CASE STUDY HOUSE 18

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photographs by Robert C. Cleveland

Landscaping by Evans & Reeves Nurseries

A high meadow with a view of the ocean has been chosen as the site for six future Case Study Houses. Followers of the program, watching progress on these examples of modern houses, will at the same time have opportunity for repeated enjoyment of a naturally beautiful tract. Case Study House No. 18, the first of this group to be completed stands at the southeast curve of the property. Thus it has a site with full, unobstructed view both south and east. With the principal view to the south it was possible to face the main glass areas in this direction in order to take advantage of the sun for light and warmth. If the orientation of the site has been made clear, the reader will see further that loss of privacy, a problem usually to be reckoned with where there are large glass areas, is not a consideration in this case. High above the ocean, the privacy of the open south and east exposures of Case Study House No. 18 can be threatened only by an occasional sea-gull.

With the main view coinciding with the unobstructed southern exposure and privacy assured, the only drawback of the site was the noise rising from busy beach traffic at the foot of the cliff. These noises were avoided by placing the house back from the rim as far west and north as the size of the lot permitted.

Decisions to this point were impersonal ones for regardless of who was to live in the house, best solutions were still southern orientation and location to north and west of the lot. At the moment consideration of the layout began, it seemed best to approach the problem as though there were a specific client problem. Thus decisions could no longer remain impersonal, and solutions were arrived at in terms of a proposed owner's requirements.

A couple in their early thirties was assumed as clients. They would have two dogs and would

expect to entertain frequently; the husband, an engineer, with an interest in drawing and small machine shop work; the wife, with an interest in horticulture and the design of clothes.

Around these individual requirements the layout of the house was made. Shop space was allowed in the garage. A dog run was planned adjacent to the service yard. Besides opportunities afforded by the large, nearly level lot with its beautiful setting, a garden room was placed indoors to give additional scope to the wife's horticultural interests. The guest room is given maximum privacy by placing it at the opposite end of the house from the master bedroom. This room serves also as a sewing room. The 24 feet of wardrobe in the master bedroom make ample provision for the results of the wife's interest in designing clothes.

The layout is a simple, straightforward solution of the client's problems. Other considerations were the orientation of all principal rooms to the ocean view and favorable solar exposures. No room was to be used as a passage-way. Perhaps the outstanding feature of the layout is the fluidity of the east wing, complete openness being possible throughout the dining room living room inside and outside garden areas and the main bedroom.

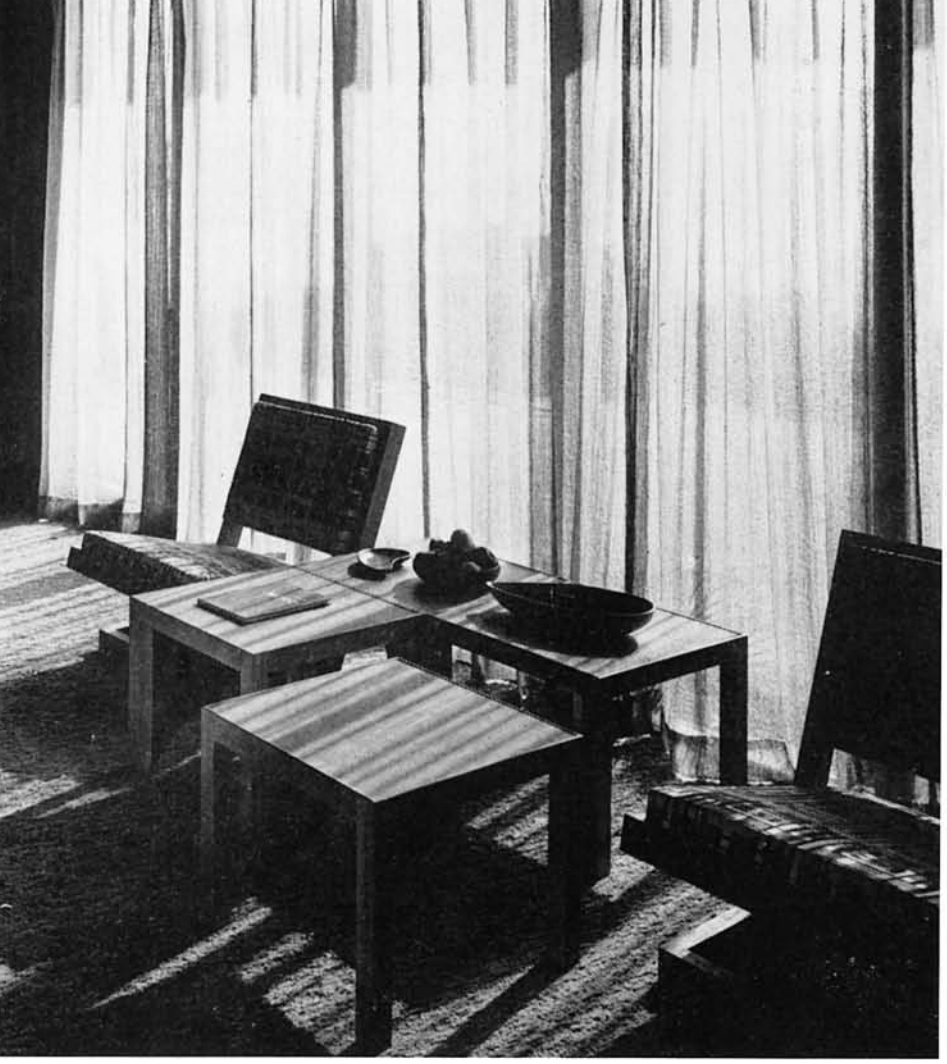
A feeling of openness and informal spaciousness in the living room contributes to ease in frequent entertaining. This effect is emphasized by the high ceiling (11 feet) with open beams; the south wall, entirely of glass, opens to the ocean view; the northern and eastern clerestory windows, admit cross light and cut glare; the sea-foam green carpet contrasts with the polished dark walnut walls; and, particularly the relationship of the living room to the garden room. The living room and garden room are divided only by the two-way open fireplace. This fireplace, while dividing the two rooms, serves also to unite them, and forms the principal decorative feature of each. Structurally the fireplace is experimental; it is copper-faced both for appearance and to enable heat rays, usually lost up the chimney, to radiate into the room.

