PLYWOOD MODEL HOUSE
LOS ANGELES CALIFORNIA
1936

SOUTH ELEVATION

NORTH ELEVATION

SITE PLAN

WEST ELEVATION
Richard Neutra Case Study Project
by
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Richard Neutra designed the Plywood Model House in 1936. The house is located at 427 Bel Air Pl in the city of Los Angeles. It was one of almost twenty houses built by Neutra costing under $5000. The house is finished inside and out with plywood. It is characterized by its generous use of windows, an open plan, and skeleton chassis and standard members. The plan is notable for the relatively large area allotted to the living room, and the luxurious quality of the interiors due to the spaciousness.

Richard Neutra has long been concerned with the possibilities of prefabrication. His suggested use of prefabricated blocks based on various sizes seems as early as 1933. It employs the suspension principle, using central units from which the double-panel curtain walls are suspended in tenesque. The Plywood Model House is based on Neutra's design expressing the most advanced theories of prefabrication and mobility.

The house is constructed so that it can be easily transported to serve as a vacation place or as a permanent dwelling. It can be sold to someone who wishes to transport and re-erect it on a new site. The overall layout is to fit several possible alterations. It was made possible to place the house as a whole on an elevated foundation to suit a flat or moderate hill slopes. The transportability of the house reduced the stress of a frozen asset, and so better finishes and more comfortable installations than otherwise usual in such a small house became justified.