

July/August 2013

Residential Architect

A Magazine of The American Institute of Architects



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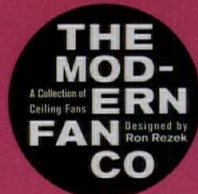
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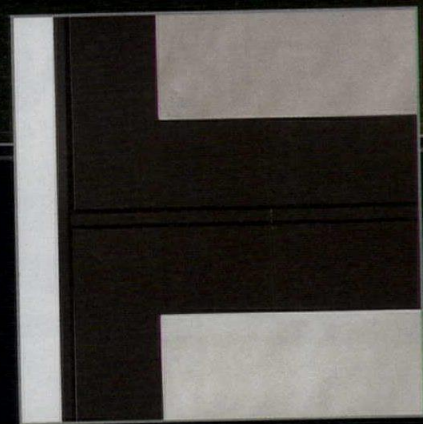


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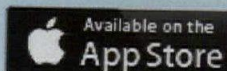
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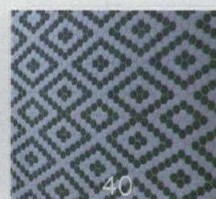
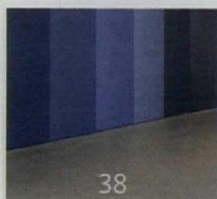
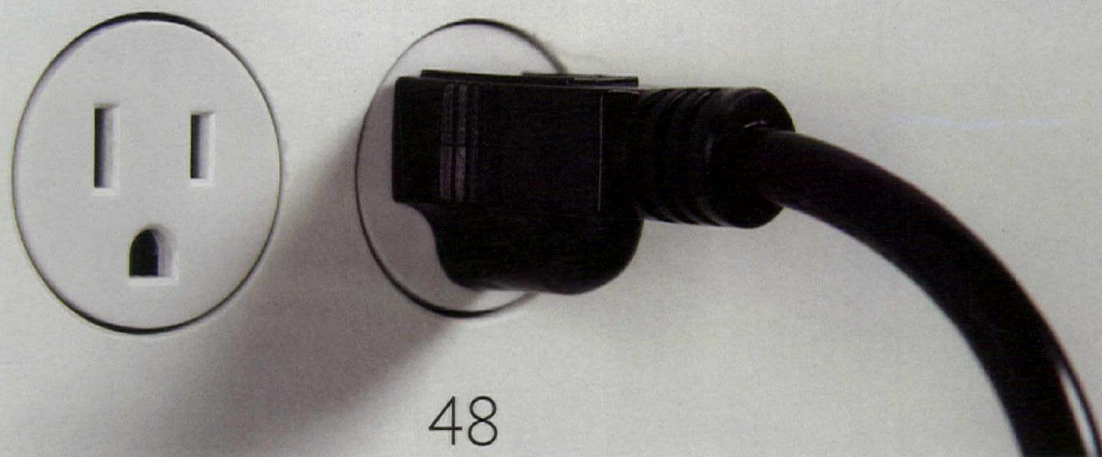
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Residential Architect

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The Bocci 14 series pendant light and 3form's Varia Ecoresin panels (shown here in Slant Kelp from the Organics line) both made our Architects' Choice list of peer-recommended products.
Story by Bruce D. Snider
Photo by Hannah Whitaker

RA

See additional products chosen by our discerning architects at residentialarchitect.com

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Superior Dance

THE MUSIC HAS STOPPED; THE DANCE MUST END.



The printed word is a powerful tool. It can convey so much to so many. Oftentimes, that's a good thing. But sometimes it's insidious. I just read a description for a course on single-family housing at a top-ranked architecture school. It was intended to be "en famille"—architects addressing architecture students—but the description is posted on an open website for all the world to see. It declares that "houses are an experimental outlet for architects," and it calls residential clients "indulgent and idiosyncratic." Furthermore, it attributes the paucity of architects in the housing industry to this "lack of rigorous constraint."

Whew! There is so much wrong with this language and this attitude, I don't know where to begin. So, I guess I'll begin by saying: Architects, bite your tongues. If you really want the world to understand and appreciate the value you bring to buildings, the profession must drop the disdain for non-architects and for residential work—one of the biggest, most important industries in this country. Architects love beautiful things, we get it. But this attitude is ugly. And it only serves to marginalize the profession and blunt its impact.

Are clients really "indulgent" when they pay architects to design something they like? Is it "idiosyncratic" of them to express an opinion about what they want? Unless architects are developing their own projects, they provide work for hire and it's their job to make their clients happy.

Most residential architects understand that, but this cynical view of housing and clients is pervasive in academia and among architects whose primary work is nonresidential. I've seen similarly patronizing descriptions in "House of the Future" competitions. And I've heard architects who want

to diversify their practices beyond residential mimic the same haughty attitude.

Houses are not experimental outlets for architects. They're people's homes. They're places to raise a family, care for an elder, pursue dreams. Architects, experiment on yourselves. Treat others with respect and empathy. Learn from each house you design and make the next one better.

I think the truth is that architects are more idiosyncratic than their clients are, searching endlessly for novelty. For the most part, housing is an iterative discipline, where incremental design progress is most likely to resonate and succeed with the public. Creativity, originality, and design rigor are still possible within these parameters.

There's certainly more leeway for architectural invention with private clients and custom homes than there is in speculative and production housing. We in the design business love these explorations of new ideas. But private clients need to understand the level of risk they're taking on and must revel, just like their star architects, in blazing new trails. If you have the good fortune to find that willing patron, remember that their home is not your laboratory. This is a journey you take together.

I fully admit that, like you, I am a design snob. I understand what drove that professor to write that course description. We all want to see a more beautiful world before us. But we must present a prettier face to the public if we're to be trusted with that opportunity. It's time to stop the superior dance and share a heaping slice of humble pie.

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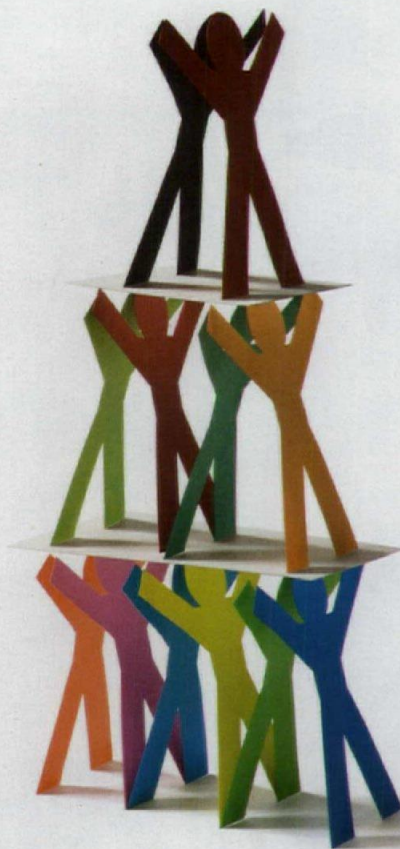


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REINVENTION



SHELTER LAB

Box Populi

TEXT BY BRUCE D. SNIDER

Portland, Maine-based Kaplan Thompson Architects made a splash in 2008 with a prefabricated, net-zero-energy dwelling called BrightBuilt Barn. Now Kaplan and Jesse Thompson, AIA, LEED AP, have gone a step further and launched BrightBuilt Home, a partnership with Oxford, Maine-based modular builder Keiser Homes that promises net-zero-capable houses at significantly lower prices than their site-built equivalents.

The nine BrightBuilt Home designs, which range from 720 to 2,800 square feet, combine Kaplan Thompson's building performance expertise with its keen eye for 19th century New England vernacular styles. Lessons learned from the firm's production-savvy partner result in construction times of four to six months and square-foot costs of \$140 to \$170.

Anticipating clients' yen for customization, BrightBuilt includes a number of redesign iterations in each house's base price. "If they're okay with the shape of the shell, then we'll move walls and windows around for them," Kaplan says. After fabrication, modules are assembled on site by a member of the company's preferred-builder network, which covers much of New England.

BrightBuilt has completed nine houses, with eight more under construction. Consumer interest has been so strong that the architects are exploring relationships with modular builders outside the Northeast. Kaplan says he has no plans to quit his day job, "but we hope to make BrightBuilt its own entity. We're playing it by ear, but based on the response so far, we're going to continue to grow with this."

