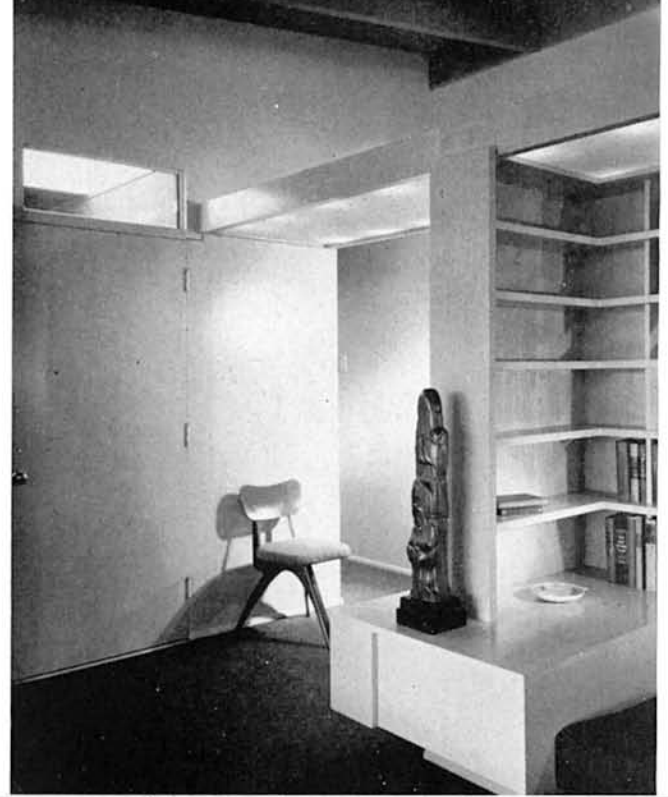


case study house #17

by RODNEY WALKER
Photography by Baskerville

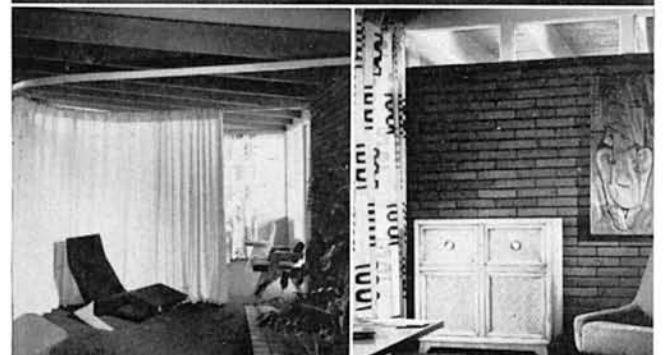
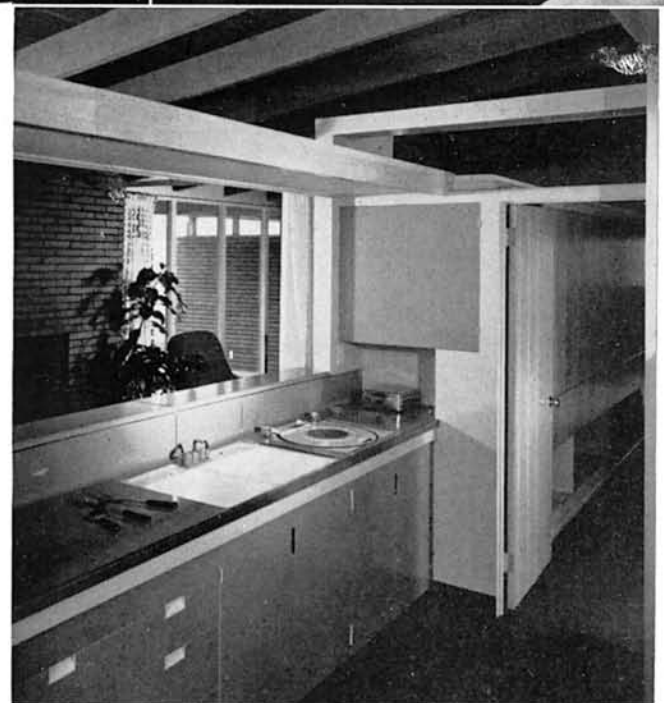
The property chosen for Case Study House No. 17 is on the hillside of a rather wide canyon. The budget limited the size of the house to 1560 square feet but more space was gained through the use of many glass areas. The house is set on a levelled section of the lot. At the crest of the curved sloping drive is an open car-port including the concrete entrance walk and steps. Above the walk, corrugated Plexiglas has been filled into the open space between the rafters. This accent and additional light source defeats any effect of entering through the garage. Since the house is above eye level, it was possible to have a completely private living patio in front, opening onto the view of the facing hill, without the constricting necessity of a patio wall.

