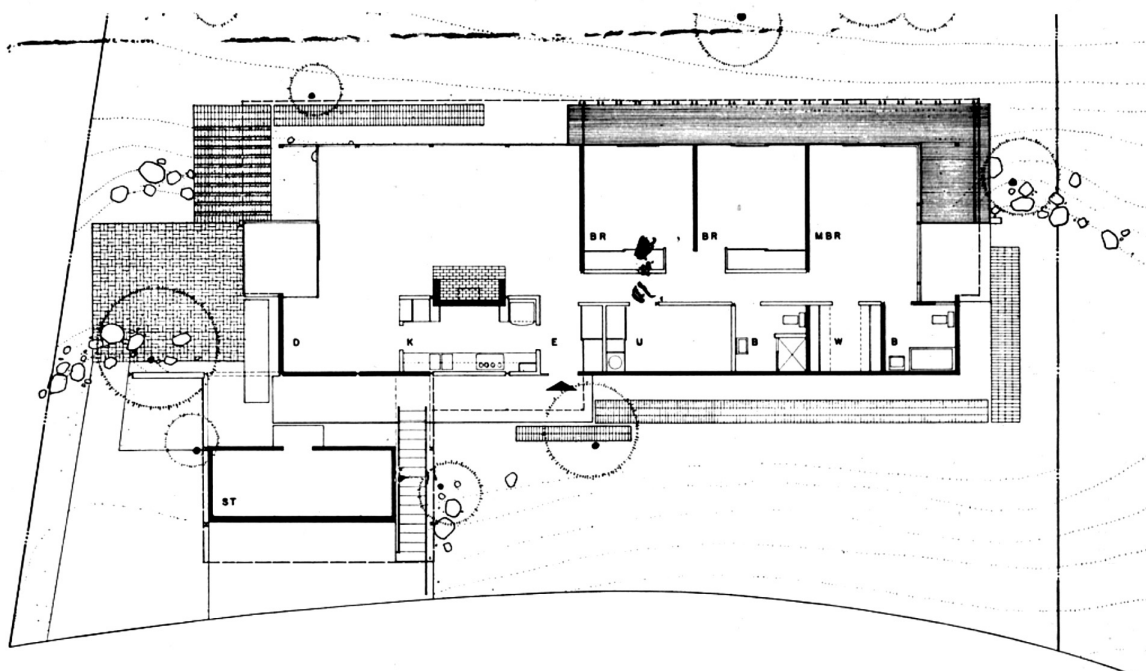
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HILLSIDE HOUSE

BY CRAIG ELLWOOD





The site is an irregular shaped hillside lot approximately 115' x 137' with an average downhill slope of 32°. The clients requested all rooms face the view of city, sea and channel islands. The viewside wall is completely glass and faces southeast. To provide sun protection for this all-glass wall, the ceiling/roof deck turns down 24" at the end of the 4-foot overhang. This sun shield does not restrict the view because its height is 7 feet above floor level.

Security and privacy were desired in the bedrooms and this was accomplished with a deck supported from the cantilevered ceiling/roof beams with a pair of 2" x 4" wood members. The detail of the sun shield is repeated in the deck rail, and three additional pairs of 2" x 4"s between deck supporting members form a rhythmic grillwork.

The structure is a partial steel frame: 4" x 10" wood ceiling/roof beams and 4" x 6" wood floor beams frame into exposed 4"-H steel columns to form rigid frames spaced 8 feet apart. Costly continuous formed footings have been eliminated by cantilevering the steel columns from individual concrete pads. Floor joists frame into a 7" steel channel welded between columns. Flooring is 5/8" plywood, ceiling/roof decking is 2" x 6" T&G Douglas fir.

The central entry floor plan is adapted to the 8-foot module of the structural frame: room sizes are multiples of 4 feet and room partitions occur on the module or mid-module. The pattern of the structural framework is thus reflected in both the plan and the vertical elements, and to emphasize this unity the structural steel is painted terra cotta, contrasting with panel materials.

Exterior materials are natural colored plaster and gray-stained Redwood. All exterior trim is charcoal or black. Roofing rock is charcoal. Interiors are white plaster and natural Redwood. The ceiling is stain-waxed gray. All cabinetwork and slab doors are natural finish Philippine mahogany; countertops are realwood veneer plastic laminate panels; flooring is plain gray asphalt tile; the fireplace is red masonry, gray plaster and black steel; all interior trim is black. Steel framed sliding glass doors open all bedrooms to the deck. This deck connects to the west terrace. The living-dining areas open to the east terrace. Terrace materials are concrete and brick. The steel/wood structural frame and the exterior walls carry all structural loads, thus interior partitions are non-structural and are held to beam bottom height to allow the ceiling/roof deck to float free of interior walls. Strip glass extends from partition tops to ceiling. The space under the carport is utilized for storage. The heater unit for the perimeter forced air system is placed under the house.