REINVENTION

ON THE BOARDS

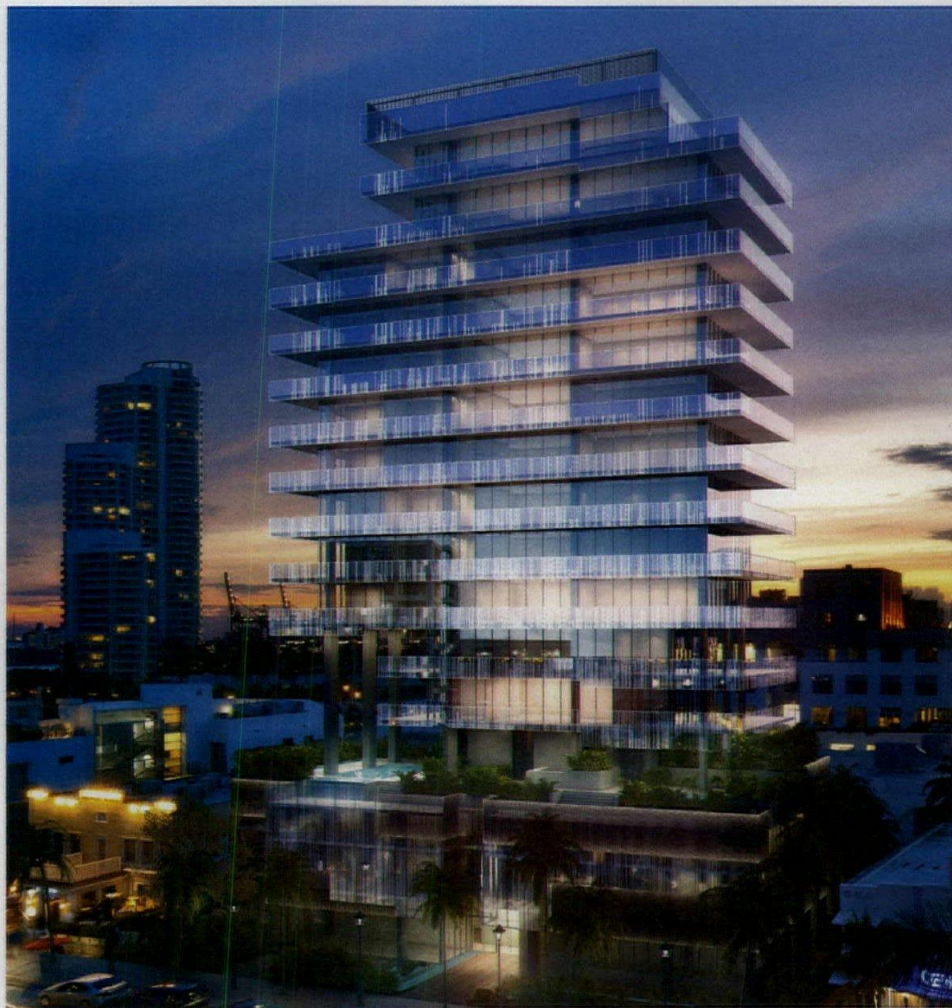
House of Glass

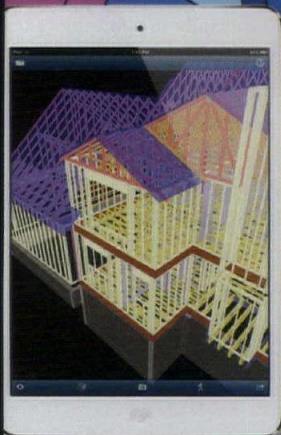
TEXT BY LYDIA LEE

How do you make a building stand out in the craziness that is the Miami luxury condo market? Local architect Rene Gonzalez, AIA, decided to mimic the Impressionists; he's "painting" his first condo tower to look like a column of light. "I wanted to erase the top portion of the building and give it a shimmering, reflective quality," Gonzalez says. The 18-story, 200-foot-tall structure, known as Glass, will display an abstract pattern of lines, created through fritted glass on the units' wraparound balconies.

Located in the coveted South of Fifth neighborhood, at the southernmost tip of Miami Beach, Glass is less of a typical condo tower and more like a series of luxury homes stacked on top of one another. There are 10 full-floor units (the penthouse unit is three floors), providing panoramic views of the bay and ocean through glass walls. Each floor is 3,600 square feet, with an additional 2,000 square feet of terrace. The building has a minimal column grid, with a core that is pushed to the western edge, allotting the most space to the ocean-facing side.

Developer David Martin of Terra Group also asked Gonzalez to design the building's custom interiors, which have appropriately high-end finishes, including Calacatta marble for the kitchen and bathroom walls. Gonzalez, who was the architect of a nearby spec home that sold for a record-setting \$47 million, clearly knows what these local luxury seekers want. —LYDIA LEE





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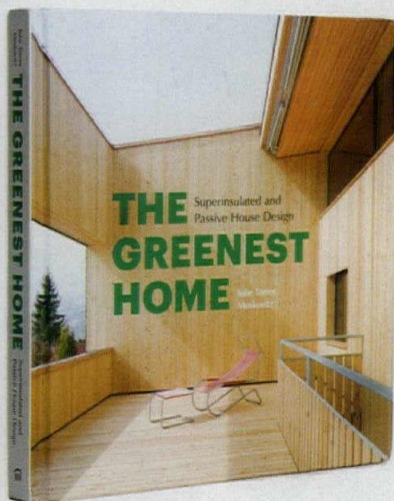


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BOOK REVIEW

Passive Aggressive



Passive Houses come in all shapes, sizes, materials, and climate zones. Julie Torres Moskovitz showcases them beautifully in her new book, *The Greenest Home: Superinsulated and Passive House Design* (Princeton Architectural Press, \$45), which includes 18 case studies of houses that meet the program's rigorous standards for heating and cooling demand, energy use, and an airtight envelope. The collection intersperses U.S. projects with a handful in Japan, Europe, and Canada.

Moskovitz is more than an observer; her firm, Fabrica718, retrofitted New York City's first certified Passive House. This project appears in the book, an example of the often complex process of turning old buildings into energy-sipping shells.

The Greenest Home is valuable, and not just because it documents the first wave of Passive Houses built in the States. Moskovitz quotes Architecture 2030 founder and CEO Edward Mazria, who says that "by the year 2035, approximately 75 percent of the built environment (in the United States) will be either new or renovated."

"It's an opportunity," she adds, "that should not be missed." —CHERYL WEBER

RA See more project images at residentialarchitect.com.



If summer blockbusters aren't your thing, try the absorbing documentary *Coast Modern*. This hour-long film explains the enduring appeal of mid-century (and more recent) modern houses on the west coast of North America. It also speculates as to why that appeal has never translated into mass popularity. *Coast Modern* is currently available to download through iTunes and several other video-on-demand outlets, and for purchase as a DVD through coastmodernfilm.com. —MEGHAN DRUEDING

NEXT FILES

Damage Control



The career of Rachel Minnery, AIA, LEED AP, has been one disaster after another. In college, she spent a semester in Florida during the aftermath of Hurricane Andrew, which led her to consider the profession's potential to mitigate the damage she saw. Then, while working at NAC|Architecture in Seattle, and as a member of the AIA Seattle Disaster Preparedness and Response Committee, she experienced the Nisqually earthquake of 2001. Later, chairing the same committee, she rallied reconstruction help after the Southeast Asia tsunami of 2004, co-founded the Seattle chapter of Architects Without Borders, and led post-disaster building safety-assessment teams in Mississippi and in Haiti. She recently moved to New York to manage Architecture for Humanity's Hurricane Sandy reconstruction programs.

A recipient of the 2013 AIA Young Architects award, Minnery believes that architects have much to offer in such efforts, especially in planning resilient infrastructure. "It's difficult to tackle as a profession, because things are already too expensive," she says. But as the effects of climate change accelerate, she feels, the alternative will be even more costly. "I think of [resilience] as the equivalent of taking vitamins to ward off disease or illness," she says. Architects are "notoriously introverted," she observes, but are duty-bound to help. "The only thing your license obligates you to do is protect the life and safety of the public," she says. "If not to mitigate the damage of a tornado, an earthquake, or a hurricane, what's it for?" —BRUCE D. SNIDER



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AIAVOICES

TRIPLE PLAY | WHAT DOES A BATHROOM WANT TO BE?

Andrew Daley, Assoc. AIA (not pictured), Jason Fleming, Assoc. AIA, and Peter Muessig, Assoc. AIA, graduated from the Rice University School of Architecture in 2012 with three diplomas and one prototype that they hope will transform how we think about an essential room in the home. The InHouse OutHouse is an energy-efficient, prefabricated bathroom that they developed under the guidance of Danny Samuels, FAIA, and Nonya Grenader, FAIA, through the Rice Building Workshop. Now the trio is trying to find a market for InHouse OutHouse. "Our purpose is to make it viable," they say, "but we're learning to strike a balance between the initial vision and a sustainable product, both environmentally and fiscally."

YOU HAVE TO THINK ABOUT LIVABILITY, AND WITH INHOUSE OutHouse we're trying to elevate an idea to a marketable solution that's efficiently designed and fabricated in a coordinated off-site way. After surveying what is available on the market in the way of prefabricated bathrooms, we discovered two things. First, we wanted to design something that's made to withstand the rigors of heavy use, but also made to be design-forward. Second, we discovered that everything on the market is focused in a very narrow way for hotels, dormitories, and office buildings—all of them commercial contexts.

So, we asked: Why can't we adapt this to a residential situation? In the affordable housing market, this kind of thing

often crushes budgets—and so if you can save money and time on construction and labor, you can push those costs to materials and actually upgrade the finishes and fixtures. That's what we mean by elevating an idea. Since this started as a student project for us, we were given the luxury of time "off the clock" where we could invest a lot of research and design development that we might not get in a commercial setting with billable hours.

But finding a market has been our biggest challenge lately. Do we go to developers? Do we go to end-users? Do we go to city housing authorities? Do we go to Ikea? Part of our grant from the AIA was to develop a business model—and those were the fundamental questions we had to ask. We found that city housing authorities seemed like the most likely candidates—they've got budgets and a real interest in upgrading their housing stock; and they're willing to think about economies of scale with us.

Our idea grew from the Rice Building Workshop. Danny Samuels and Nonya Grenader put all of their personal research and professional connections on the table for us, but they respected our independence. They were completely selfless and encouraged us to go forward.

InHouse OutHouse remains important as a portfolio piece and a critical practice endeavor for all three of us, but we feel that it also has the potential to springboard our collaboration from mere possibility to career-altering invention.

