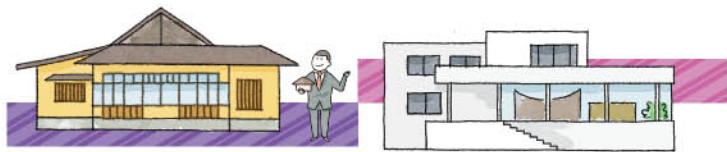


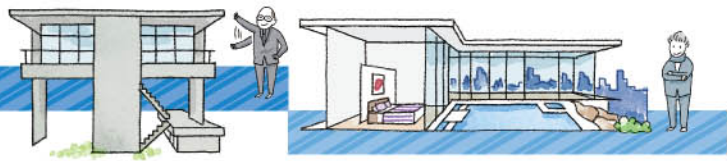
# LIVING MODERNITY



## EXPERIMENTS



## IN THE EXCEPTIONAL



## AND EVERYDAY



## 1920s-1970s



## GUIDEBOOK



新 国立新美術館  
THE NATIONAL ART CENTER, TOKYO

# LIVING MODERNITY

EXPERIMENTS IN THE EXCEPTIONAL  
AND EVERYDAY 1920s-1970s

## PERIOD

March 19 (Wed), 2025 - June 30 (Mon), 2025

Closed on Tuesday, May 7

\*Open on April 29 and May 6



## HOURS

10:00 - 18:00

\*10:00-20:00 on Fridays and Saturdays  
(Last admission 30 minutes before closing)

## VENUE

The National Art Center, Tokyo  
Special Exhibition Gallery 1E, 2E

## ORGANIAED by



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## LIVING Modernity:

Experiments in the Exceptional and Everyday  
1920s-1970s Guidebook

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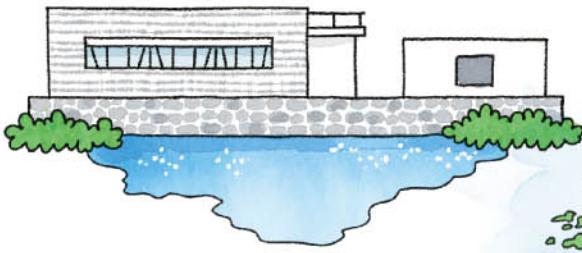
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THE  
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ART CENTER.  
TOKYO

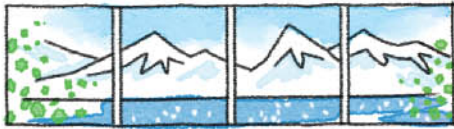
# A house that lets in views of the lake and mountains



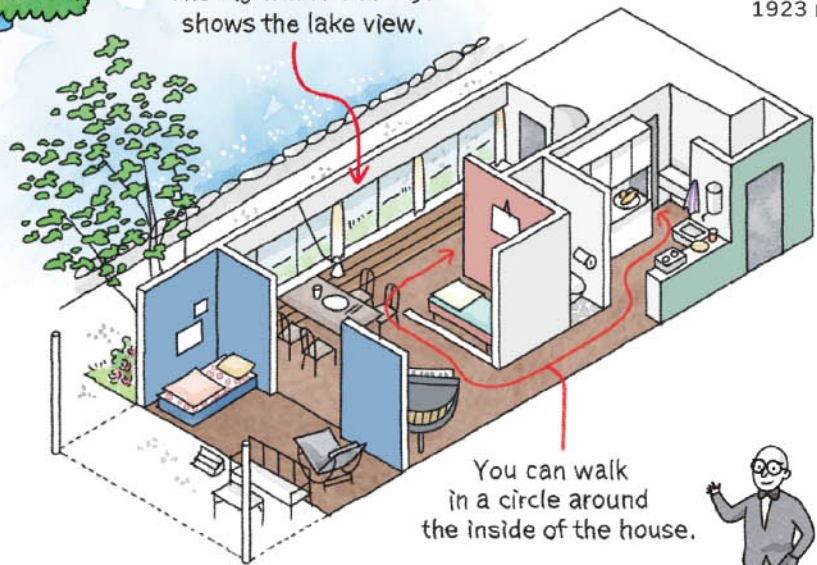
Le Corbusier  
Corseaux, Switzerland  
1923

## POINT

New building technology made it possible to make large windows. This let people bring beautiful views into the home.



The big window always shows the lake view.



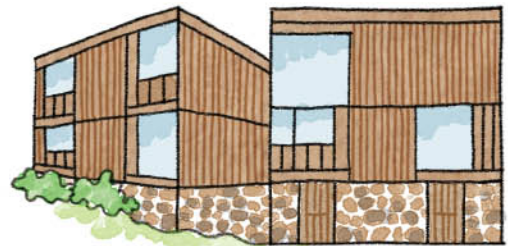
You can walk in a circle around the inside of the house.



