



# Richard Neutra and the Search for Modern Architecture

*By Thomas S. Hines*

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**Richard Neutra and the Search for Modern Architecture** By Thomas S. Hines

The story of Richard Neutra's life is, in many ways, the story of modern architecture. In his lifetime, Neutra experienced the buoyant struggles of the movement's early years, the heady excesses of its mid-century ascendancy, and the strains of its slow demise. Through his study of Richard Neutra, the most distinguished architect to have worked on the west coast from the 1920s to the 1960s, Thomas Hines explores the efforts of the modernists to find new forms and meaning for their work in the twentieth century.

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### Editorial Review

#### Review

"Hines's approach to architectural history is that of social and historical interpretation. . . . [His] raconteurial gifts make this the most eminently readable architectural biography in recent years. But his firm command of the documentary material both archival and public, written and oral on Neutra's life and career gives the narrative a convincing authority." -- *Martin Filler, Art in America*

"Hines's book is a sensitive, forthright and eloquently written tribute to Neutra, written with admiration but without illusion." -- *Paul Goldberger, New York Times Book Review*

"One of the striking virtues of Hines' study is that it gives due attention to Neutra's family, his upbringing, his education, and -- *something we still lack for many of his contemporaries (his experience in the First World War and its disastrous aftermath. . . . Whether Neutra's star is in the ascendant or in decline, Hines follows him step by step, patiently, shrewdly, judiciously, revealingly.*" (*Reyner Banham, Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians*)

#### From the Inside Flap

"This study, part biography and part architectural analysis, is a modern masterpiece of architectural history. The prose is lucid and sometimes elegant—very much like the work of Richard Neutra which it so brilliantly examines."—Peter Gay, Yale University

"An important contribution to the understanding of 'modernist' culture in the United States and a perceptive analysis of the achievement of a major American architect, with a European background and an international reputation."—William Jordy, Brown University

#### From the Back Cover

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