—As told to William Richards **AIA**

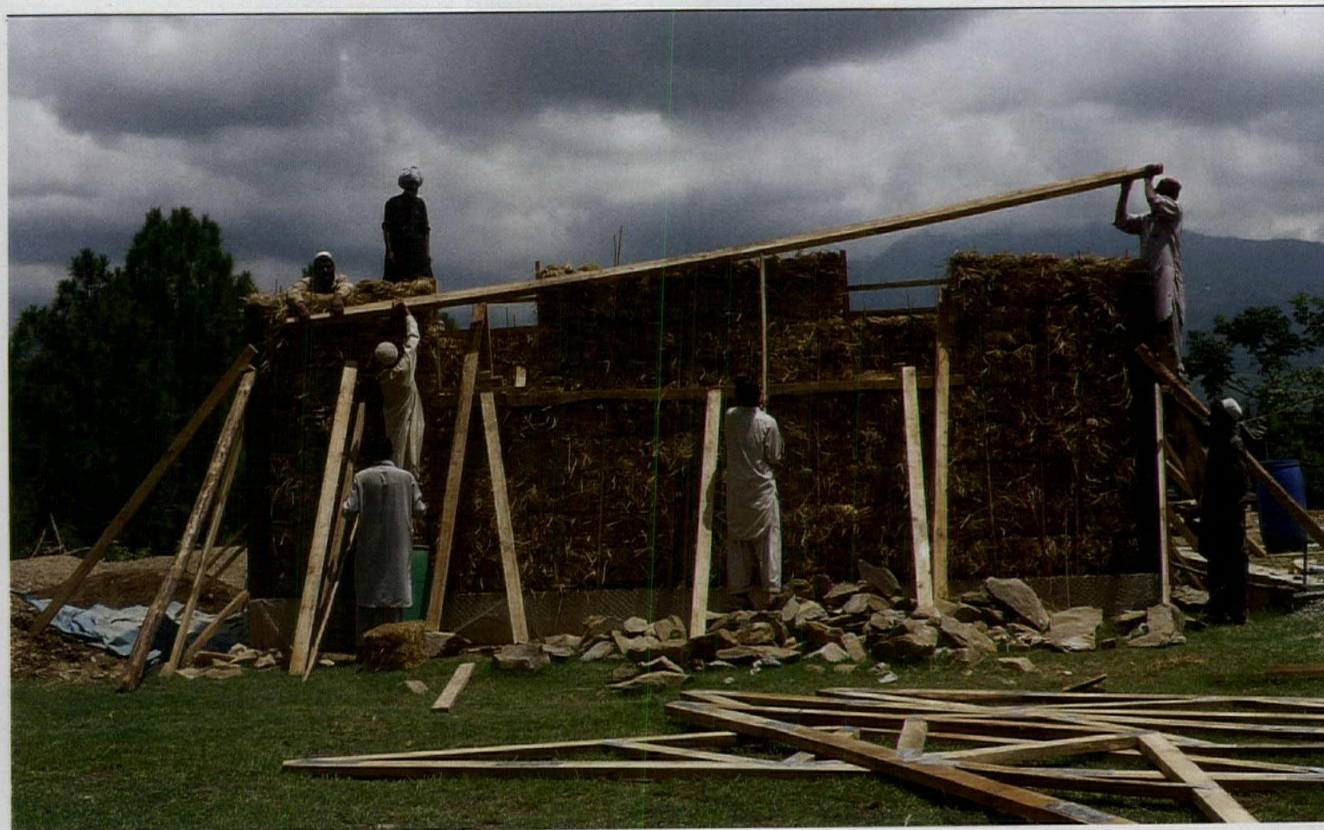


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Above: PAKSBAB homes are designed to survive high levels of seismic activity.

An appeal for housing reform in a changing world.

WE HAVE A SERIOUS HOUSING EMERGENCY ON OUR HANDS.

At least 17 percent of the global population is homeless or lives in an urban slum, and rapid population growth, which is expected to surpass 8 billion people by 2030, means that percentage will only increase. Then consider how our resources are dwindling, how conflict creates strife and refugees, and how inadequate building codes put people at risk. Add the consequences of climate change and the rising number of natural disasters every year that destroy homes and lives. All of this equals an urgent and daunting task to provide safe housing in order to save lives.

The first decade of the 21st century was a harrowing time when the planet unleashed some powerful forces. Due to earthquakes, floods, hurricanes, mudslides, droughts, and tornadoes, we saw a shocking amount of death and destruction. According to the Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance [OFDA]/Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters [CRED] International Disaster Database, 2010, the year of the Haitian and Chilean earthquakes, was the most deadly on record, with a total of 296,800 deaths globally from 373 individual natural disasters. The next year, 2011, saw fewer disasters and deaths, but the ones that did occur have the dubious distinction of creating the costliest year on record, topping \$360 billion in global damages. This was due mostly to the Japanese earthquake

and tsunami that contributed \$210 billion to that number. This far surpassed 2005's record of nearly \$250 billion globally when hurricanes Katrina, Wilma, and Rita hit the U.S. Gulf Coast with a combined cost of \$176 billion in damages.

The trends show that natural disasters are increasing in number and strength, putting our world at even greater risk and further exacerbating our current housing emergency.

To deal with these disasters we need a range of housing solutions available to us after a storm hits to help us through the rebuilding phase; then we need houses that protect us permanently. We need emergency and temporary shelters; good-quality but quickly erectable homes; homes for the poor, homeless, and those with low incomes; and super-sustainable homes that can provide for us in any climate. That's the new landscape and, if we're going to thrive, we need new housing typologies: rapid shelters, transitional shelters, affordable housing, prefabricated housing, and adaptable housing.

Benchmarks for Building

Waiting for the other shoe to drop is always an anxious time, but when it comes to disasters, it's not a matter of "if" but "when." Preparedness is essential, but so is the ability to reset the mechanisms of disaster recovery soundly and rapidly. The Reaction Housing System created by Austin, Texas-based designer Michael McDaniel is a stackable emergency housing

system inspired by a Styrofoam coffee cup. These rapid shelters can be fabricated and stored in key locations and, when a disaster hits, transported to a safe site and set up within minutes. One truckload of reaction systems can house 112 people once they've been erected; and when the emergency is over, the shelters can be cleaned, restacked, and stored for the next disaster.

Transitional shelters are semipermanent in nature, and intended to offer reliable shelter for a longer period of time. Steel Elements International (SEI) was contacted not long after the 2010 Haitian earthquake to create a system that could be built by unskilled workers on site. Their solution was a series of steel members that, when assembled, formed the frame of a house. Topped off with a galvanized-metal roof and wrapped in plastic sheeting, SEI's product succeeded in providing instant housing. But it also succeeded in offering its residents a modicum of dignity in the recovery process: As materials became available, families could add walls, windows, and more to create permanent, safe homes.

So-called "affordable housing" conjures a specific convention of building in the 20th century, but there's an unconventional side that's changing what these buildings can do besides shelter disenfranchised populations. Take the straw bale, earthquake-proof house built by Pakistan Straw Bale and Appropriate Building (PAKSAB), an organization that's empowering Pakistanis to build, and build safely. PAKSAB's founder, Darcey Donovan, developed the design and, after testing it in an earthquake simulator, found that it could withstand seismic activity greater than the 7.6 magnitude earthquake in Kashmir (2005) that killed 80,000 people.

Prefabricated housing conjures another specific image over the last half century, but there have been many advances in prefabrication over just the last decade across several building sectors. The Bergwijpark student housing bloc, built by Tempo Housing in Diemen, the Netherlands (about 4 miles southeast of Amsterdam), employs prefabricated modules similar to standard shipping containers to create 252 units. But the most impressive aspect of the project is not the speed with which it was built (it opened only five months after groundbreaking)—it's the project's adaptability and mobility. If there's a greater housing need in some other part of the Netherlands, the entire thing can be dismantled, shipped, and reassembled.

But adaptability is not just about agnostic geo-location. It's also about changing weather conditions. The LIFT House in Dhaka, Bangladesh, designed and built by recent architecture school graduate Prithula Prosun, can literally rise with impending floodwaters. The duplex features a central brick core, cosseted by bamboo and reed framing that gives the prototype its lightness. When you consider how many parts of the world deal with either seasonal flooding or occasional disaster-related flooding, adaptability will take on greater importance in the coming century—as it has in Dhaka.

Safe, sustainable housing must be deployed in degrees to fit local conditions, and inexpensively in order to have a global impact. By being realistic and anticipating variable, extreme, and inclement situations, we can build homes that save lives and minimize destruction. It's time to invest in our future by building smarter, thinking more sustainably, and embracing self-sufficiency not only in designing structures, but in empowering communities. —Bridgette Meinhold **AIA**

➤ Bridgette Meinhold adapted this article from her 2013 book *Urgent Architecture: 40 Sustainable Housing Solutions for a Changing World* (W.W. Norton).

AIAPERSPECTIVE

WHEN IS SMALL ENOUGH?

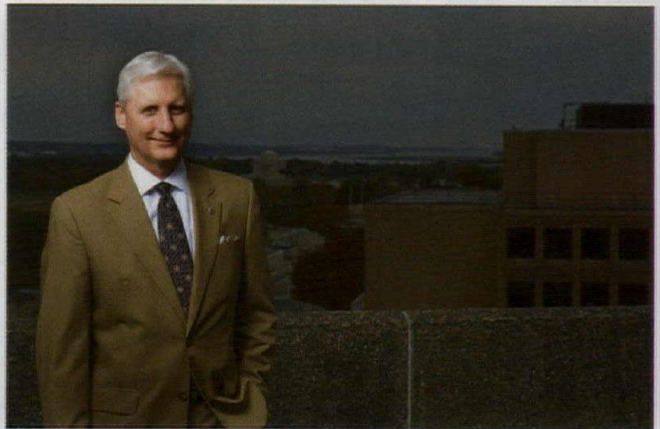


PHOTO: WILLIAM STEWART

GRAHAM HILL LIVES IN A MICROAPARTMENT IN MANHATTAN'S SoHo neighborhood—by choice. The founder of an enterprise called LifeEdited, Hill is out to convince us to live in small spaces. In a recent *New Yorker* profile, he outlined a much broader vision for microliving than his own pilot apartment might suggest, by asking why entire neighborhoods can't be made up of "diminutive apartments and shared stuff."