The architect of this house shared new ideas with the world, like wide horizontal windows, rooms that are just the right size, and rooftop gardens. He even used these ideas in this small house, which he built for his parents.

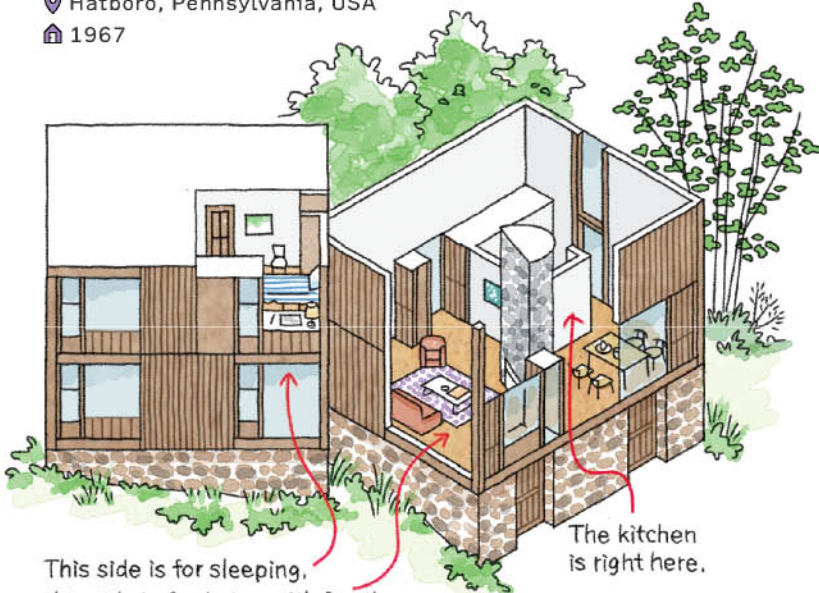
# A house made of two boxes, with many windows

Louis Kahn  
Hatboro, Pennsylvania, USA  
1967



## POINT

The windows have different uses. Some are for enjoying the view. Others let fresh air in. Some are built together with benches for sitting.



This side is for sleeping, this side is for being with family.

The kitchen is right here.



This house is made by turning two boxes so they sit at a 45-degree angle. One is called the "living cube," for family time. The other is the "sleeping cube," with bedrooms. The shape of the house is simple, but the windows, some large, some recessed, make it interesting to look at.

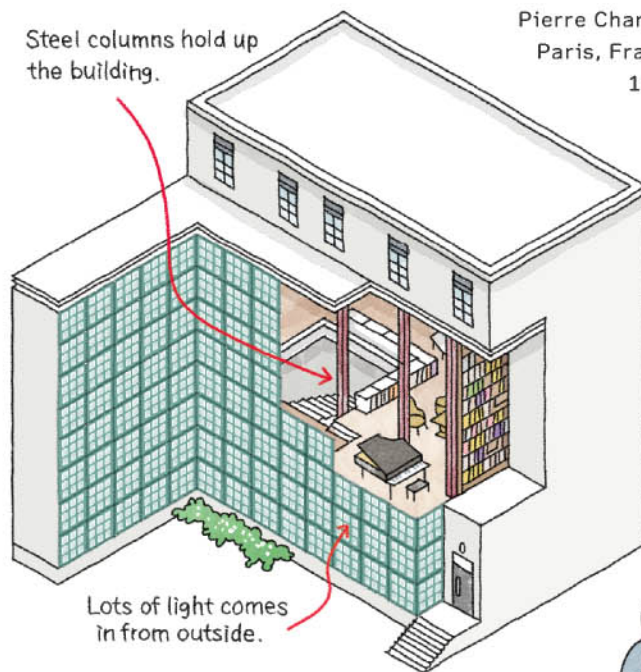


# A house with large glass walls, filled with light

Pierre Chareau  
Paris, France  
1932



Steel columns hold up the building.

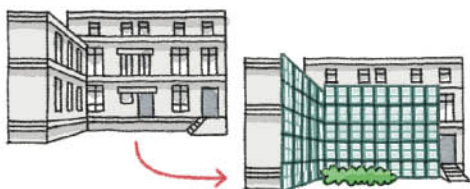


Lots of light comes in from outside.



## POINT

One side of an old apartment was taken down and replaced with a wall of glass blocks. This changed the whole look of the building.

