



postcard view of an early-twentieth-century bungalow in Los Angeles. (Courtesy of the California State Library, Sacramento.)

original style, using plaster-coated reinforced concrete walls, flat roofs, and simple windows, all with an austere complete absence of ornament. His purposeful designs perfectly reflected the modernist credo: “Form follows function.”

When modernism finally began to achieve genuine acceptance in California, it was largely through the work of Richard Neutra, an Austrian architect who settled in Los Angeles in 1926. Neutra was one of the small international group, including Adolf Loos and Frank Lloyd Wright, who realized early that the machine was at the base of the new architecture and not an evil spirit to be feared and exorcised. Neutra and other architects of the International Style made use of many of the new materials and methods that machine production made possible. Examples were their uses of plate glass or prefabricated structural parts and of reinforced concrete as a self-supporting slab. Employing such modern materials and taking particular advantage of the mild climate to make the fullest use of sliding glass doors (or rather walls), Neutra designed some of the most delightful and beautiful homes, schools, and commercial buildings in southern California.

Selected Bibliography

Robinson Jeffers is the subject of important studies by James Karman (1995), Louis Adamic (1983), Melba Berry Bennett (1966), Frederic I. Carpenter (1962), Radcliffe Squires (1956), Lawrence Clark Powell (1932, 1934, 1940), and George Sterling (1926).

The best biography of John Steinbeck is Jackson J. Benson, *The True Adventures of John Steinbeck* (1984). More specialized is Brian St. Pierre, *John Steinbeck: The California Years* (1984). Other major works on Steinbeck are by David Wyatt (1990), Joseph J.