While there may be some reluctance to move into a space that's roughly 24-by-16 feet, Hill's experiment in living provocatively responds to the increasing weight of three powerful forces: accelerating urban migration, the downsizing of the traditional family, and the growing consumer appetite for sustainable design. How are the economics of these forces playing out?

Reverse migration is forcing up the price of renting or owning living space in cities. For recent graduates weighed down by student loans, desirable residential options close to employment bases in the urban core are increasingly scarce. Graham Hill's SoHo pad is one creative response, but so is New York's Via Verde, a 2013 recipient of both an AIA/HUD Secretary's Award and a Residential Architect Design Award.

Americans are deferring marriage as well as the decision to have children; many now choose to live by themselves. Although there will always be clients who prefer a big home with all the amenities, living large is becoming increasingly expensive, especially if you live alone. Yet a 2012 study released by the U.S. Department of Energy shows that since 1990 the size of the average American home has increased by 27 percent. Even if a credible claim can be made that newer residential design performs more efficiently, it's obvious that a smaller living space costs less to build and operate. It's a lifestyle that is becoming more desirable among young people who are looking to live close to employment, shopping, entertainment, and social activity.

Combining these broad brushstrokes reveals the outlines of a new social contract, and those who work in residential design need to focus on designing a product that is affordable, sustainable, and in sync with the lifestyles of an emerging market. Hill's microapartment may not be the answer for everyone, but he's posing the right questions. **AIA**

Mickey Jacob, FAIA, 2013 President

➤ Learn more about the AIA/HUD Secretary's Award at aia.org/practicing.

BLANCO

Presents:

Who's in the Kitchen?

Rethinking the Sink and Other Layout Decisions

By: Kathy Price-Robinson



The sink is the most used element in the most used room in the house. Get the sink situated correctly and the rest of the design flows from there.



Credit: AIA 1 LU

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LEARNING OBJECTIVES

1. Identify overall kitchen design and layout considerations.
2. Describe layout options for kitchens with children in the house.
3. Identify sink and layout options for kitchen users with limited mobility.
4. Discuss layout considerations for multiple or solo kitchen users.
5. Explain options in sink selection and placement.

You design a good kitchen with the end-users in mind. You envision the future — Who's in the kitchen? — and make your decisions based on that.

Will there be one or many users? Are they young, old, middle-aged, or all or some of the above? Are there users with special needs? What is their mobility? Will the users be accomplished chefs? Daily meal makers? Or occasional visitors to the space?

"The kitchen is the single highest-function room in a house," says Mary Jo Peterson, a kitchen and bath designer whose specialty is universal design.

"We're not just talking about the average person," Peterson says, "The whole family uses these spaces. We want [the kitchen] to be accessible by the least able and the most able."

And while the kitchen is the most used room in the house, the sink is the most used element in that room. Get the sink selected and placed correctly, and the rest of the design flows from there.

Get the sink selected and placed correctly, and the rest of the design flows from there.

To determine the best kitchen layout and sink placement, it's helpful to focus on four scenarios of kitchen use: families with children, people with limited mobility, multiple users, and solo users.

KITCHEN LAYOUTS AND WORK ZONES

Before we zero in on who is using the kitchen, let's discuss some factors to consider no matter who's in there. These include common layouts and work zones. Kitchen layouts begin several different ways, such as from a "what's got to fit" point of view. This requires looking at specific appliances or a specific cabinet range to work around, even though this may limit positioning choices. Another option is

to begin from a "workflow" point of view, such as the classic "work triangle" method, which is a sink, refrigerator and range in any arrangement.

Another way of establishing a kitchen layout is by creating "work centers" or zones, where each type of task revolves around a specific area and set of appliances.

For the classic work triangle, the designer's job is to optimize the triangle so that it makes the best use of space. For example, an island or peninsula should not interrupt the triangle. The main route should not pass through the triangle, and the three sides of the triangle added together should not be more than 26 feet long, and each side should be between 4 and 9 feet long.

When incorporating an island or peninsula, it can overlap a leg of the triangle slightly, but if you have to detour around it to get from one point of the triangle to another, it'll be a problem when working in the kitchen. While it is sometimes hard to avoid, the main circulation should redirect traffic outside the triangle because it is much safer and more convenient to cook.

This is especially important with kids underfoot. By selecting the right size of three sides of triangle you will create a work area large enough for comfort, but not too big that a user wastes time and energy running back and forth.

LAYOUTS



Galley kitchens stem from boats and ships, where space is limited and functionality is critical.

Galley Layout— The first layout we will look at is the Galley or Corridor layout, with two parallel countertops only. The galley layout has fallen out of favor in recent decades as great rooms that foster family interaction have risen in popularity. However, a well-designed galley kitchen is incredibly efficient as it provides the least amount of steps between the sink, stove and refrigerator. It is ideal for a small house and solo cook, and allows a cook to easily maneuver in a space. Also, it offers lots of counter space for cooking and presentation. The challenge associated with this sink is that it requires cabinets above and below countertops for adequate storage.

The other issue with this layout include not having adequate room for drawers or doors to open on opposite sides, and having cleaning and cooking areas on the same side. When looking at where to put the sink in this layout, it would serve best being adjacent to the range, to make moving hot pans easier and safer.

L-Shaped Layout — This is ideal for a family kitchen and entertaining guests. This layout easily accommodates chairs and tables in the same area. When considering appliance placement, the sink, range and fridge should be separated by the prep area.



Dual sinks in an L-shaped or U-shaped kitchen allow multiple users with the least amount of interference with various tasks.

U-Shaped Layout — This layout makes use of three full walls. This layout works in both large and small homes and provides a good working kitchen. A benefit to this layout is being able to space out the range, fridge and sink for convenience.

However, this layout does require both ample floor and wall area, and only offers storage spaces above and below the countertop. When considering a sink, it would be important to incorporate the sink and appliance as part of the countertop.



In a U-shape or L-shaped kitchen, two sinks, with one on the island, maximize functionality for multiple users.

G-Shaped Layout — This is similar to the U-shaped, but with extra, elongated partial walls. This room is ideal for large families and large homes. It offers plenty of cabinet and storage space, along with room to move around even with several cooks in the kitchen. The main challenge with this layout is the space planning for such a large room. Also, with this layout, it would be crucial to have one or more sinks in strategic locations to accommodate all work zones.



Island Layout — This is a good option if a large amount of floor space is available. This option allows the user to cook and socialize while preparing food. One challenge with this layout is that the island is a focal point of the kitchen. Also, there would have to be a sink in the island to accommodate all of the work zones of the kitchen.



A homeowner often ponders: What goes where in the cabinets and on the shelves? When the design includes work stations, the placement of kitchen tools, small appliances, dishes and utensils becomes obvious.

WORK ZONES

Today's kitchens have more appliances (and often, more cooks) so the work triangle is often not enough to describe how a modern kitchen will function. Work zones or work centers can help solve this design problem. Adding more cooks to a single work triangle means that they will often get in each other's way.

Similarly, adding more appliances (like an extra sink, one or more dishwashers) adds extra workstations and one simple triangle can't design around them. The work center or zone pulls everything — equipment, appliances and materials — into the same area.

When designing a kitchen, plan for three major work zones:

- Food prep center
- Cooking center
- Clean up center

The food prep center should be adjacent to the main sink, or near a prep sink.



The key to a functional prep center is easy cleanup.

The cooking center should be centered around the stovetop or range and adjacent to the sink for easy access. Finally, the cleanup center will also be centered around the main sink for the easiest cleanup process.

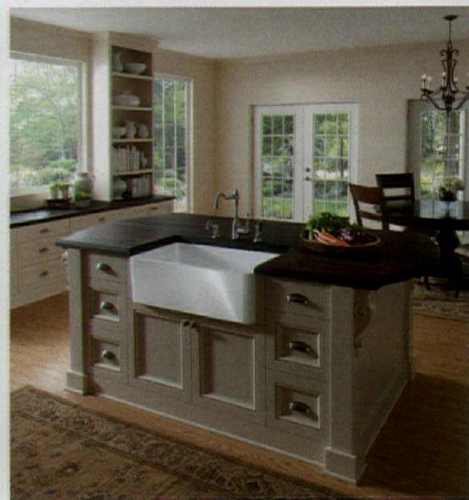
As you can see, all three major work zones revolve around the sink.

Other zones that may come into play in your kitchen design:

- **Snack center** — including items such as a beverage or coffee maker, a microwave or toaster oven, and can even have a dedicated sink or fridge.
- **Baking center** — provides easy accessibility to baking ingredients and supplies, along with appliances like mixers.
- **Eating center** — would be on the kitchen table, island or breakfast bar and sometimes provides storage for dishes, napkins, or condiments.

CHILDREN IN THE HOUSE

In a study titled "And Baby Makes....A Crowded Kitchen? How Children Influence Kitchen Activity & Design," findings show that children strongly influence the kitchen design and activity. Families are more engaged in kitchens than counterparts without children. Also, those with children and families are more likely than those with no kids to use an architect, spend time on improvements, and to have remodeled or made



What do parents want most in a kitchen? Safety, durability, a place for the computer and places for kids to get involved with the cooking.

improvements to kitchen in the past year. The study was conducted by the Research Institute for Cooking and Kitchen Intelligence (RICKI) in October 2010, based on surveys with 2,900 consumers and with 100 kitchen designers.

The goals of this study were to: 1) gain insight into how consumers with children differ than those with no children when it comes to kitchen design, and 2) Understand how kitchen designers' experiences differ when they design with children and how their designs accommodate their needs.

