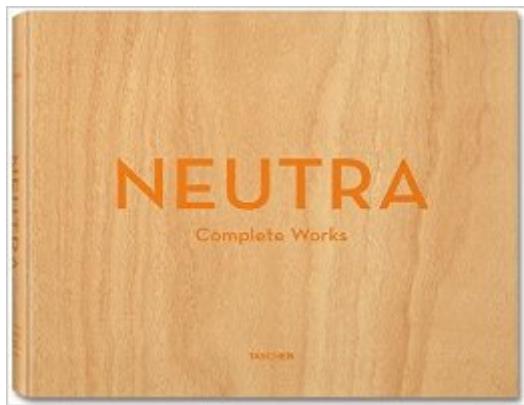


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# Neutra: Complete Works



## Synopsis

The quintessential California Modernist: Richard Neutra and his search for modern architecture Â Originally from Vienna, Richard Neutra came to America early in his career, settling in California. His influence on post-war architecture is undisputed, the sunny climate and rich landscape being particularly suited to his cool, sleek modern style. Neutra had a keen appreciation for the relationship between people and nature; his trademark plate glass walls and ceilings which turn into deep overhangs have the effect of connecting the indoors with the outdoors. His ability to incorporate technology, aesthetic, science, and nature into his designs brought him to the forefront of Modernist architecture. In this volume, all of Neutraâ™s works (nearly 300 private homes, schools, and public buildings) are gathered together, illustrated by over 1,000 photographs, including those of Julius Shulman and other prominent photographers. Â Text in English, French, and German

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

The original, deluxe version of this work Richard Neutra: Complete Works (Architecture & Design Architecture & Design S.)(ISBN 3822866229), published in June 2000, was 360 pages and a whopping 18.5" x 13", bound with a real wood cover. It is out-of-print, and the cheapest copy on today is \$445 (used \$230).The much reduced-in-size reprint (ISBN 3836512440) was published in October 2010 to celebrate Taschen's 25th anniversary. It has 100 pages more than the original but is only 13.3" x 10.3". price today is \$44.09 new. The cover title is in a sans-serif, Neutra-esque font. I believe the only difference in content is the size of the photos, but I'd appreciate some confirmation

on that. Unfortunately, reader reviews for one edition are also posted under the other, and the price table on the original's page includes reprints. So, beware! Reviews posted before October 2010 are obviously for the earlier work. And if you're purchasing an original edition, you'll probably want to ensure you're not paying several hundred for a reprint. But either way, it's an excellent book highlighting an amazing career. Enjoy!

This luxe volume traces the entire career of the great Richard Neutra (1892 - 1970), whose work symbolizes Modernist splendor in all its glory. Highly acclaimed for his designs of California residences, Neutra is one of the most important architects of the century and well deserving of this stunning tribute. Originally from Vienna, Neutra came to America early in his career, settling on the West Coast. His influence on post-war architecture is undisputed, the sunny climate and rich landscape of California being a particularly suitable setting for his cool, sleek modern style. Neutra had a keen appreciation of the relationship between people and nature and his trademark plate glass walls and ceilings which turn into deep overhangs effectively connect the indoors with the outdoors. His ability to incorporate technology, aesthetics, science, and nature into his designs brought him to the forefront of Modernist architecture. For the first time, all of Neutra's works (nearly 300 private homes, schools, and public buildings) are gathered together in one volume, illustrated with over 1,000 photographs, including those of Julius Shulman and other prominent photographers. This is the essential reference book for fans of Neutra's work. The horizontal 11.5" x 16" format shows the buildings to extraordinarily good advantage. This special volume with a blond wood cover is both an architecture lover's and book collector's dream.

I love modernist architecture, and I have found that the stories about the most famous houses are fascinating. Modernist houses were built for an interesting cross-section of America--not just the rich. So, it was with great anticipation that I ordered this book, widely acknowledged as the definitive Neutra volume. Here's the rub: it's printed in the three languages (English, French, and German). This book would probably be 30% shorter if it was an English-only version. The larger issue, however, is that this book suffers from a typical problem of books intended for reference: in the authors' drive to include everything, it covers almost nothing. Most houses in this book get a couple of paragraphs--maybe 4 or 5 at the most. The photography is mostly original from the period, which is great, but there's not much of it per house. Thus, it's very hard to get a feel for any particular house in this book because each one is covered so perfunctorily. You get to see front, pool, and perhaps the kitchen and a bedroom. Maybe a living room shot, too. Most are small. I would have

liked to see the authors lavish some space on at least a few interesting or significant works--perhaps 4-6 pages for these, with more/larger color photos. As it is now, it's more like a architectural photography book (ooh, interesting shot!) than a book of Neutra houses. It reads like a card catalog of Neutra houses with minor factoids doodled in the margins.

This book is awesome for a fan of 20th century architectural design. Even if you just enjoy good design, you'd appreciate the history and the photographs of this great master's work. The fact that the book is so oversized is a conversation piece in itself reflecting the treasure it holds inside. The cover is made out of actual hardwood, the text is written in English, German and French and most all the photographs are black and white. A true treasure for any collector.

This book is huge and heavy and hard to hold, but is the ultimate collection of photos (mostly B/W) and descriptions of Neutra and his work. It's written in 3 languages, which means that a lot of the volume of the book (2/3 of the text) is wasted space, though the book is easily 50% photos. A detailed (roughly 15% of the book) nontechnical history, light bio, and analysis is included at the beginning, which is well written for a mass audience (ie, you don't need to be an architect to understand it). There is little to criticize. If you are reading the reviews for this book, that means you are looking for a book on Neutra specifically, and you aren't going to do much better than this.

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