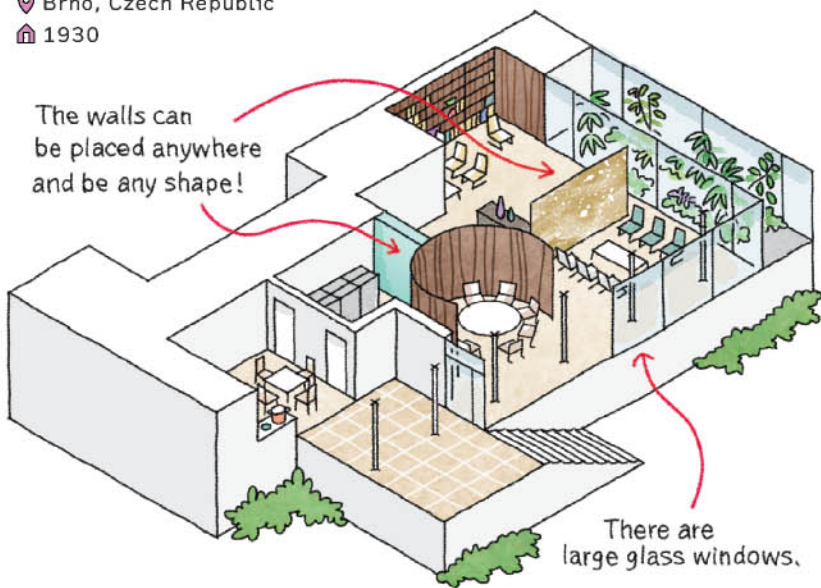


Architects always dreamed of bringing lots of light into homes. This used to be an apartment building with thick walls and small windows. To let in more light, the architect used steel columns to support the building and replaced the first- and second-floor walls with glass blocks. Now, light pours in through the large glass walls.

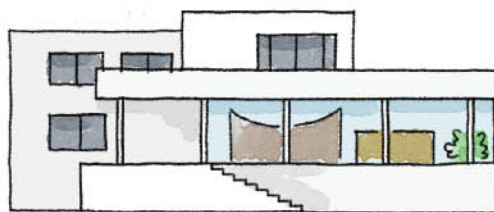
# A house with no thick walls and greater freedom

Ludwig Mies van der Rohe  
Brno, Czech Republic  
1930

The walls can be placed anywhere and be any shape!

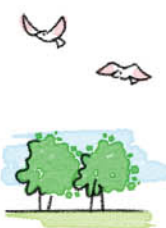


There are large glass windows.



## POINT

The columns are cross-shaped to look thin and light. Their surfaces are mirror-finished, so they reflect the outside view.

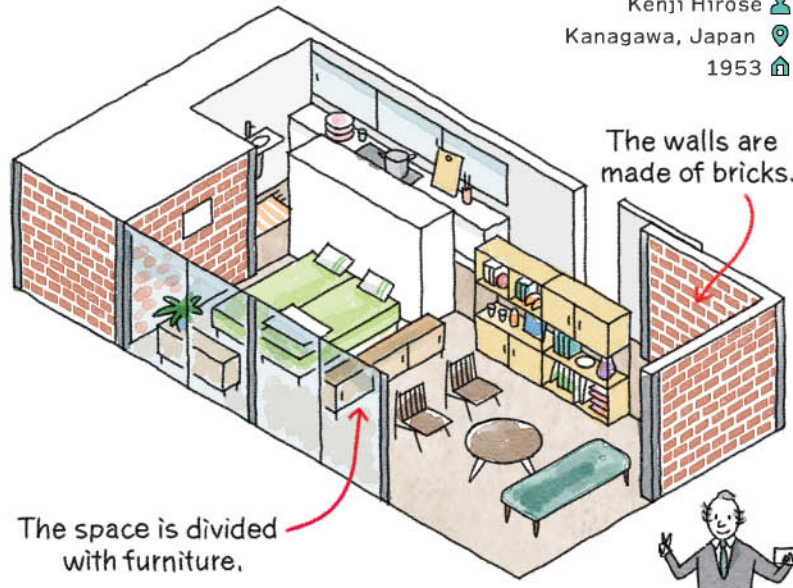


In the past, European houses had thick walls and tiny windows. But this house is held up by columns at regular intervals, so the walls can be thinner and the windows can be larger. It has a flat roof, a simple shape, and it's easy to live in.



# A house built with thin steel frames that can be made in large numbers

Kenji Hirose  
Kanagawa, Japan  
1953



The walls are made of bricks.

The space is divided with furniture.

## POINT



The architect built this house by himself. He used materials that are easy to put together, so there was no need for heavy construction work.

This architect wanted to share a new idea: houses with steel frames that are quick and easy to build. He found ways to use low-cost parts and put them together in a short time. These simple, smart steel-frame houses were later built in many places.



