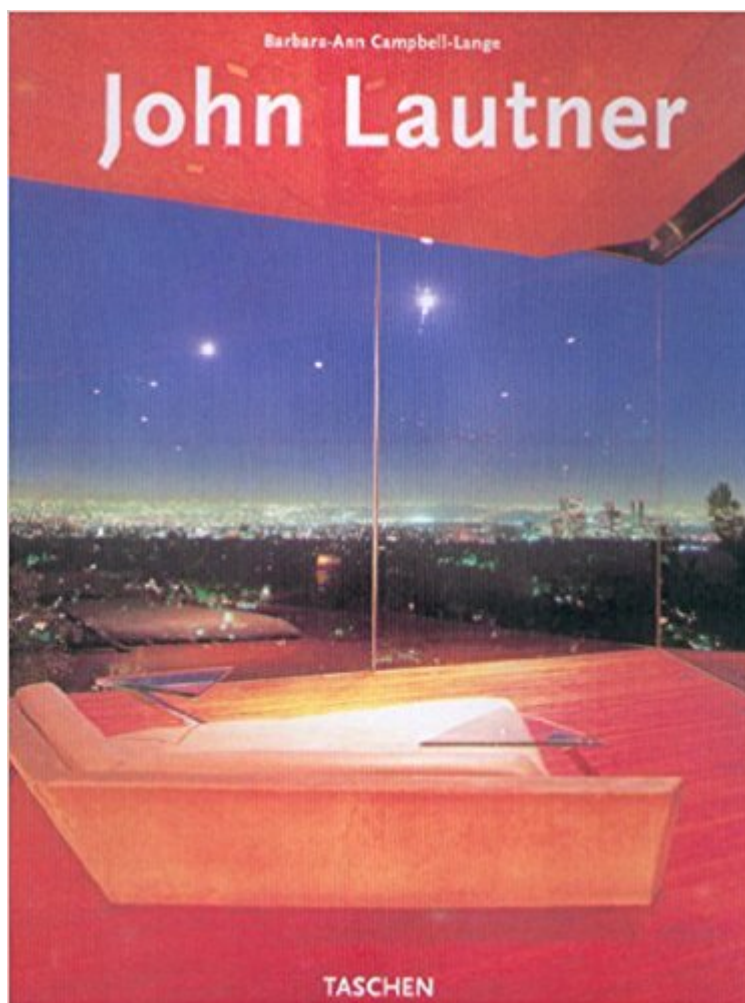


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John Lautner (Big Series Art)



Synopsis

This text looks at the work of John Lautner. Lautner's designs represent a pinnacle of mid-century imagination and technical brilliance. His work communicates a vision of absolute modernity, often peeking into an as yet unrealized future.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Barbara-Ann Campbell-Lange studied architecture in London, New York, and Cambridge. She is a director of the Campbell-Lange Workshop and lectures at the Royal College of Art. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Of course, Lautner is a legend where I live in Los Angeles. And after happening upon the Garcia Residence while trying to find a friend's home in the hills, I was left agast at its whimsy and originality and determined at once that I needed to get to know more about the man behind it. This book serves as a somewhat flimsy, at times opaque, but ultimately worthy introduction to some of Lautner's greatest 'hits.' As an L.A. based architectural photographer, I took great interest in the evolution and rich diversity of his aesthetic. I salivated at the thought of shooting these homes, inside and out, such is the strength of their visual presence. And I think the one strong takeaway that I had was that the book really brought to light what a gifted man Lautner was. While I was left frustrated by the cursory selections of images (many by Julius Shulman) which, due to the unorthodox nature of his homes, do little to give a fully synthesized sense of the residences' form, I

sense that this speaks to the complexity of conveying the whole of his designs without vast pictorial support. It left me desirous of a more in-depth exploration of some of the homes. Not a bad thing! Perhaps if I were to land something of a soft blow on this book, it is the frequent inadequacy of the accompanying text to describe the homes in terms that a non-professor of architecture, or possibly anyone unfamiliar with the home might understand. The text, I felt, dragged me into lofty intellectual interpretation and critique of a home that I was as of yet fully unaccustomed with, particularly given the lack of full photographic coverage (often one or two shots in total), and that may not fill the eager minds of many a layperson to whom a book like this (in the Taschen Basic Series after all) is almost certainly more directed. Perhaps, the text would have better served its target audience by interpreting in less academic and rather more grounded tangible terms how these residences fit into the Lautner story as a whole, what makes them distinct, and how they helped (or failed to) steer the greater trajectory of Los Angeles architecture. Further, the size of the floor plans in this book bordered on unintelligible so then I ask, what was the point of including them. Additionally, the figure annotations were lacking in insight for the most part. And so, this overview of Lautner doesn't quite fit snugly into the camp of experts and scholars (low in content and depth), or that of the budding enthusiast for whom many will sadly learn after three reads followed by resignation, that not all things will become clear, no matter their efforts. Nonetheless, the investment of time required to get through this slender volume is negligible and the knowledge gained serves as a good springboard from which to gather more. Recommended and a worthy addition to my bookshelf, but not without some reservations.

This book provides a good summary of what you'll find in *The Architecture of John Lautner* by Weintraub. Its footprint is much more compact, and it only has 96 pages compared to 276 pages in the Weintraub book. The photo quality is good but it is not stunning like the Weintraub book. The main reason to get it is that it includes some photo composition that Weintraub does not have (same houses, but shot from different angles and with different lighting). It also includes some plan and elevation architectural drawings that are similar to what you'll find in *John Lautner, Architect* by Escher. Weintraub does not include a single architectural drawing. If you have to choose, then definitely get the Weintraub book. Its photos are stunning and narrative is detailed. The most astounding aspect of *Lautner* by Barbara-Ann Campbell-Lange is the price on . \$1,000 for paperback? What's up with that? That can't be correct. Drop a zero and divide by half. That's the fair market value. I hired Arthur Dyson, a colleague of Lautner's, to design our home. For photos of my house, designed by Arthur Dyson and built completely by my weary old hands, see [...].

Growing up in Los Angeles like I did in the 60s, Lautner's work personified the period modern, daring space age of architecture of the era. I like this paperback book because of the many quality photographs of my favorite Lautner buildings. A good primer for any budding architecture aficionado who likes light, easy text and lots of photos.

Good starter for getting to know the work of Lautner a bit, and to get excited /inspired by it ! Lautner has taken a place in 20th century modern American/Californian Architecture history that is unique and at the same time in line with Architects like F.L. Wright, with whom he studied. Therefore one could speak of a modern vernacular, organic in essence, and not conforming to any 'style'. Pure in it's striving to create stunning, characteristic spaces for each location and client !

Great seller/shipper, but the book left a lot to be desired. Better save up and buy the real deal monograph with floor plans , color pictures and the like. Over \$100 I think, but worth it. No issues with seller/shipper. Arrived on time and was well packed.

This is such a great little version of all the larger coffee table style books.Heaps of photos of Johns most famous and inspiring worksand a great little narrative story of his life.

Visually appealing and informative. A must have!

Excellent

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