BEARD HOUSE
ALTA DENA CALIFORNIA
1934

SOUTH ELEVATION
NORTH ELEVATION
WEST ELEVATION
EAST ELEVATION
SITE PLAN WITH FLOOR PLAN
Beard House

A Case Study Project by
Denise Mendelsohn and Vincent Hueny

This house, built in 1934 for William Beard, was Richard Neutra's second experiment in steel construction. He used steel channel members for floor construction. In some cases, steel plates were used as well. The steel was intended for load-bearing and for floor construction. Furthermore, a cement floor rests on open-web beams and the fill is compacted on open-web joists. Thus, the steel shell forms a frame for the interior surfaces, with warm air circulating through the building. The summer heat openings in the walls, similar to those of the winter, are controlled by water-sprinkled on adjacent bushes.

The system's efficient but presents maintenance problems. Designed exceptionally delicate framing details for the sliding doors in the living room, which are in scale with the module of the exterior walls. As the open stair to the roof of the bedroom at the front of the building was painted glossy silver gray, which contrasts with the look of an industrial artifact set down in stark contrast to the lush California landscape.