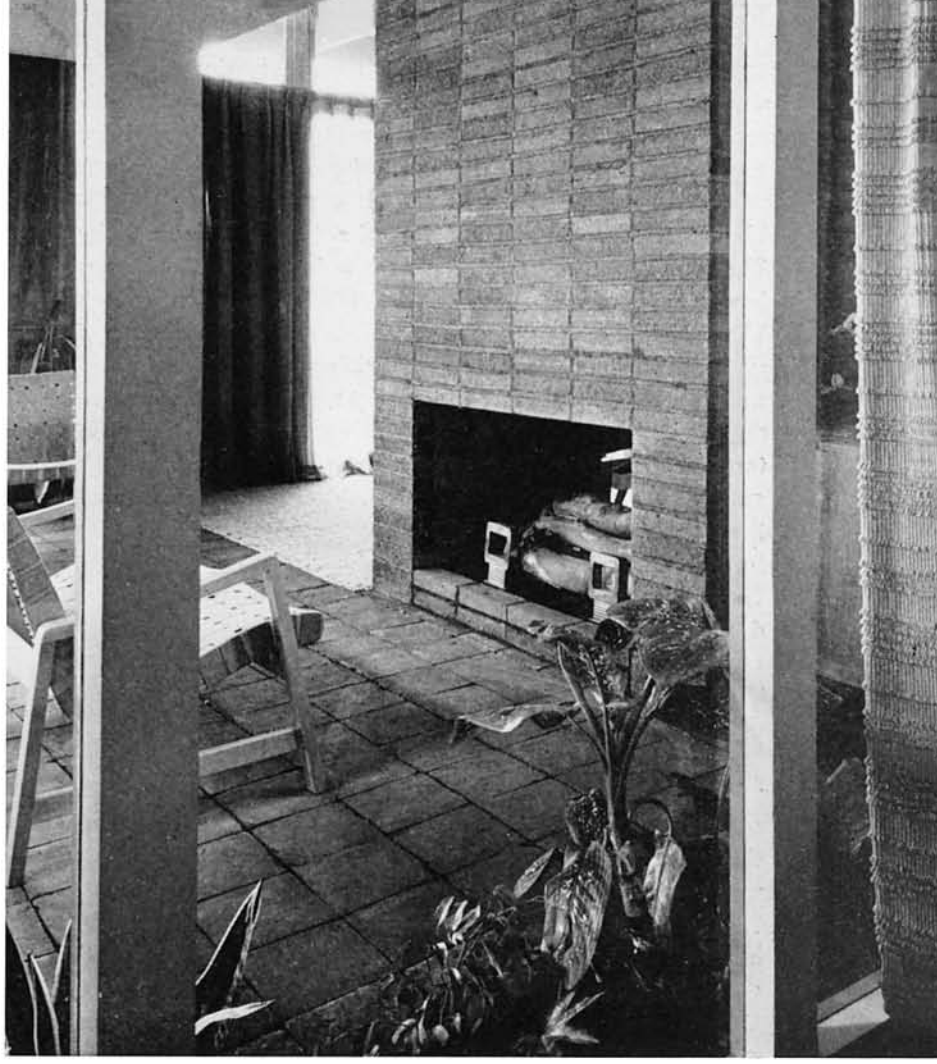
The bricked garden room, open as it is to the living room and divided from the main bedroom only by a transparent wall, adds spaciousness to both rooms, and gives to each a pleasant transition to outside living areas and outside views. The unity with the bedroom is emphasized by the blue wall at the east that continues through the glass partition into the bedroom. The south wall is glass, and additional light comes through the skylight at the glass partition between the garden room and the bedroom. The wide sliding door that forms half of the east wall opens to a brick terrace outside.