# A house that connects to the surrounding forest and lake

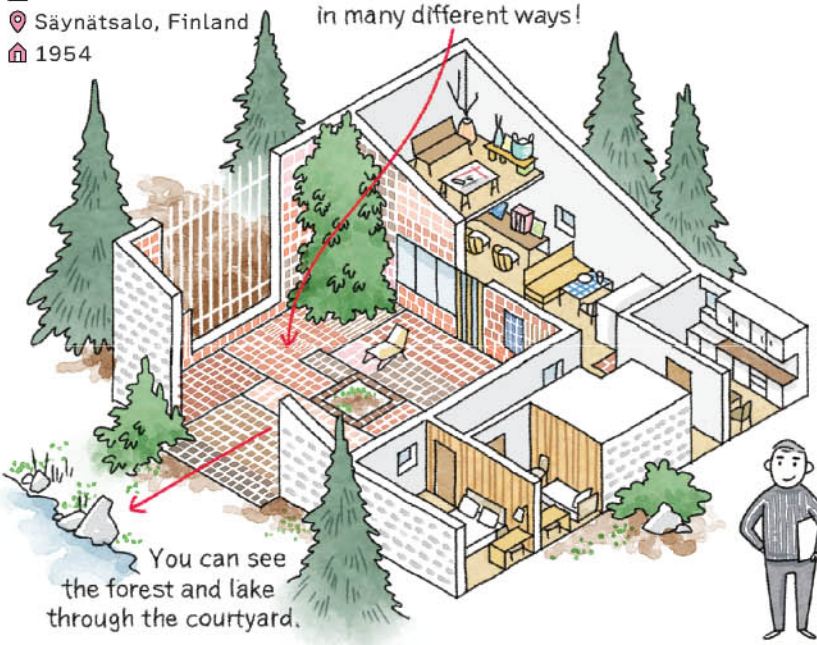
Alvar Aalto  
Säynätsalo, Finland  
1954

The courtyard can be used in many different ways!



## POINT

The design enables a way of life that makes use of the entire site, including the nature around, by incorporating a small sauna hut, a forest trail, and a dock by the lake.



You can see the forest and lake through the courtyard.



Just like its name "Experimental House," this was a place for trying new ideas. The outside walls are painted white, but inside the courtyard, the walls and floor are made with dozens of kinds of bricks and colorful tiles.



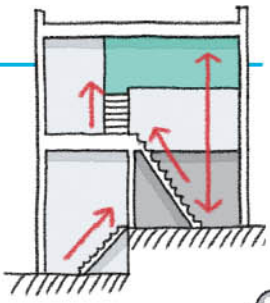
# A house with floors at different heights, connected by stairs



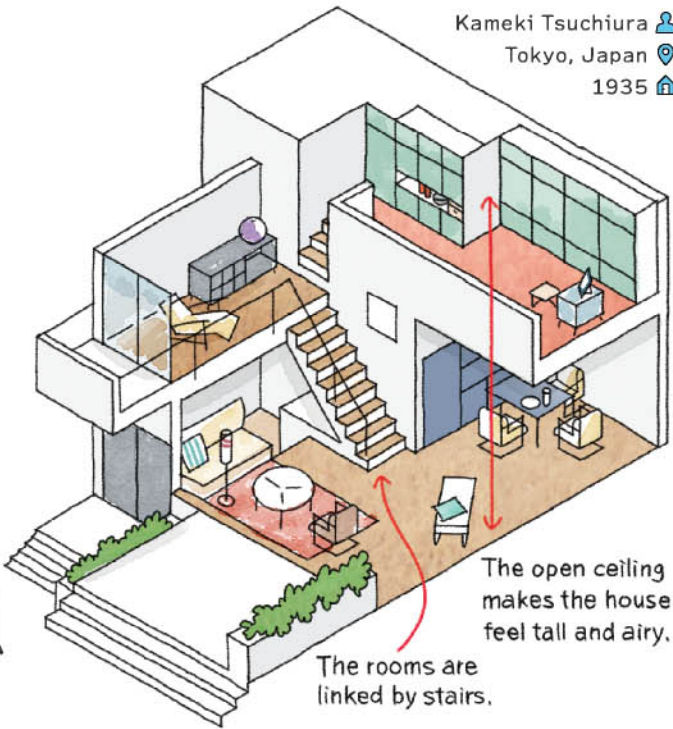
Kameki Tsuchiura  
Tokyo, Japan  
1935

## POINT

This house has a "skip-floor" design. The floors are at different levels and connected with stairs, so the rooms feel more 3D.



The architect wanted to bring new building ideas from other countries into Japan. He tried using German steel-frame methods, but with wood instead. The outside is a simple white box, but the inside has many clever ideas to make it easy to live in.