In the study, designers revealed five major areas or features requested in a family household. The top request at 45% was a Kid Zone, which could include features such as kid-level baking stations and snack centers.

Another major feature requested was integrating technology into the kitchen through computers and TV areas with parental supervision.

Easy-care materials are also important in a kid friendly house and some features requested were heavy-duty cabinets and stain-resistant finishes.

The last major kid-influenced feature is safety. This could be incorporated through faucet LED temperature indicators and lockable storage areas. Some of the other features that were

DESIGN INFLUENCE ON FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN

Designers revealed five major areas or features requested:

• KID ZONES	45% kid-level baking stations, snack centers
• INTEGRATING TECHNOLOGY	33% computer, TV areas – with parental supervision
• EASY-CARE MATERIALS	21% heavy duty cabinets, stain-resistant finishes
• SAFETY FEATURES	20% faucet LED temp indicator, lockable storage
• OTHER	16%

Source: RICKI's October 2010 Study "And Baby Makes a Crowded Kitchen? How Children Influence Kitchen Activities & Design."

requested were corner sink drains and corner faucets or a pedal valve for kids to turn on faucet with their foot instead of having to reach the faucet.

Kid friendly sink placement — For optimal safety, the placement of the sink is critical. Whereas children may need to access the sink for hand-washing and even dishwashing, the path they take to the sink could be hazardous. In particular, the path to the sink should not put children too close to the stove, where accidents or spills with heated liquid or foods could prove disastrous. Ideally, the kitchen layout preserves the space between

the stove and the sink for the cook to navigate, and discourages children and others to use that as a passageway. A secondary prep sink on a island or the end of a counter may provide the safe access parents want for their children.

Making the kitchen work safely and harmoniously for children warrants the extra thought and planning. According to Northwest Renovation Magazine, "Now more than ever the kitchen has become the home's family room." This statement highlights the new and exciting challenge for designers: creating a kitchen that kids want to be in, and kitchens that facilitate

interaction with all family members. The new idea is design an engaging kitchen where all generations can coexist.

Along with a place for interaction, the kitchen becomes a learning space for kids. They will develop attitudes about food and nutrition, while also learning cooking skills. Finally, children will pick up on the social aspects of eating and enjoying a meal together as a family.

LIMITED MOBILITY OR AGING IN PLACE

The aging population is a major consideration for designers. Seventy-eight million baby boomers are remaining healthy and leading active lifestyles. These consumers wield great purchasing power – while boomers account for 28% of population but over 50% of purchasing power; 50% of consumer spending in America will be done by those over 50 this year.

This article continues on <http://hanleywooduniversity.com/learncenter.asp?id=178409&page=850>
Go online to read the rest of the article and complete the corresponding quiz for credit.

Considerations for a child-friendly kitchen layout and features include:

- Eliminate need for children to pass by stove by considering access to sink
- Install an extra sink for hand-washing out of stove zone if necessary
- Provide foot controls for sink with temperature controls to prevent burns
- Place cutlery drawer and dish cupboard outside of work triangle to provide safe and easy access during meal preparation
- Place snack area outside of work zone, including access to the refrigerator
- An added drawer refrigerator outside of work area specifically for access to snacks and drinks
- An island with stools provides a place for homework on one side and work area for the cook on the other side



A large island with stools provides a place for children to do homework and have a snack while the parents cook.



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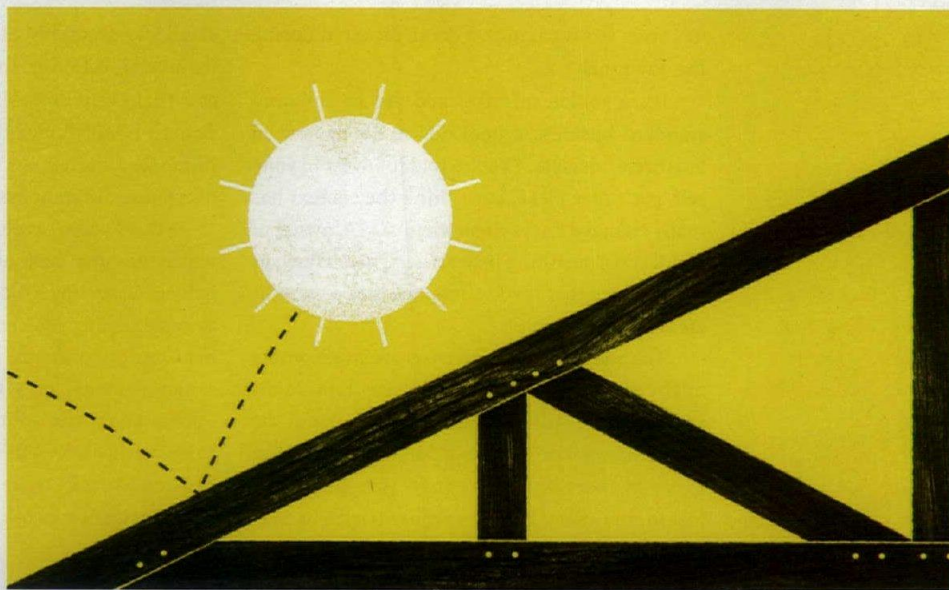
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WITH ECONOMIC INDICATORS SHOWING SIGNS OF RECOVERY, ARCHITECTURE FIRMS ARE PUTTING THEIR REBUILDING STRATEGIES IN PLACE.

TEXT BY CHERYL WEBER, LEED AP
ILLUSTRATION BY OSCAR MORRIS

Any architect who's been in business for a few years knows that staying competitive requires an outlay of time and money. In 2003, Mark LePage, AIA, decided it was time to move Fivecat Studio—the Pleasantville, N.Y., firm he runs with his wife, Annmarie McCarthy, AIA—out of their house and into 2,000 square feet of leased office space. He spent about \$15,000 upgrading the build-out with an open-plan studio and private office, plus a high-end reception desk and a conference room where he envisioned making multimedia presentations to new-home clients.

LePage spent the next two years working alone in the studio while McCarthy continued to work from home. Then, true to his business plan,

he filled the space with employees between 2005 and 2008. In that final year, the firm was on track to top \$1 million in revenues. Then came the economic crash, and with it remodeling remorse.

In hindsight, "it was a mistake to do this before we really understood the market we were in—additions and renovations. Westchester County is all built out," LePage says. "Since move-in, we could probably count [on one hand] the number of people who've come into the studio, because we meet clients at their home." He wishes he'd leased only half the space and geared up for production rather than for the public. Now that the dust has settled, LePage is back to one employee and estimates he will spend the

Rebuilding Blocks

When it comes to industry trends and smart management practices, technology, marketing, and staff well-being are all examples of money wisely spent, says Seattle-based management expert Rena Klein. So is investment in advanced learning to stay ahead of competitors in your niche. But firms that reinvest their profits successfully make decisions within the context of a plan, whether it's an annual budget or a long-term business development strategy, she says.

About that advanced learning: Spending money on a specialization should result in the ability to deliver more value, but the return on this investment isn't always clear. Take sustainability certification. "I have seen people spend a lot of money on Passive House education without being able to translate that into projects, at least not yet," she says. "Others pay for every person on staff to become LEED certified, yet the clients they look for are not necessarily interested in doing LEED buildings. You have to think about the sweet spot that intersects with the market you're serving."

Klein also encourages small practitioners to think about technology upgrades in the context of other necessities. Most architects pay attention to technology now, and that is the first place any extra money will go. However, she advises people, particularly in these times, to set up a budget (about 10 percent of net operating revenue) for marketing. That includes what Klein calls relationship marketing—talking to people at events, not just online through social media outlets. "People forget that the principal's time is also an investment in rebuilding during the recovery," she says. —C.W.

next two years paying off debts incurred during the downturn.

It's a rookie mistake, and yet he followed standard business school advice about how to nurture a business. "You're told to invest in yourself, get a nice place, but I think the context has really changed," says Rena Klein, FAIA, owner of RM Klein Consulting in Seattle. "There are ways to do things that involve less risk and a more incremental approach."

The question of how to wisely reinvest profits might seem overly optimistic these days. Many architects are still digging themselves out of the economic wreckage, having had to use their savings and every last penny they were generating just to stay afloat. But as revenues trickle back in, the key questions are: What have we learned during the past five years? How do successful firms strategically spend their money? What, if anything, has changed? And what are they investing in now to meet the rising demand?

Expansion Mode

The housing bust casts former spending habits in a new, often unflattering, light. Michael Woodley, AIA, president of Woodley Architectural Group, took his entire staff to visit a large commission in Hawaii just as the economy started to crumble. "I felt stupid; now we're cautious even about attending conferences," says Woodley, who specializes in production housing and oversees 16 employees in Denver and Santa Ana, Calif. However, he's clung to one principle that has formed the basis of his success. When three top-notch job candidates crossed his doorstep recently, he hired them even though he wasn't recruiting. For Woodley, it wasn't a splurge. "We hire for life," he says. "It felt right, and now we're super-busy."

Wiedemann Architects, in Bethesda, Md., is ramping up investment in software upgrades and staff training—expenditures that principal Gregory Wiedemann, AIA, put off when things were uncertain. But savvy planning helped the firm ride out the recession. Over the years, it has evolved into a practice that can manage large and

small jobs profitably. Strategic hiring also has fed its diversification goals, leading to enough projects to prevent downsizing. "We work in a traditionally minded town that has a growing interest in modern design, and our seven employees reflect those different interests," he says.

KGA Studio Architects, in Boulder, Colo., which designs custom and production houses, is focused on upgrading CAD programs, as well as replenishing the staff roster. The 36-year-old firm has a workforce of 12, down from 18, but senior partner Jerry Gloss, AIA, is cautiously upbeat about the volume of new work coming through the door. After loading up a four-month backlog of projects, he gave employees a choice: Did they want to work more hours or hire someone back?