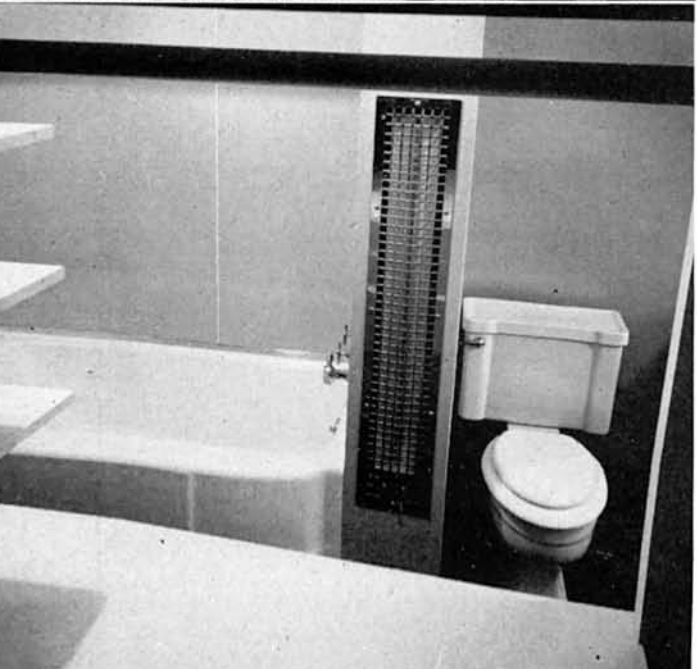
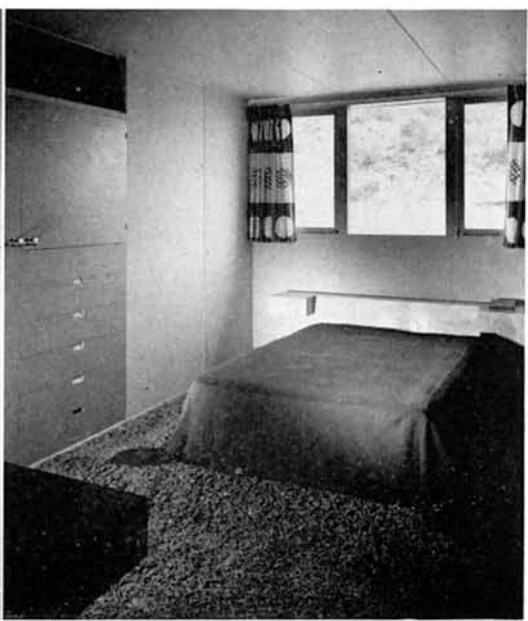
The front covered terrace is paved with concrete blocks and a small open fireplace is incorporated into the outside of the larger living room fireplace structure. Floor to ceiling glass panels on the front and side seem to enlarge the thirty-six foot living



and dining area by the nine foot width of the overhang. A brick wall at the entrance side of the car-port is several feet below ceiling height, it serves to separate the entrance from the terrace and continues to the front door. The space between the top of the wall and ceiling is filled with glass where it becomes the exterior of the living room. The interior bricks have been left unfaced, which carries the eye through the glass front, adding the feeling of width to the living room.

The construction of the house is four by four posts three feet on center, this spacing permitting the use of standard door and window sash without the need of additional framing. The exterior of the house is striated plywood. The roof is flat except over the living-dining area where it sheds up to a line of transoms running the full length of the room. One inch T&G planking, surface milled with lengthwise grooves is used as sheathing as well as the inside ceiling finish between the exposed rafters of the living-dining room. The other rooms have plywood panel ceilings. The roof is surfaced with highly reflective crushed white dolomite, built up on the rolled asphalt roofing under which is an aluminum foil insulation.





The plan of the house is three longitudinal sections. One includes the car-port and living-dining areas. The back section consists of three bedrooms with dividing bath. The center part holds the entry and circulation hall and swells into a work room at one end and a galley type kitchen at the other. A bar height partition backing the sink and counter is the only separation from the dining area. There is an overhead track paralleling out from either side of the fireplace and joining in a semi-circular arc on the other side of the room. The drape may be pulled on either side of the track, enlarging the dining room and including the fireplace, or decreasing the size of the dining room and excluding the fireplace. The partition between the living area and hall is lined with bookcases above the twelve foot long built-in lounge.

A shelf of Plexiglas runs the full length of the living-dining room for overall lighting, this lowered section serves as a dividing device to define the living room from entry hall. The general lighting in most of the rooms is from panels of frosted Plexiglas flush with walls or ceiling.

The living room interior is finished in birch plywood and the rest of the interior is painted Douglas fir. Heating is forced air with a furnace installed above the floor. It operates on the Venturi principle, circulating warm air without fan or blower.

The house was designed to meet the specific requirements of clients and site at the present reasonable cost of ten dollars a square foot.

Case Study House No. 17 is located at 7861 Woodrow Wilson Drive, Hollywood. It will be open for inspection for two months beginning July 13. Tuesday through Friday 2 to 4 P.M. Saturday and Sunday 2 to 6 P.M.

Products used in Case Study House No. 17 are listed on page 13.