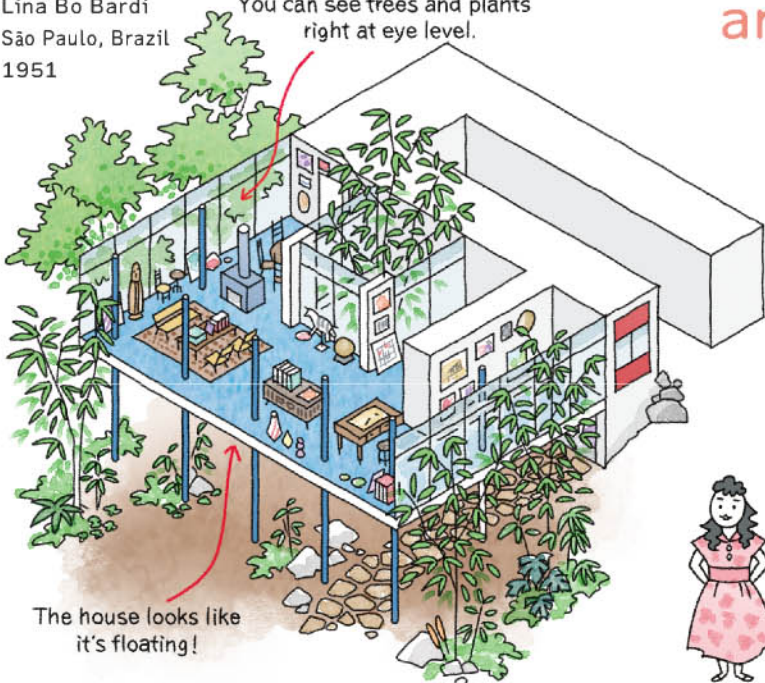


The open ceiling makes the house feel tall and airy.  
The rooms are linked by stairs.

# A house that becomes one with the trees and plants around it

Lina Bo Bardi  
São Paulo, Brazil  
1951

You can see trees and plants right at eye level.

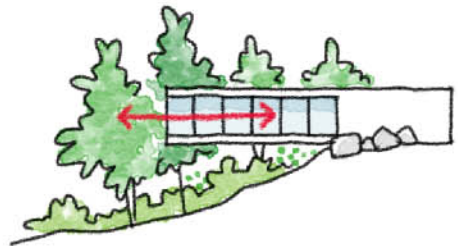


The house looks like it's floating!



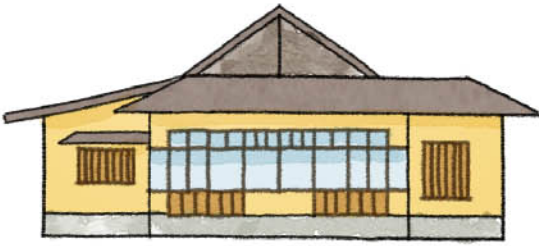
## POINT

The house is built on a slope, with the floor raised on columns. This makes the trees outside line up with your eyes when you're inside.



The architect was born in Italy and moved to Brazil. She loved Brazil's nature and culture. This place didn't have many trees or plants at first, so she planted them herself and made the house feel like part of the greenery.

# A Japanese house in harmony with the natural environment



## POINT

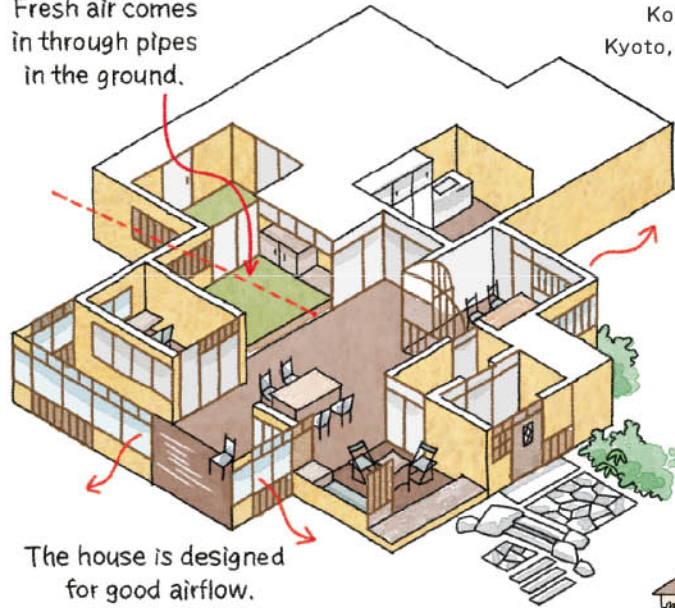
The tatami floor is raised so people sitting on chairs and on the floor can talk at the same eye level. Air from outside flows in through the space underneath.



In the Meiji era (1868-1912), new Western ways of living came to Japan, like using chairs and electricity. This house was made to fit those changes while still keeping good things about traditional Japanese homes. It also brings in wind and sunlight to create an ideal Japanese-style house.

Fresh air comes in through pipes in the ground.

Koji Fujii  
Kyoto, Japan  
1928



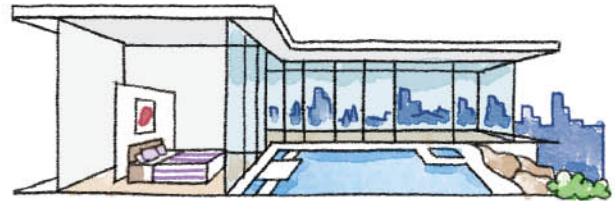
The house is designed for good airflow.