"You can ask those questions when you have trusted employees," says Gloss, who recently welcomed back three former staffers. The Great Recession, he says, was "a real head-thumper that informs every decision we make. If the cash flow is good now, do we just give a bonus and not commit to a salary raise? Everything we do from here out will be rather guarded."

Everyone is trying to stay nimble now. In San Diego, Kevin deFreitas, AIA, has a business model that allows him to expand and contract without the painful process of hiring and firing. He has a digital practice involving four other Southern California architects working independently in home studios. "Part of this business model is based on the fact that I'm a terrible personnel manager," he says. Another benefit: His co-collaborators are experienced, requiring less oversight than junior staff.

Business development should be part of every firm's expense sheet, yet it feels like a luxury when you're living hand-to-mouth. DeFreitas says his model's low overhead and increased profitability buy time for targeted volunteer work and networking, such as organizing a book drive for the local AIA chapter and serving on the San Diego Architectural Foundation board. Technology is deFreitas's biggest cash outlay, and



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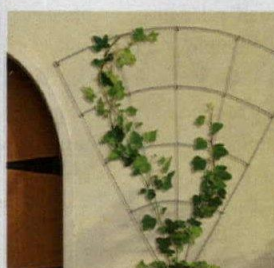
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**"THE PRACTICE HAS RECEIVED THE STRONGEST
BENEFIT FROM DOING RESEARCH AND THEN FINDING
THE CLIENTS WHO ARE SEEKING NEW THINGS."**

—BERT GREGORY

he finally updated it last year, spending \$3,500 on an AutoCAD seat and \$1,200 on FormZ software.

Robin Osler, AIA, LEED AP, principal of Elmslie Osler Architect in New York City, also is trying to position her 17-year-old firm for the future by taking a hard look at the office's infrastructure. While large firms seem to be going gangbusters, caution is the operative word among smaller practices these days. Architects report that the phone is ringing more, but projects are taking longer to lock in.

"My challenge was, okay, we get published a lot and have global companies reaching out to us, and yet we're still a little fragile for my taste," Osler says. "Even if we have a six-month backlog of work, it still makes me nervous." Recently, she asked Rena Klein for help in solidifying the firm's base. One decision they made was to step up marketing by redesigning the firm's website and creating a public relations outreach matrix where Osler keeps track of people who have been contacted, what happened, and what she needs to do to follow up.

Another decision made was to invest in more sophisticated IT support. Technology is perhaps the toughest budget item for small residential practices, but Osler, who currently employs five people for work in both the residential and commercial sectors, wishes she'd done it sooner. After the office server crashed, the firm had to pay an enormous amount of money to retrieve files that weren't backed up properly. "It took us a while to

figure out we needed to spend this kind of money for IT services," she says. "It makes us a little sick, but we realized that we were big enough that we needed to invest in someone with more skills to handle bigger demands on the system."

Future Proofing

Smart business development springs from a holistic look at a firm's priorities, Klein says, and the type of practice it is, or wants to become. She encourages productivity-based firms to invest in the latest drafting and delivery technologies, while design-focused firms might bolster their core business by adding a specialty. "Do research, be a knowledge leader, write about it yourself," she says. "You have to have a value proposition for the market you're in."

When the recession hit, Osler realized she needed to expand her expertise. So she launched Grow Studio, a design consultancy specializing in urban agriculture. The idea came after Anthropologie commissioned the firm to design a planted façade wall for a store in Huntsville, Ala. Then a nonprofit called Urban Farming asked for a similar system for growing food. Osler developed customizable wall panels that support crops and can be integrated into new or existing residential, commercial, or civic projects. The idea is to create healthier communities through architecture, as a response to consumers' growing enthusiasm for locally produced food. Plotting the firm's next steps "is about living and breathing

all the other stuff that's out there," she says, "because that will inform the architecture."

According to Klein, residential architects can benefit from bringing new ideas into their work. "People tend to be more successful if they're specialized, but you can broaden that to include different ways of delivering projects," she says.

A case in point is Boulder, Colo.'s Scott Rodwin, AIA, LEED AP, principal of Rodwin Architecture, one of hundreds of firms across the country that lost most of its clients in 2009. Ninety percent of his business disappeared within a six-month span. But rather than laying off his seven employees, he turned the firm's sleepy "build" component—one small project a year, at the time—into a thriving enterprise that almost doubled its volume from 2007 to 2013.

One of Rodwin Architecture's junior staff had been a builder for 12 years and was enthusiastic about ramping up the construction side. Rodwin spent 18 months and \$150,000 to hire and train site supervisors and purchase new operating systems, including Revit. "It helped our quality control substantially," he says. The firm's construction arm became Skycastle Homes. "As we moved into becoming the builders, making sure our documents were complete and consistent became extra important, because we were financially responsible for anything missing." The startup capital came from Rodwin's personal savings, but by 2010 he was reinvesting some of the profits.

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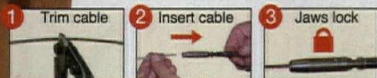
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Residential Architect

PRACTICE

"We were looking for a more financially sustainable model and feel we do need to return to that role of the master builder in order to reclaim our place in making buildings," he says. "But it requires an enormous commitment of time, expertise, and money to gain that back."

During the slow period, he and his employees also established themselves as green building experts. Rodwin teamed up with a regional sustainable design leader to teach green building tenets to local builders and architects. Boulder County set up the lectures and charged a small fee to attendees. "We got paid pennies, but it upped our game and strengthened our reputation so that when the market came back, people knew about us," he says.

As larger firms rise out of the recession fog, they too are laser-focused on positioning themselves for the future. Seattle-based Mithun is feeling the effects of the many talented architects who left the profession when work was scarce. "We had a wonderful landscape architect who decided to become an organic farmer, and a principal became a nonprofit director," says CEO Bert Gregory, FAIA, LEED AP BD+C. "As the workload increases and the demographics shift and the output doesn't quite ramp up, we're challenged to find staff able to service us at the level required by our clients."

Last year Mithun, which employs about 100 people, made a tremendous investment in intellectual capital when it merged with Daniel Solomon Design Partners in San Francisco. Gregory says the merger allows it to carve deeper inroads into high-density housing, student housing, urban planning, and transit-oriented development—all growth areas that emerged from its market research. "Over the last decade, the practice has received the strongest benefit from doing research and then finding the clients who are seeking new things—positioning themselves to be where they think the market is going in terms of all the things we need to do to accommodate population growth," Gregory says.

At Mithun, that also means doing the math on energy performance and being savvy about costs,



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"WHEN YOU LEARN A NEW THING, YOU KEEP STAFF ENGAGED. THEN WHEN WORK COMES BACK, THE RECOVERY IS MUCH QUICKER." —KIRSTEN R. MURRAY

to maximize limited budgets in order to achieve clients' sustainability goals. To stay ahead of the curve, staff members are offered perks for organizing educational sessions, which are held two or three times a week throughout the year. The classes vary from industry experts sharing the latest thinking about technical construction issues, to in-house architects discussing the projects they're working on, to manufacturer reps explaining their products' material content.

In a landscape still suffering from fallout, Olson Kundig Architects also has managed to weather the recent economic storms. Launched in the late 1960s, the Seattle firm has learned over the years how to expand its services so that it can ride the ups and downs. "We put in place some austerity measures and operated without feeling profitable, but we could cover ourselves and invest in things we wanted to do," says principal Kirsten R. Murray, AIA. During the recession, for example, the firm made the transition from AutoCAD to Revit. Recently it added a 3D printer and laser cutter to the office tools.

Counterintuitively, perhaps, the firm also increased the amount of money spent on philanthropic and community outreach. In 2011, Olson Kundig leased vacant storefront space in its neighborhood to use for creating its own interactive exhibits and collaborating with local artists, Washington State University students, and the Seattle Art Museum. "We do a lot of things in that space with program partners, strengthening our exhibit-design expertise and connections in the cultural realm for when the economy comes back," Murray says.

While small practitioners may not have the cash reserves or lines of credit that a corporation does, Olson Kundig's solutions are scalable. "When we were a 12-person office with revenues under \$1 million, we did similar things on a smaller scale," Murray says. "One staff person worked on a projection screen for the office. When you learn a new thing, you keep staff engaged. Then when work comes back, the recovery is much quicker." ▽

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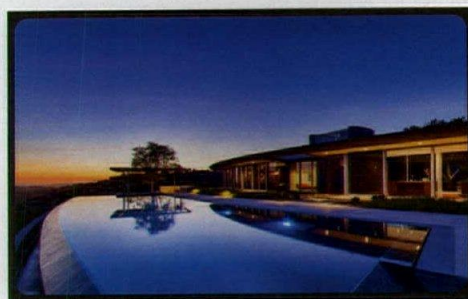
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Product picks and *wish lists* from 10 top practitioners

TEXT BY BRUCE D. SNIDER

ILLUSTRATIONS BY KELSEY DAKE

Clothes hounds love clothes. Gearheads love gear. Pretty much everyone has something they live to shop for. But for residential architects, shopping amounts to a professional imperative. Residential design may begin in a realm of pure form, free from the banality of brand names and manufacturers' warranties, but before even the finest idea finds its expression in bricks and mortar, someone has to specify the brick. And which brick—or window or ceramic tile or lighting fixture—can make the difference between a project that merely serves and one that truly sings.

So it is with some anticipation each year that we compile our Architects' Choice issue, for which we put together a list of architects we admire and ask them to dish about their favorite products and materials. We always learn about great items that we were unaware of before, as well as familiar standbys rediscovered or used in a new way. And for the architects who share their favorites in the following pages, this is no idle matter. Their enthusiasm for these bits and pieces is sincere and contagious; their recommendations—backed by experience—are something you can take to the bank.

