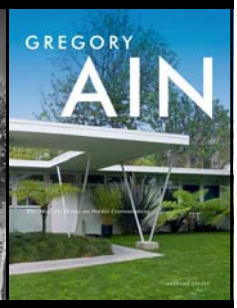
POSTWAR HOUSING

Levittown, NY (1947)

"a multitude of uniform houses, lined up inflexibly, at uniform distances, on uniform roads, in a treeless communal waste, inhabited by people of the same class, the same income, the same age group, witnessing the same television performances, eating the same tasteless prefabricated foods, from the same freezers, conforming in every outward and inward respect to a common mold."

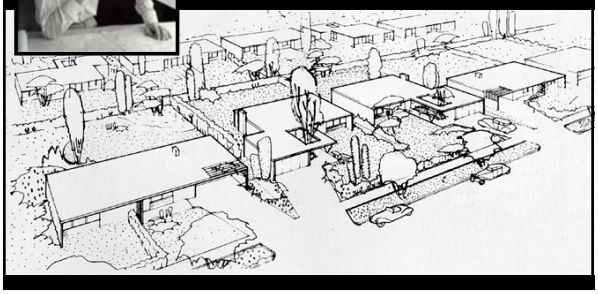
--Lewis Mumford

Gregory Ain, Mar Vista Housing (1947-49)

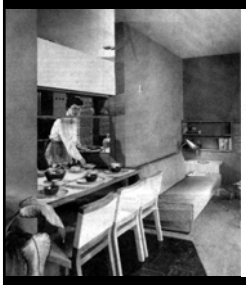


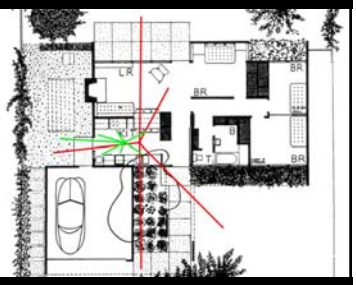
Garrett Eckbo: landscape architect

"Materials in landscape design should be used in the development of plans for the effective and creative organization of three-dimensional space."



Ain : "Nobody has servants of any sort these days. Nor cook, nor maid servant, nor parlor maid. And they won't in the future, either. Consequently, you plan the house that way, with the kitchen in the middle."





Shelley v. Kraemer (1948)
ruled racial covenants on real estate can not be enforced

Case Study House program (1945-60)

Eichler Homes (1945-60)

"Mid-Century Modernism"

Characteristics:

- emphasis on leisure

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- expressed structure

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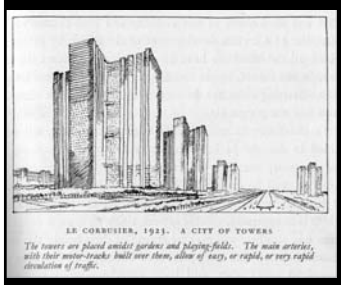
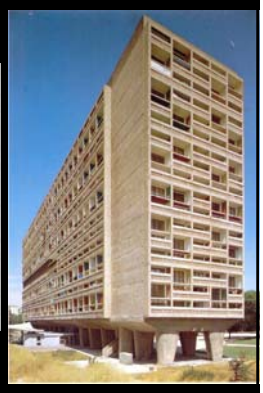
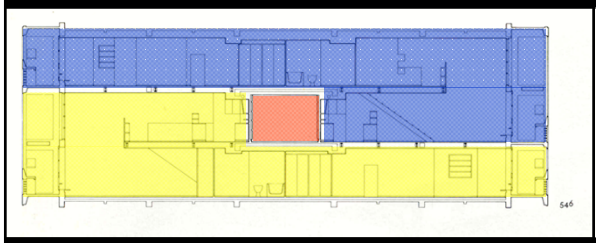
"Mid-Century Modernism"

Characteristics:
- emphasis on leisure
- expressed structure
- dynamic roof forms
- Japanese influence
- curves against squares

Le Corbusier, Unité d'Habitation (1947-52)





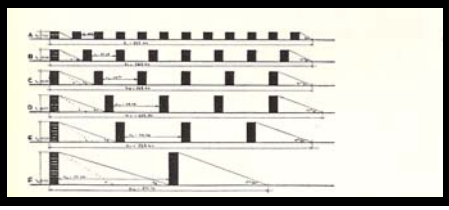


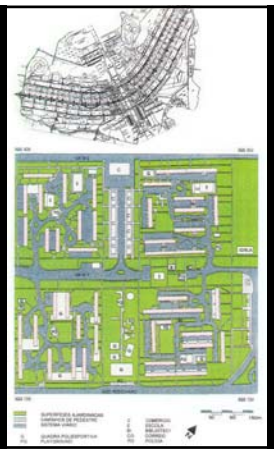
la maternelle

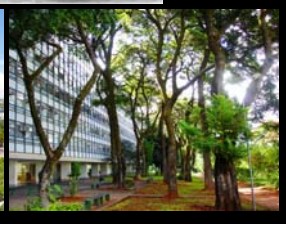
béton brut (raw concrete) → brutalism (style in 1960s/70s)

Brasilia, Niemeyer and Costa (1957-59)

influence of Le Corbusier; Bauhaus







Housing Act of 1949

- funds for slum clearance and urban renewal
- initiated significant public housing program

Pruitt-Igoe housing project, Yamasaki (1955)

principle of Architectural History

unintended consequences

http://vimeo.com/18356414