

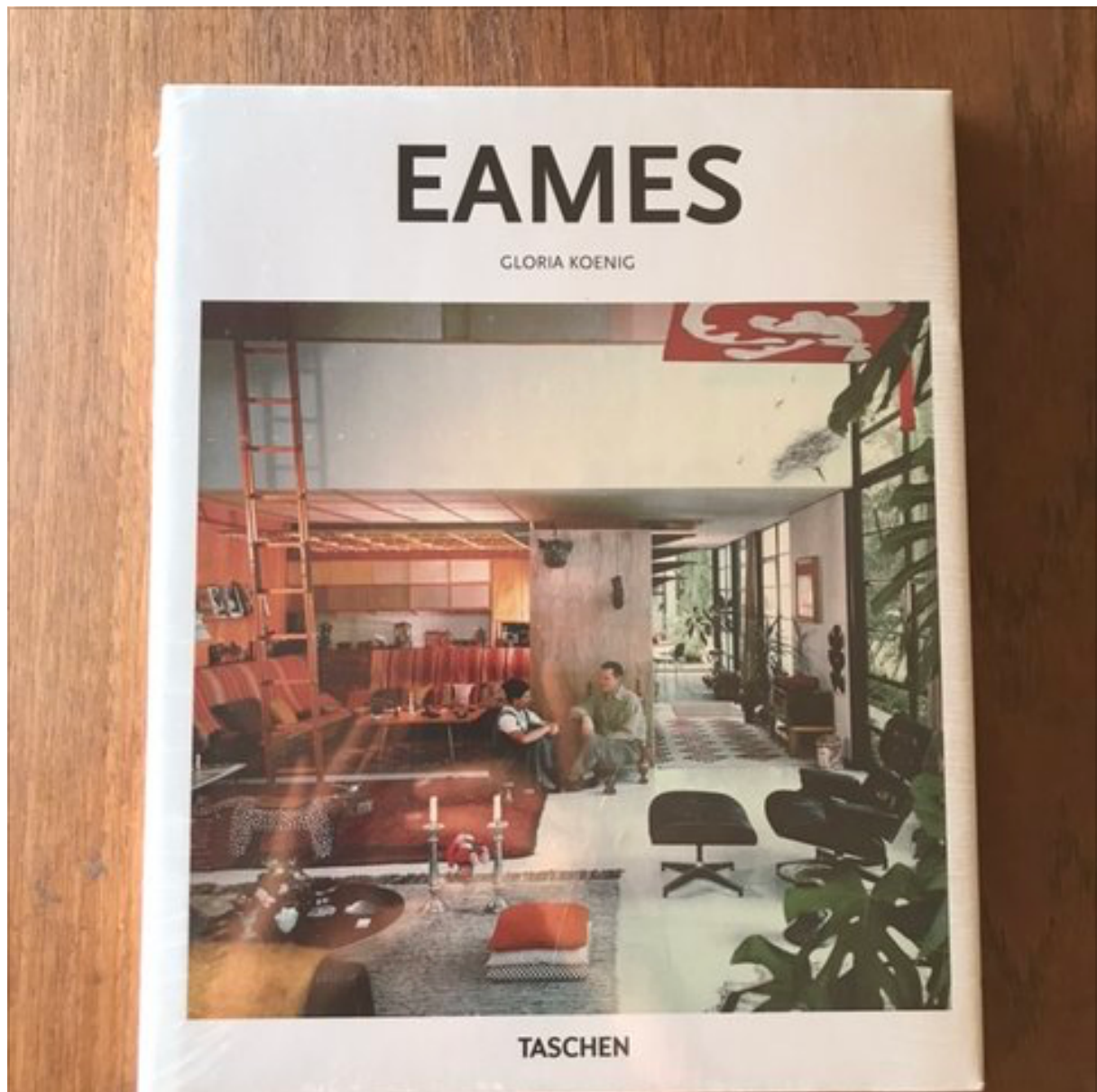
#88: Eames

#books

#books/rating/★★★★

#books/type/non-fiction

#books/date/2019/03



Overview

A nice overview of the Eames and their tremendous influence on design. It was neat to hear about their connection to LA—an office in Venice, off Abbott Kinney, using a factory for fiberglass-reinforced plastics based in Gardena—so much history around me, that I haven't been aware of.

Another great takeaway was the influence of World War 2 technology on the production of furniture and home design: molded plywood, plastics, and other building processes that

made products cheaper to make and more affordable for consumers. That helped to fulfill the primary strategy of the Eames office:

| “Bring the most of the best to the greatest number of people for the least.”

Book Notes

- Primary strategy of the Eames office: “Bring the most of the best to the greatest number of people for the least.” (pg. 7)
- Case study house program was sponsored by the *Arts & Architecture* magazine, in 1945; 23 were ultimately built (pg. 13)
- Created many films including *A Communications Primer*, *The Information Machine*, and *Powers of Ten*
- Invented the Kazam! machine to mold plywood for furniture; ended up mass producing wooden splints for the military. (pg. 22)
- Plywood furniture: “a compound of aesthetic brilliance and technical inventiveness”. (pg. 27)
- Plastics were invented during World War 2—polyester plastic reinforced with fiberglass was developed by the U.S. Air Force (pg. 57)
- Zenith Plastics, based in Gardena, made “fiberglass-reinforced plastic radar domes” during the war; made the first Eames chairs of same material
- “[The Eames] had finally achieved their goal of mass-producing molded compound curve furniture at prices the average person could afford.” (pg. 57)



- Herman Miller offered 2000 chairs for sale in 1950
- “We have to take pleasure seriously.” – Charles Eames (pg. 63)
- Eames Lounge Chair
 - Charles Eames wanted the Eames Lounge Chair to have the, “warm, receptive look of a well-used first baseman’s mitt.” (pg. 66)
 - By 1975, Herman Miller had sold 100,000
- The Eames Office developed the *Tandem Sling Seating*, installed in Dulles airport in 1962