# An open house connected to the surrounding landscape

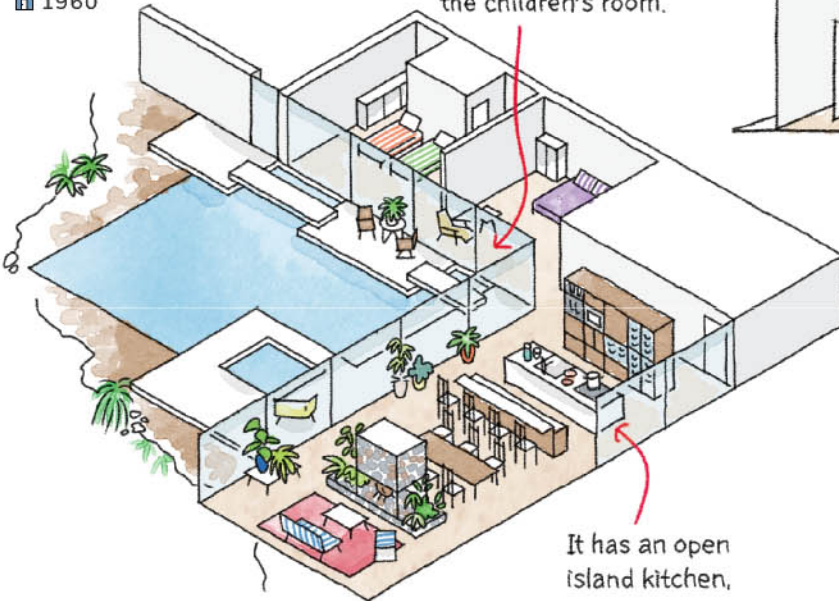
Pierre Koenig  
Los Angeles, California, USA  
1960

You can walk across a bridge to reach the children's room.



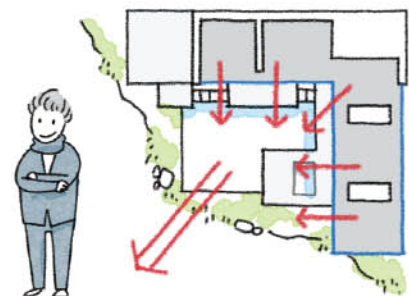
## POINT

The house is shaped like an "L" around a pool, so you can see the water from every room.

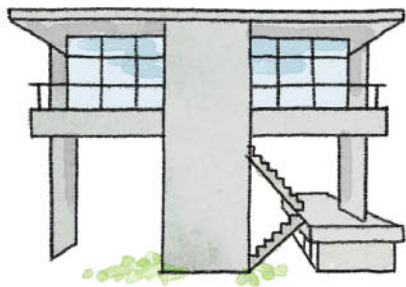


It has an open island kitchen.

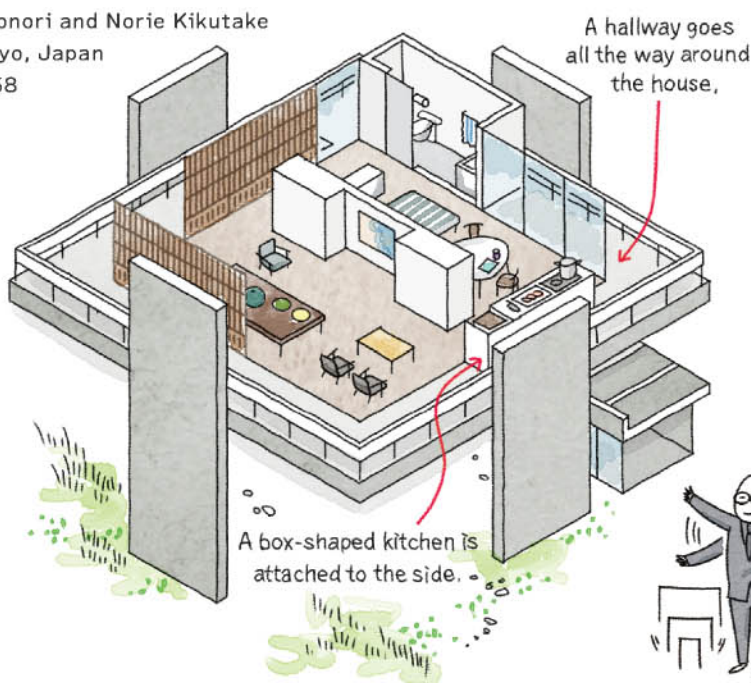
After World War II, there weren't enough houses in the United States. This home was designed to be built quickly using materials that were easy to get. With steel and glass, it has a bright, open space that fits perfectly with California's weather and nature.



# A house that changes to match how people live



Kiyonori and Norie Kikutake  
 Tokyo, Japan  
 1958

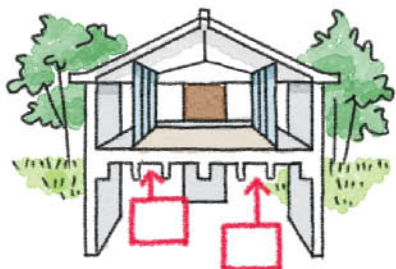


A hallway goes all the way around the house,

A box-shaped kitchen is attached to the side.

