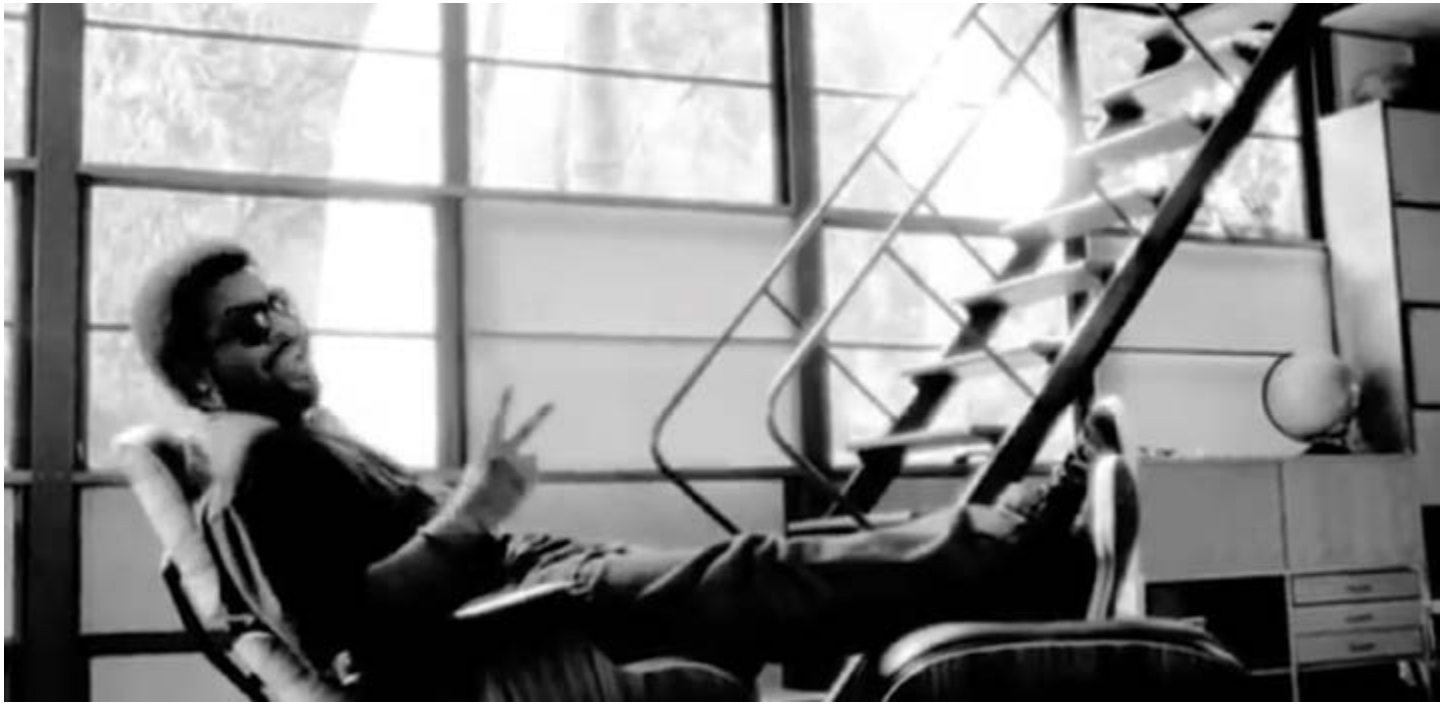

Pictured: famous celebrity ‘Ice Cube’ in the Eames House

Case Study House #8
Ariana C. Espinosa

EAMES HOUSE

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PURPOSE & HISTORY

The Eames House, also known as Case Study House #8, was constructed by the married couple Charles and Ray Eames, and originally designed as their personal home and studio space. However, the design's purpose was to serve the needs of the couple, combining nature and the outdoors with their workspace and everyday lives.

At the end of World War II, Charles and Ray Eames joined an architectural movement that aimed to design and create affordable housing for war veterans. This led to the Case Study Houses. Specifically, Case Study House #8 (Eames House) celebrates mass production in architecture, as well as functionality in design, to create a living space that is high in quality and low in cost. This is why the house is now a landmark of mid-20th century modern architecture.

