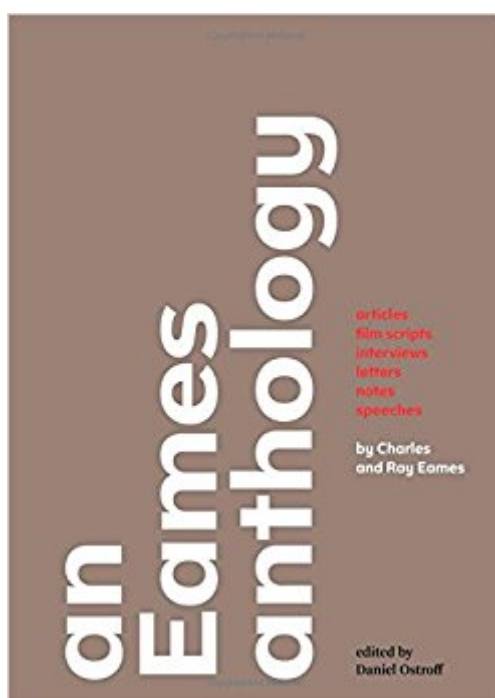


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# An Eames Anthology: Articles, Film Scripts, Interviews, Letters, Notes, And Speeches



## Synopsis

An inspiring collection of the writings of two of the 20th century's most brilliant and influential designers. An Eames Anthology collects for the first time the writings of the esteemed American architects and designers Charles and Ray Eames, illuminating their marriage and professional partnership of fifty years. More than 120 primary-source documents and 200 illustrations highlight iconic projects such as the Case Study Houses and the molded plywood chair, as well as their work for major corporations as both designers (Herman Miller, Vitra) and consultants (IBM, Polaroid). Previously unpublished materials appear alongside published writings by and about the Eameses and their work, lending new insight into their creative process. Correspondence with such luminaries as Richard Neutra and Eero Saarinen provides a personal glimpse into the advance of modernity in mid-century America.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"The lesson of the extraordinary Eames Anthology, at 400 pages full to the brim with creative and novel selections by Daniel Ostroff, is the Eames' genius for imagining degrees of design interference and degrees of responsibility that had never been conceived either before or after. One is struck, while reading the Anthology, at the sheer depth of their moral commitments." -LA Review of Books "A standard resource to which scholars will turn for many years to come." -John Stuart Gordon, Yale University Art Gallery

This inspiring collection of writings by two of the 20th century's most brilliant and influential

designers reveals the myriad motivations, inspirations, and outcomes of their career over 50 years.

This is a wonderful book - full of the words of the Eames themselves. It is probably not the best introduction to their work, but if you're looking for insights into how they became one of the most dynamic design teams of the 20th century, this is a great resource.

An Eames Anthology was a delight to read. I worked at the Eames house and the office in Venice from 1958-61. Reading the stories, talks, reports and proposals in this book was like going home again, climbing up to the attic, and going through boxes of memorabilia. I especially loved the late interview with Charles about his childhood and youth in St. Louis. I had heard some of those stories from Charles over the years that I knew him(1956-78) about getting pushed off of a train, designing churches in the south (vestments and all), etc. but had never heard the details. Charles and Ray were great educators in the Montessori sense. They created environments within which a whole lot of learning took place. This was true of their multi-media presentations, exhibits, and the Eames office itself. Daniel Ostroff has done a masterful job of collecting and presenting this rich material: Charles and Ray in their own words. This book is a MUST for serious students of the Eames process. Thank you, Mr. Ostroff.

Charles and Ray Eames honed functionality into an art form. Their work strove to make every line count and rejected all extraneous detail. Yet their deep explorations of how humans interact with the physical world resulted in objects of compelling sensuality. Daniel Ostroff has applied the Eames' principles to curating their letters and speeches, interviews and essays. The author deftly molds the couples' own words to illuminate their collaboration and their drive for practical simplicity that gave us many of the most iconic designs of our modern age.

Daniel Ostroff has clearly done his homework assembling Charles and Ray Eames' most important papers, speeches, films and designs to provide fans of mid-20th-century design as nearly a complete picture of the pair as I've ever seen. The Eames Chair may be Charles' and Ray's most remembered product, but this book goes a long way to show that the iconic chair was only the tip of the Eames iceberg. This book should be required reading for all serious students of architecture and design.

The best thing about the book is that it is in the Eames' own words. They are eloquent and effective

teachers and communicators and it is so much better hearing them talk about their theories, products, designs and experiences than getting some scholar's analysis (which I always found unnecessary in their case. I have to admit that I haven't finished reading the entire book yet. It contains a huge amount of information and hours of enjoyable reading.

I have a whole bookshelf of Eames and furniture design books. However, this one is a different beast altogether. Carefully curated by Eames historian Daniel Ostroff, *An Eames Anthology* takes you deeper into the minds of designers Charles and Ray Eames. I could look at pictures of Eames chairs all day with captions listing information I already know (and I love doing this) but this book is unlike anything else out there. As compared to the others where you are looking at a single photo of the finished product, this book sheds light on the process and parameters. Ostroff's introduction is stellar and he seems the perfect person to have assembled this Anthology. Two thumbs way up!

Outstanding scholarly and very insightful! Gorgeously illustrated throughout.

To fully know and understand the Eames history it is critical to read their writings. In *AN EAMES ANTHOLOGY* Danial Ostroff has provided the reader with a rich collection of key documents which illuminate and illustrate their illustrious career. Ostroff, as an acknowledged Eames scholar, is the perfect person to collect and select these Eames writings. This book is a must for all serious students and scholars of design history!

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