## POINT

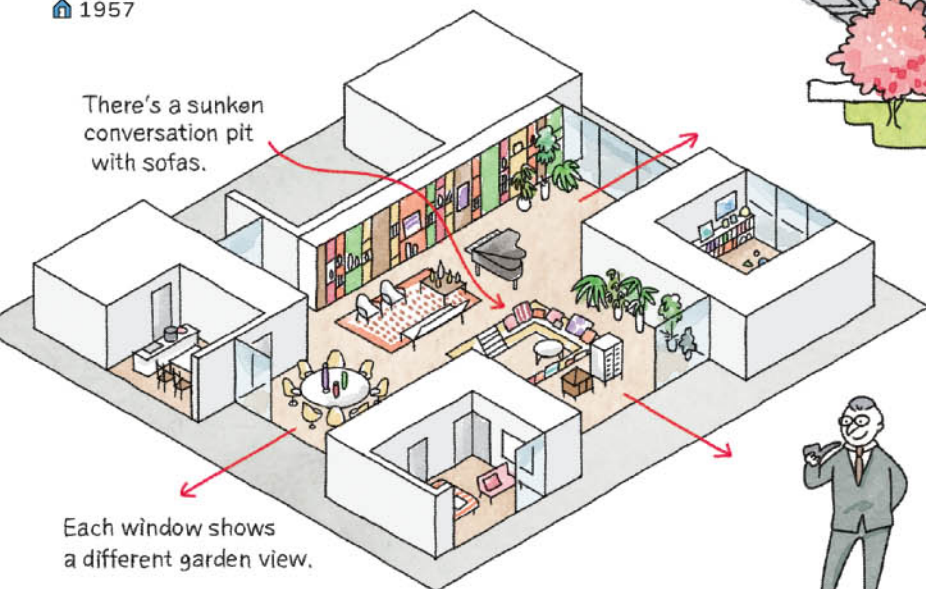
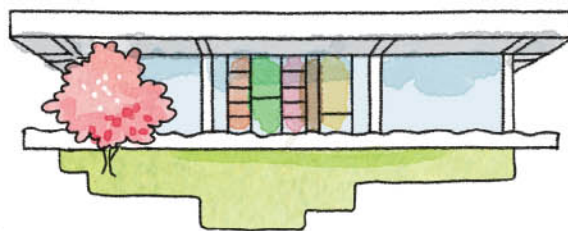
The house looks like it's floating above the ground. The kitchen and children's room are part of a system called "Move-net," and they can be added or removed.



When Japan's economy was growing quickly, architects had a new idea called "Metabolism." They thought buildings should change and grow like living things. This house is a great example, because it has changed shape over time to match families' needs and ways of living.

# A house designed together with its garden and furniture

Eero Saarinen, Alexander Girard, Dan Kiley  
 Columbus, Indiana, USA  
 1957



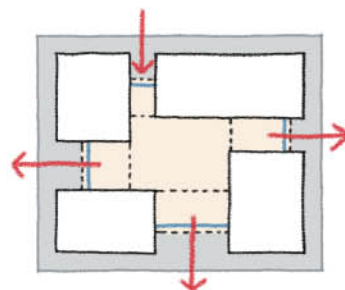
There's a sunken conversation pit with sofas.

Each window shows a different garden view.

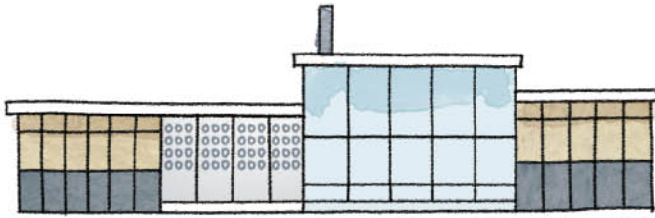
## POINT

The living room is in the center. It's surrounded by rooms for the seven family members, plus the kitchen and bathroom.

The house is divided into nine areas, with the living room in the center. The garden was designed to look beautiful from each specific part of the house. Even the fabric for the furniture and curtains was made to match the rooms and gardens.