MEET THE DESIGNERS

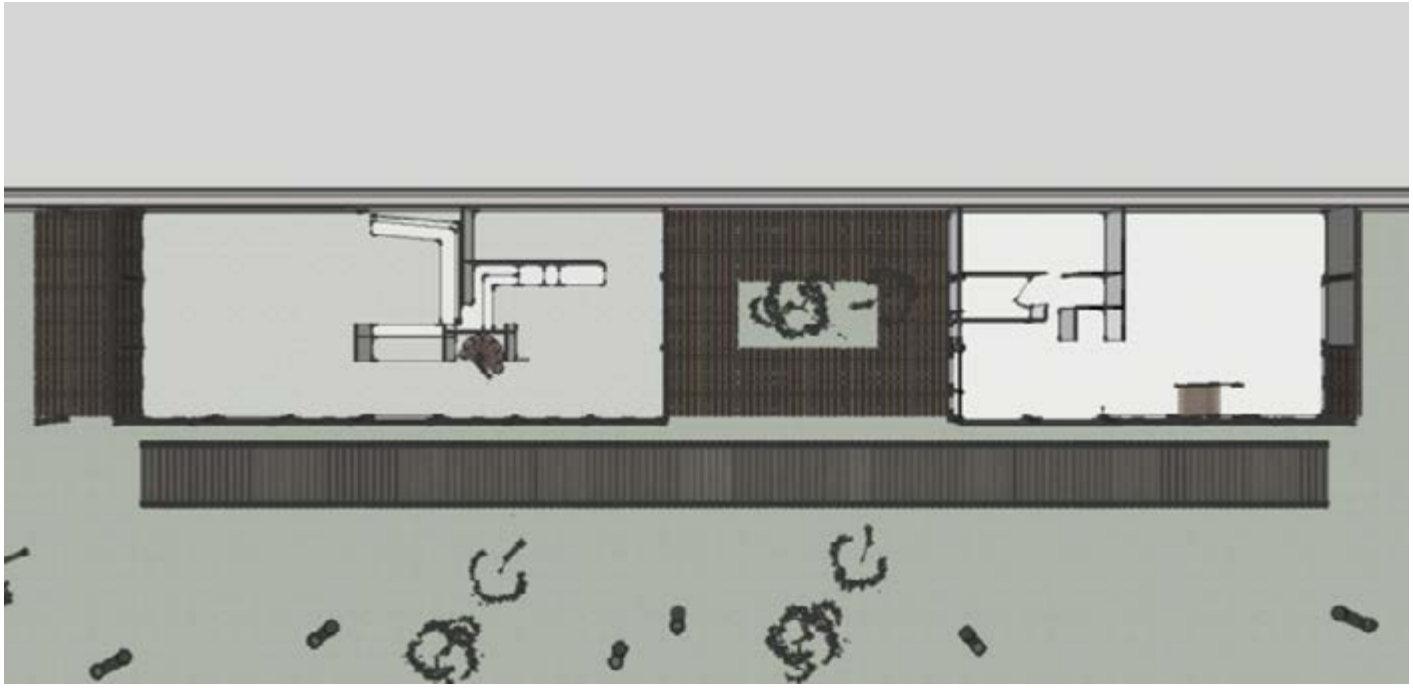
The couple married in 1941 and moved to California, where they developed a way to mold plywood and use it to design furniture.

Ray, Born in 1912 in Sacramento, California, was no less of a creative mastermind that her husband Charles. She moved to NYC and later became a founding member of the American Abstract Artists in 1936.

Charles, born in 1907 in St. Louis, Missouri. He started his own architectural office in 1930, and later became the head of the Industrial Design Department at the Cranbrook Academy of Art.

PLANS

Floor Plans



Transverse Section

The house is designed through an open plan, meaning the spaces in the interior are mostly open space and interconnected. However, the house does have private spaces, these being the storage room and the upstairs bedrooms and bathrooms. These private spaces are separated and kept private, yet the house continues to celebrate its large, open space.

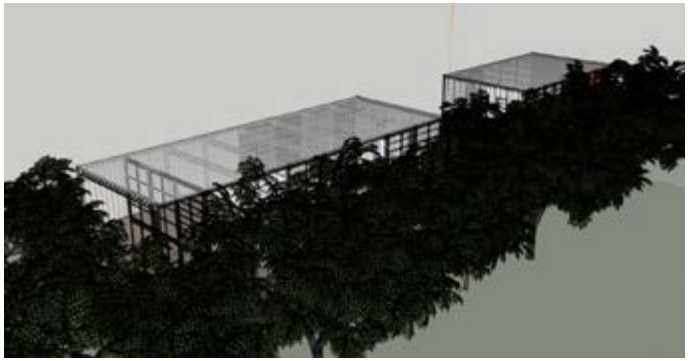
The house's design is essentially modular, which reinforces the symmetry of the design as well as the harmony in all its elements. The hierarchy of circulation is in the large, open space, since daily activities revolve around this space. The smaller spaces, such as the bedrooms and bathrooms in the upstairs floor, are less hierarchical because of their privacy.

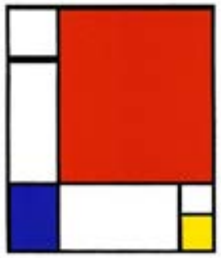
PROGRAM

The interior of the house celebrates functionality in its essence. It reflects the daily needs and everyday lives of its residents, which in this case are a married couple that combine work and everyday domestic activities.

FORMAL APPEARANCE

The Eames House is known for its unique representation of modern design in architecture. Its construction is based on the steel frames and fixed panels varying in materials such as wood, plaster, and glass – the glass being some transparent, some opaque, some translucent. The color scheme varies with its splashes of primary colors among bright whites and the black and grey panels. This gives it an almost Mondrian-style, emphasizing modern art in its essence





Piet Mondrian

The use of design principles in the Eames House is what stands out most when analyzing its design. It uses contrast with the use of bursts of primary colors, contrasting with industrial materials like the steel frame and wood panels. It also contrasts with the use of light that infiltrates through glass panels. These panels, which are placed in a modular manner, show the use of repetition and rhythm. The proportion of the large interior space highlights the hierarchy of the common/living space, while individual rooms such as the bedrooms and bathrooms are kept private.

Topography is highlighted and celebrated in the Eames House. Its glass panels allow natural light to fill its interior, and also promotes easy living as it combines the nature and landscape of the exterior with the interior. The light quality of the interior creates the perfect mood for healthy living, and its natural light proves to create the sensation of relaxation as well as day to day activities in the house and at the work/studio area. The double height in the interior creates positive and negative space.

Most of the materials –steel, wood, among others- are prefabricated and relatively inexpensive, supporting the idea of industrial construction and mass production.

SPECIAL QUALITIES & CONSTRUCTION

SUSTAINABILITY

The Eames House is constructed in a sustainable way, using its architectural design to minimize resource waste and consumption, and utilize natural resources. It promotes natural light, letting daylight in through glass panels and essentially minimizing energy use. The use of prefabricated and mass produced materials also ensure long-lasting construction, and promote resourceful thinking.

Frontal View

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