Each set of selections, while small in number, stands in for a larger palette: the kit of parts with which each of these architects produces his or her buildings. And because no such kit of parts is ever complete, this year we asked them also to identify products they're keeping an eye on and planning to use in the future. We trust that you'll find here some worthy candidates for your own must-try list. Happy shopping.

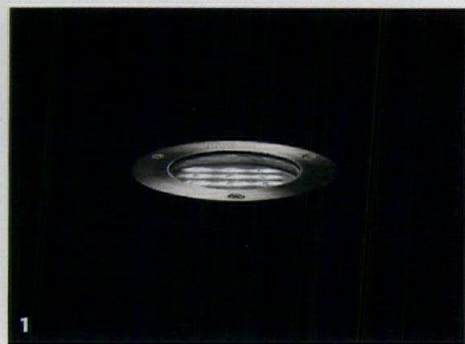
Residential Architect

ARCHITECTS' CHOICE



**Juliet Whelan, AIA,
LEED AP**
Philadelphia

Jibe Design



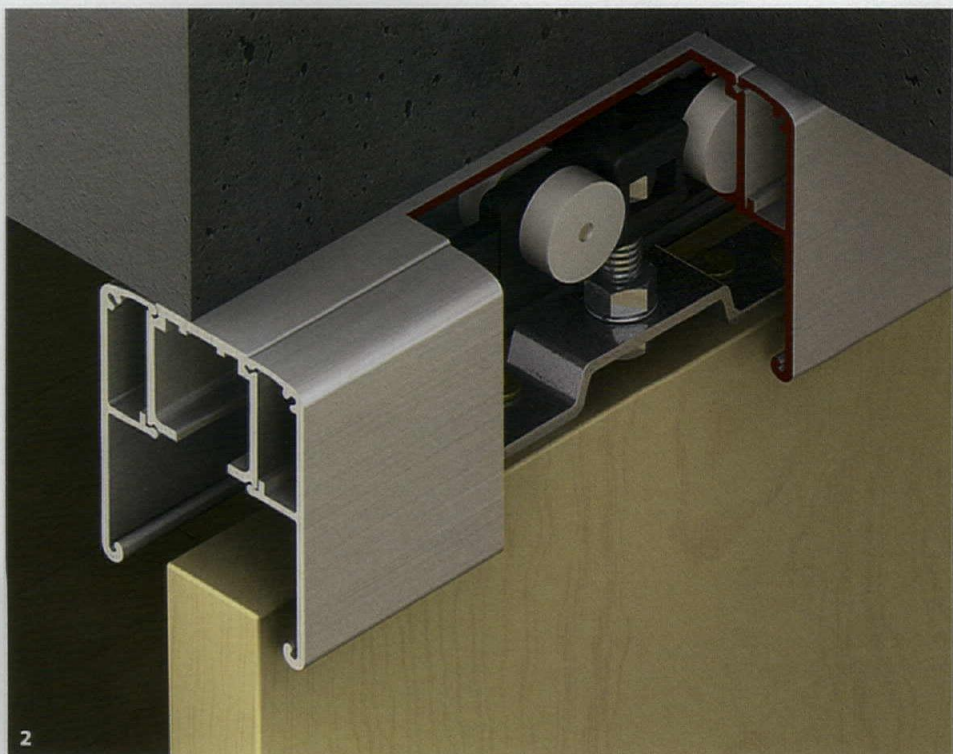
1. Garden Glow

Often overlooked or handled as an afterthought, landscape lighting is actually one of the best gifts an architect can give to a building. Whelan has used Louis Poulsen's Nimbus Power LED fixture to great effect on many projects. "It's kind of a workhorse," she says. "It's nice for uplighting trees and featuring plants in a garden. You can mount it in the dirt or in pavement, and it's LED, so it's energy efficient." Louis Poulsen, louispoulsen.com

wish list

Rain or Shine

"It rains a lot in Philadelphia," says Whelan, who has been on the hunt for fast-drying outdoor furniture. With its light metal construction and powdercoat finish, Emu Heaven Seating fits the bill. "It looks comfortable," Whelan says—especially the lounge version (an armchair, shown, and side chair are also available)—"and it's a metal weave, so it wouldn't matter if it got wet." Steelcase, steelcase.com Also on Juliet Whelan's wish list: Max Exterior siding by Fundermax.

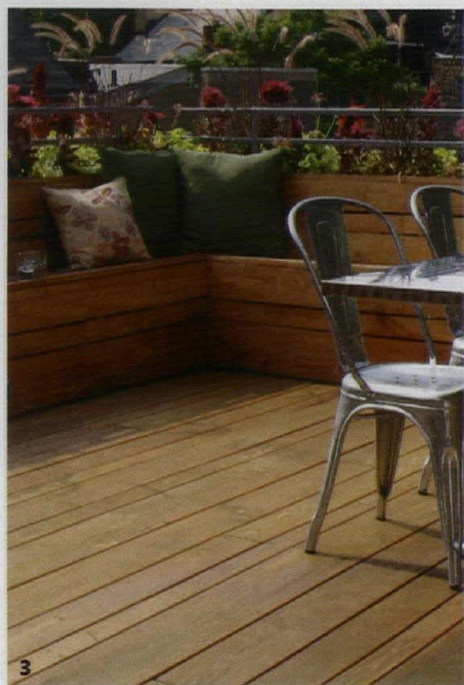


2. Slide Rule

Like other sliding door hardware systems, Häfele's gives designers the flexibility to fill virtually any interior opening with a movable partition. What sets the company's custom architectural sliding door system apart, Whelan says, is how it rolls: smoothly and easily. "It works well for us," Whelan says. "It operates beautifully, and it's not hard to install." Häfele America, hafele.com

3. On Deck

Common in the Appalachian Region, black locust is an often-overlooked native species that is well suited for outdoor use in exposed locations (such as the deck in a firm project shown at left). "It's a local hardwood that's naturally rot resistant," says Whelan, who likes black locust decking for its appearance, sustainability, and durability. "It's very dense, so it's very hard to cut, but it doesn't tend to warp a lot. It's hard to find a mill that stocks it, but they're out there." Black Locust Lumber, blacklocustlumber.com



4. Fiber Optics

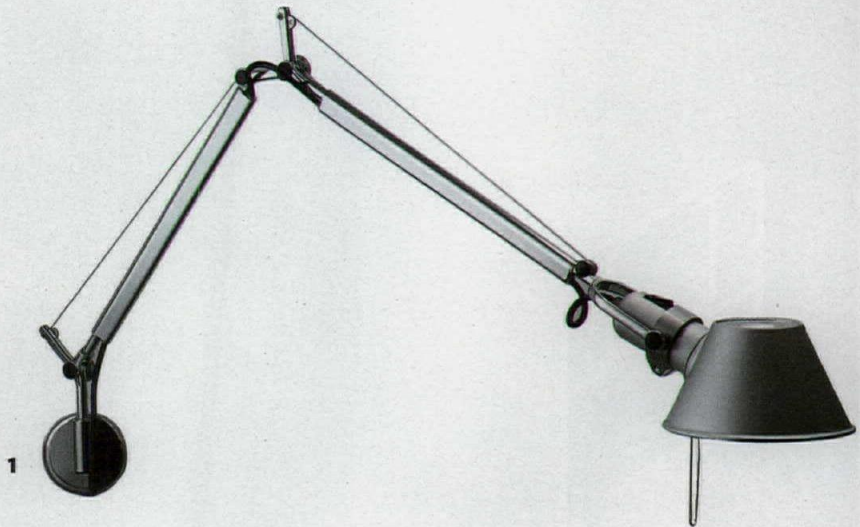
3form's Varia Ecoresin panels "freeze" various natural and manufactured materials—grasses, textiles, colorful strips of paper—in sheets of translucent resin. "These are just fun," says Whelan, who last specified the product for a custom bi-fold door. "I used the grass pattern," she says. "It lets the light through, but it provides privacy." With many options of texture, pattern, and color available, she adds, "the sky's the limit." 3form, 3-form.com

RA For more of Juliet Whelan's favorites, including Dri-Design metal panels and IceStone countertops, visit residentialarchitect.com.