The large master bedroom, of sitting room size, has a glass south wall looking through the garden room to the ocean view. Draw drapes across this glass wall give the room privacy when required. A nine-foot sliding glass door to the east canyon view opens to a private grass terrace separated by planting from the adjoining garden room terrace. The unusually long closets with built-in drawers were dictated by the wife's hobby of designing clothes. The master bath in gray and yellow, opens into the room. Gray, yellow, blue and dark rose are used in the bedroom.

Since bedroom 2 is intended for guest use, it is placed at the other end of the house from the master bedroom and has its own bath. It is paneled in natural cedar with white trim and has a long south window which looks out over the dining terrace to the ocean view. Obscure glass has been used in the north windows to admit additional light while shutting out the service area.

A natural wood effect is achieved by the use of Formica "Realwood" on cabinet doors in the kitchen. Plain chocolate brown Formica is used on the sink, work spaces, splash, stove and laundry backings. The ceilings and other painted





Case Study House Number 18 is now open for public inspection and will remain open through April 15. Visiting hours are 2 to 4 p.m. Tuesdays through Fridays, and 1 to 5 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays; closed all day Mondays. To reach Case Study House Number 18 go west on Sunset Boulevard to Pacific Palisades, turn left on Chautauqua Way and proceed for a half mile. The address is 199 Chautauqua Way.

Products specified for use in CSHouse Number 18 will be found listed on Page 46.

areas are soft gray-blue. Kitchen and laundry equipment share this area, and the latter is concentrated in the north end of the room. The glass door at the south end brings the ocean view to the kitchen. The window bank on the west looks over the dining terrace to eucalyptus trees.

The house presents a low, informal exterior of clean design. The combed water-proof plywood, painted a natural wood-brown with soft blue-green trim, fits into the background. The principal glass areas with wide overhangs are on south and east. A bricked terrace, curving around east, south and south-east, takes in the outdoor patios that open from master bedroom, garden room, living room and the dining terrace. On the north the main entry and adjoining service entry are separated by a plywood wall which extends to the garage. Obscure glass on the north wall gives privacy to the entry.

The house is constructed on a three-foot module system. 4 x 4 posts are joined with dowels every three feet to ceiling plates and floor plates. Each three foot section contains a fire block and two diagonal braces. Framing for doors and windows is unnecessary since in this system the space between posts becomes 2′ 8″, the standard door and window width. Joists and posts automatically line up over each other. Fixed window glass is slipped into grooves in the posts and puttied. Interior plywood is jointed in various ways, a different method being used in each major room. The module system was employed because of the strength inherent in such a structure, the absence of waste, the speed with which it can be constructed, and symmetry.

One other item which calls for explanation is the experimental heating system used in the living room. A metal duct used over the large southern glass area spreads hot air evenly from openings in each rafter bay. The air is channeled by the rafters themselves to air inlets on the north wall, making an open plenum of the entire ceiling. The hot air kept at the ceiling will warm the ceiling which in turn radiates heat to the room below. Thus no hot air is brought to the living level. Because of its experimental nature, this heating method is used in the living room only, a conventional hot air system being installed for use in the other rooms.