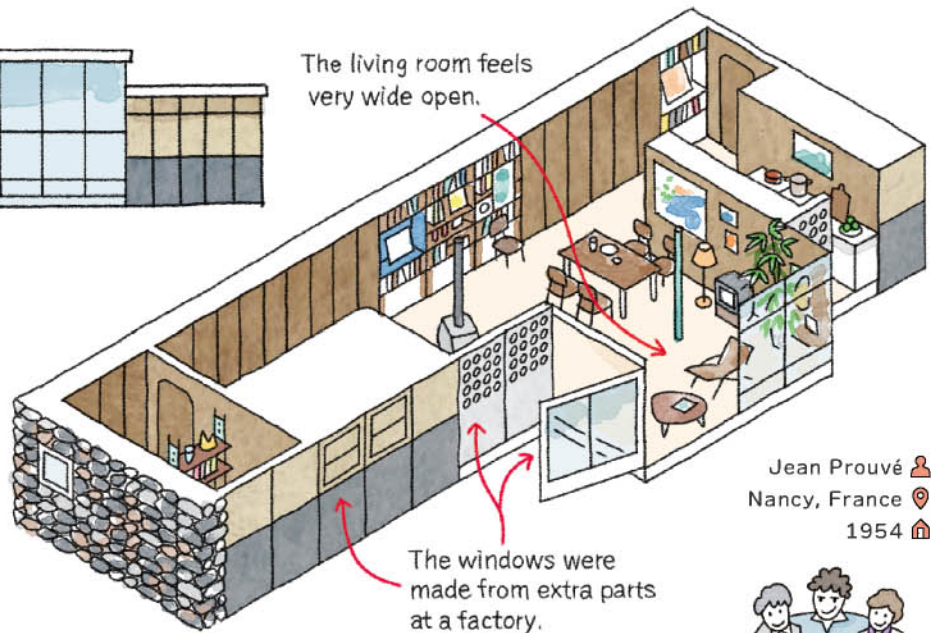
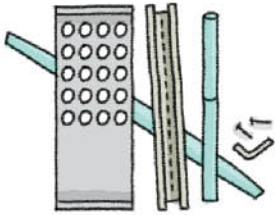


# A house built using leftover materials



## POINT

This is the architect's own house. He built it using spare parts from his factory.



The living room feels very wide open.

The windows were made from extra parts at a factory.

Jean Prouvé  
Nancy, France  
1954

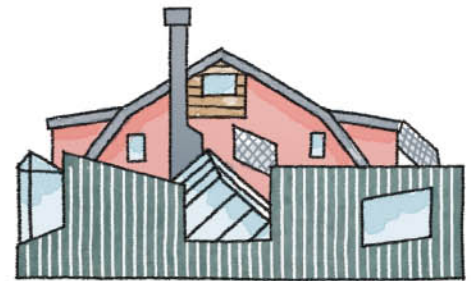
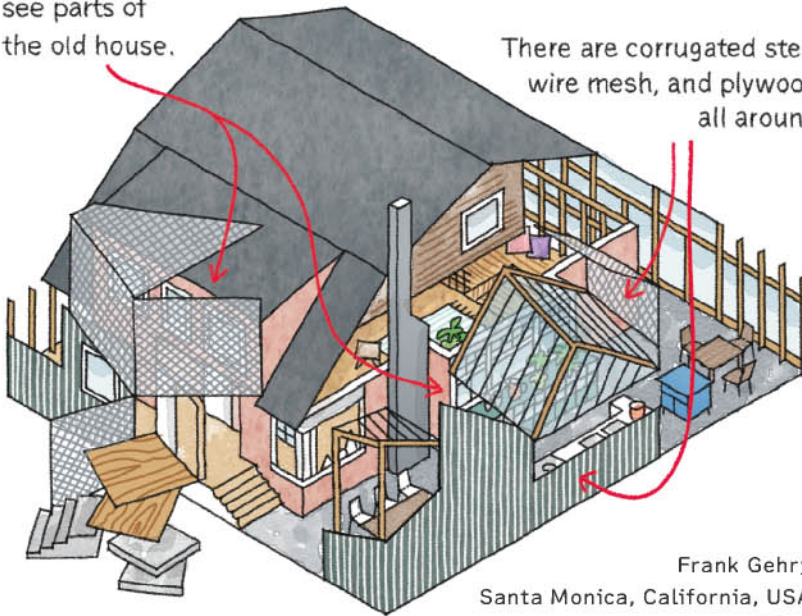


The architect used to run a factory that made building parts. He built this house with help from friends and family, using materials he already had. Even though he wasn't trained as an architect, he knew a lot about materials and how to use them, and that knowledge helped him create this home.

# A house that is never finished

You can still see parts of the old house.

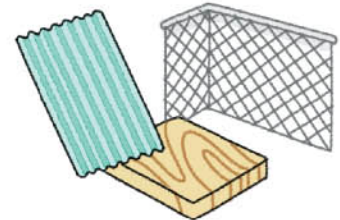
There are corrugated steel, wire mesh, and plywood all around.



## POINT

This house started as an ordinary home, but the architect changed it by adding cheap materials in a random way. It looked like something no one had seen before.

Frank Gehry  
Santa Monica, California, USA  
1978



The architect took off some of the original walls and ceilings and added new, unusual parts. The house was made to never be completely finished. Some windows are tilted so you can see the sky, and parts of the old house are still inside, so the space feels like a mix of old and new, inside and outside.