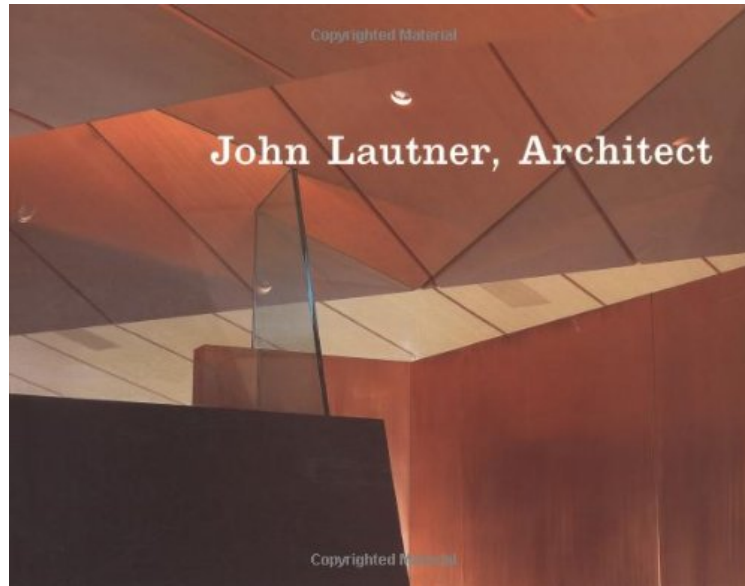



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John Lautner, Architect

Frank Escher

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Frank Escher : John Lautner, Architect before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised John Lautner, Architect:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. The best! By Jerry Thorpe The best book on John Lautner! There is some biographical information but most of the book looks at his works. There is a floor plan, some photographs, and often some technical sketches for each of his projects. John Lautner talks about the clients, their wishes, and his solutions. Frank Escher has done a wonderful job with this book. 4 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Good, But Not as Good as The Architecture of John Lautner By C. Casey I initially purchased this book to educate myself when I hired Arthur Dyson, a colleague of Lautner's, to design our home. I bought this book in the 1990s for around \$30, and am quite surprised to see it now going for about \$800! If you love Lautner, then you will of course like this book. It includes a comprehensive chronology of his residences, interlaced with textual narrative. It also includes a number of plan and elevation views. However, most of the photos are black and white. The resolution of all the photos is mediocre, having relatively poor contrast and some graininess. There are two other books that pretty much tell the same story but with much better visuals: The Architecture of John Lautner by Weintraub, and Lautner by Barbara-Ann Campbell-Lange. For details, see my reviews of those books on . For photos of my house, designed by Arthur Dyson and built completely by my weary old hands, see [...]. 5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Marvelous resource and record... By Taylor Haywood This book is really a treasure, with virtually all of the text and commentary provided by Lautner himself. A wonderful resource for anyone interested in understanding Lautner and his work. The photographs, plentiful, are not quite as striking and colorful as in later books (especially the Hess/Weintraub book), but are interesting as most seem to be roughly contemporary with each building's completion, probably the original documentation photography, usually showing the original furniture and decor. (This is also the reason that a few buildings, like the Harvey House, have no interior photos--Lautner was not happy with certain decorative decisions and would not permit their publication.) This book and the Hess/Weintraub book together allow a

fascinating "then/now" look at many buildings, showing how well they have adapted and survived changing styles and tastes. Furthermore, this is the most comprehensive of the books on Lautner, including a great deal more buildings than the others and also a complete list of works, both built and unbuilt, sometimes with drawings. Buildings are also covered in more detail, with plans and sections provided for each. A note on the older/hardcover editions: some may have binding errors, such as groups of pages out of place or upside down (the title is also upside down on the spine), but these errors may be unique to just a few copies, I'm not sure. Also, I know there is at least one photo that is slightly different in my hardcover copy than in the paperback--same view, different lighting and furniture.

John Lautner was the quintessential Los Angeles architect. His houses, many perched on hillsides with sweeping glass walls overlooking the valley below, are icons of the drama and exuberance of the best of Southern California architecture. Born in 1911, Lautner apprenticed to Frank Lloyd Wright before establishing his own office in Hollywood in 1939. Among his best-known projects are the Malin Residence (Chemosphere), the Reiner Residence (Silvertop), and the Elrod Residence in Palm Springs (seen in the James Bond film *Diamonds Are Forever*). Designed with Lautner before his death in 1994, this oversized monograph is the only book available on the imaginative and exciting work of this modern master. It includes almost fifty houses, each described in detailed drawings and lavish photographs, as well as an interview in which Lautner discusses the most important influences on his work and his eccentric views on architecture. "This book celebrates the career of a neglected giant, who enriched the Southland for over fifty years.... Enthusiasts have had to wait for this sumptuous publication to discover the full range of John Lautner's achievement... He was an original striving for the unique, drawing his inspiration from the site, unbending and outspoken". -- Michael Webb, L.A. Architect "This book presents some fifty of the realized projects as well as republishing an interview that Marlene Laskey conducted with the architect in 1986, and a collection of Lautner's observations.... The spectacular location of the villas -- on rocky slopes, on the ocean, or, better still, on rocky slopes overlooking the ocean -- is invariably exploited by Lautner to the full. He developed an infallible feeling for using the design of his houses to emphasize the dramatic aspect of their setting. Grand gestures, prodigious cantilevers (certainly since he discovered the structural possibilities of concrete in 1963), subtle light delivery, and strategic orientation are the most striking characteristics, together with the vast dimensions and robust finish". -- Arthur Wortmann, Archis

"In this fascinating account of new previously unreported information on the commission of American posters during World War II, the authors vividly present quotes revealing the goals and methods applied to pictorial standards. With new insights familiar posters come alive again as the strategies for their design are discussed and assessed in an up to date historical perspective. This book will be invaluable to all those interested in the World War II studies and graphic design." -- Therese Thau Heyman "This book presents some fifty of the realized projects as well as republishing an interview that Marlene Laskey conducted with the architect in 1986, and a collection of Lautner's observations.... The spectacular location of the villas--on rocky slopes, on the ocean, or, better still, on rocky slopes overlooking the ocean-- is invariably exploited by Lautner to the full. He developed an infallible feeling for using the design of his houses to emphasize the dramatic aspect of their setting. Grand gestures, prodigious cantilevers (certainly since he discovered the structural possibilities of concrete in 1963), subtle light delivery, and strategic orientation are the most striking characteristics, together with the vast dimensions and robust finish." -- Arthur Wortmann, Archis "This book celebrates the career of a neglected giant, who enriched the Southland for over fifty years.... Enthusiasts have had to wait for this sumptuous publication to discover the full range of John Lautner's achievement.... He was an original striving for the unique, drawing his inspiration from the site, unbending and outspoken." -- Michael Webb, L.A. Architect Lesser known to laymen's eyes is the work compiled in the recent paperback release of *John Lautner, Architect* (edited by Frank Escher; Princeton Architectural Press). A Wright apprentice who started his own practice in 1939, Lautner melded his space-age vision for housing with the California landscape, incorporating great expanses of glass, low-slung furniture, and natural materials. -- Elle Dcor "This is the only book on Lautner's work, which spanned the late '30s to the early '90s (he died in 1994) and, fittingly, it is truly user-friendly. Accompanying the 500 photographs are nuggets of text in which the architect--a former associate of Frank Lloyd Wright--lays out his ideas in no-nonsense language and talks about the experience of putting each house together. Love 'em or hate 'em, you have to agree that they are the products of an abiding interest in marrying people's domestic needs to unusual spaces." -- LA Times