Kirk Blunck, FAIA
Des Moines, Iowa, and
Minneapolis
knowlesblunckarchitecture.com

Knowles Blunck Architecture

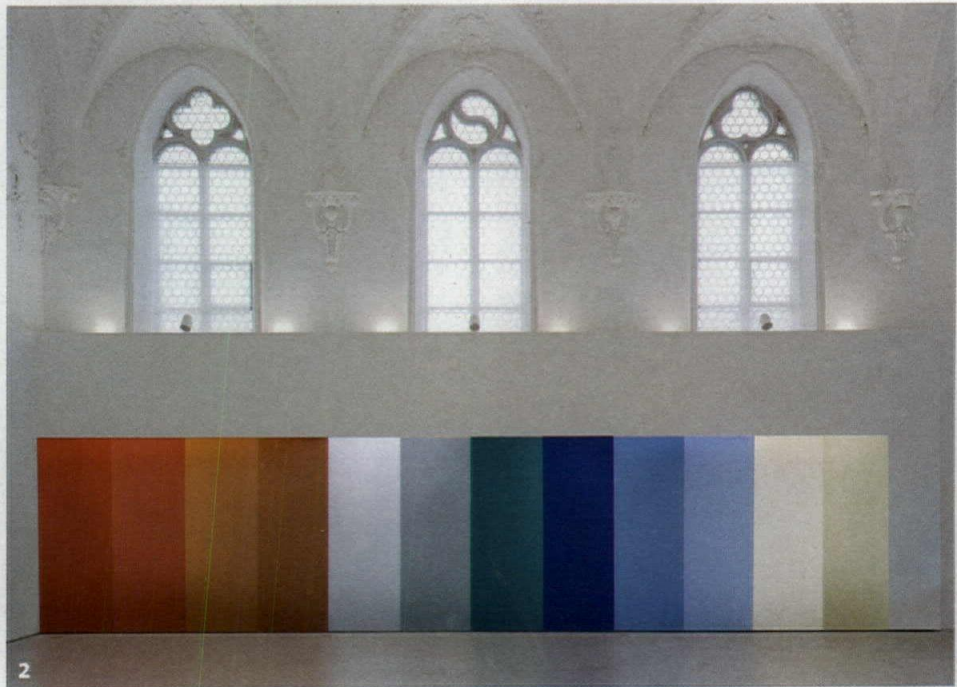


1. Watts Happening

With its articulated arm, tendonlike tension cables, and small, inquisitive head, Artemide's Tolomeo lamp projects a kind of robotic intelligence. Blunck specifies both wall and table versions in the natural aluminum finish. "It's fairly simple, it's been around for 10 or 15 years, and it doesn't look dated at all," he reports from his firm's conference room. "I'm looking at three of them right now." [Artemide, artemide.us](http://Artemide.com)

2. Screen Gem

Integral-color cement composite panels offer the tempting prospect of a durable siding material that requires virtually no maintenance throughout its life cycle. Designed specifically for rainscreen applications, SwissPearl's panels are available in more than 30 colors. The company touts its environmentally friendly production process, noting that its panels are fully recyclable after a lifespan it estimates to be a minimum of 40 years. Blunck specs it, he says, "because the material is so precisely engineered." [SwissPearl, www.swisspearl.com](http://SwissPearl.com)



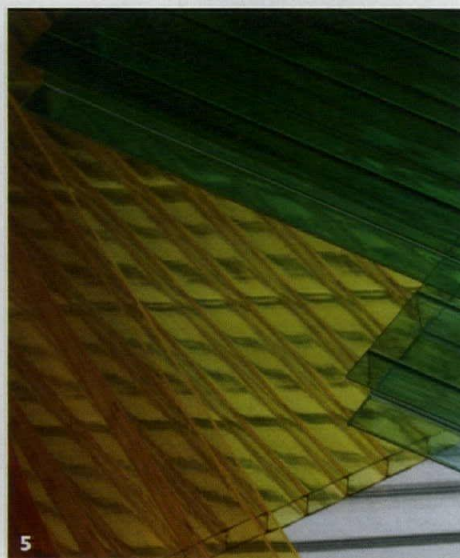


3. Paper Mate

PaperStone countertops are made from an environmentally friendly combination of recycled paper and petroleum-free phenolic resins. Blunck likes the material (shown here in a project by the firm) for its muted colors, unpretentious character, and durability. "It's an all-integral material," he says. "There's no pattern in it to make it look like something else. It's scratch resistant, but if it does get scratched, you can just buff it out." PaperStone, paperstoneproducts.com

4. Lever Age

Designer Philippe Starck based the Axor Starck lavatory faucet on the once-ubiquitous, hand-operated water pump. "His inspiration was something that had been around for 125 years," Blunck notes admiringly. It's not surprising, then, that the result is simple in form, fun to use, and easy to maintain. "It's been a staple of our work," Blunck says. Hansgrohe USA, hansgrohe-usa.com



5. Sheer Wall

Blunck is a big fan of Polygal's translucent polycarbonate structured sheets, which are available in a variety of colors, thicknesses, and levels of transparency. "We've been using them in wall dividers," he says. "Because of the sheet size, you can have 16-foot walls with virtually no joints from floor to ceiling." But ease of installation is just icing on the cake. The primary attraction, he says, is "the quality and variety of the light that comes through." Polygal, polygal-northamerica.com

wish list

Flex Time

Blunck is intrigued by the architectural potential of industrial rubber sheeting. Typically used on factory floors or as raw stock for manufactured goods, the material also makes a practical and appealing residential finish. "It comes in sheet goods up to 3 inches thick," Blunck says, "but I've been using it in 1/8 inch and 1/4 inch. You can stretch it from floor to ceiling, make it as taut as you want it. At 1/8 inch, it's translucent." Rubber Sheet Roll, rubbersheetroll.com

RA

For more of Kirk Blunck's favorites, including Duravit's Scola sink, visit residentialarchitect.com.



Nicole Migeon, AIA
New York, N.Y.
migeonarchitect.com

Nicole Migeon Architect



1. Growing Up

Given New York's compact outdoor spaces, Migeon likes to think vertically when it comes to landscaping. greenscreen's modular, welded-wire trellis system allows climbing plants to become green sculpture. Best of all, Migeon says, whether assembled as a fence, a column, or a more complex shape, "once you have some wisteria over it, it disappears." greenscreen, greenscreen.com



wish list

Looking Glass

Vancouver, B.C.-based Joel Berman Glass Studios produces art glass for architectural applications, using kiln-forming and pressure-forming techniques to achieve a wide range of colors, textures, and effects. "It's more art form than industrial product," says Migeon. "It's all about how the light hits the surface. I wish I could use more of it, but it's hard to find the right client for it." Joel Berman Glass Studios, jbermanglass.com Also on Nicole Migeon's wish list: Schüco windows.



2. Sun Shower

Migeon enjoys working with relatively small fabricators that straddle the line between art and industry—and London-based Ochre is one. “They do beautiful objects,” says Migeon, who offers as an example the company’s Light Drizzle lighting fixture. “I like this one because of the droplets,” she says. “Day or night, the reflections it makes are beautiful.” Ochre, ochre.net

3. Whole Grain

Migeon adds warmth to her modern interiors with custom millwork, and her favorite source for facing material is FormWood Industries. The company offers more than 100 species and cuts of wood, from afrormosia to zebrawood, in paper-backed, laminate-backed, pressure-sensitive, and hot-melt-glue-backed veneers. “And you can get them book-matched,” Migeon says. She used FormWood in the project shown at far left. FormWood Industries, formwood.com



4. Pixilated

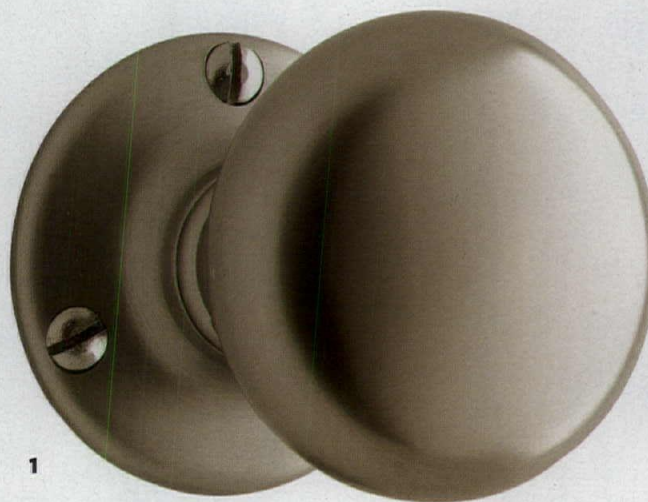
While drawn to unique products and materials, Migeon also energizes her work with creative applications of time-honored staples like porcelain mosaic tiles from American Olean, shown at left in a firm project. “I’m very interested in pattern,” Migeon says, “and they’ll do a customization of a pattern. They’re very easy to work with; I can just go down to the local store.” American Olean, americanolean.com

RA For more of Nicole Migeon’s favorites, including Philips Color Kinetics LED lighting and Waterworks’ Henry Collection fittings, visit residentialarchitect.com.



David Jones, AIA
Washington, D.C.
davidjonesarchitects.com

David Jones Architects



1. Turn Style

Jones has several sources for period hardware, but one piece he specs on a regular basis is Rejuvenation's Randall Interior Door Set. "It has a small knob," he says. "It looks like a knob that you might find in an 18th-century house." Available in seven finishes, the set is reasonably priced, Jones says, "but we also use it on expensive houses, because we like it so much." Rejuvenation, rejuvenation.com

2. Hot Dip

The Waterworks catalog lists some two dozen bathtubs, in both traditional and contemporary designs. Jones finds himself opting again and again for one of the most basic and versatile: a simple oval tub from the Classic collection. Suitable for both surface- and undermount installations, "it's simple and symmetrical," he says. "Perfect for architects." Waterworks Operating Co., waterworks.com





3. Victory Lap

Jones puts western red cedar shingles at the top of his list. "They're a beautiful, natural product that stands up well in severe weather," he says. Used as roofing or siding—or both, as shown at left in a house designed by the firm—"they weather and blend with nature so nicely." Their modular nature makes a shingled surface easy to repair, he adds, "and they have a scale that everyone can identify with." Cedar Shake & Shingle Bureau, cedarbureau.org

4. Around the Fire

Chesney's, which has showrooms in London and New York, manufactures stone fireplace mantels in a wide range of contemporary and period-correct styles. The company will also custom fabricate an architect's design. "They do very high quality marble—and other stone—fireplaces," says Jones, who has specified a number of Chesney's historical designs. His most recent: The Leverton, from the Georgian Collection. "Very English," he says. Chesney's, chesneys.com



5. Formal Reception

"Limestone lasts forever," Jones says, and Indiana Limestone Co. has made this timeless material a viable option for many of his residential projects, including the one shown at left. "It's what we use on our more formal entries," he adds. "Indiana Limestone has found a way to carve limestone using computers, so it's become much more practical. It's nearly as cost-efficient as precast concrete." Indiana Limestone Co., indianalimestonecompany.com

wish list

New Leaf

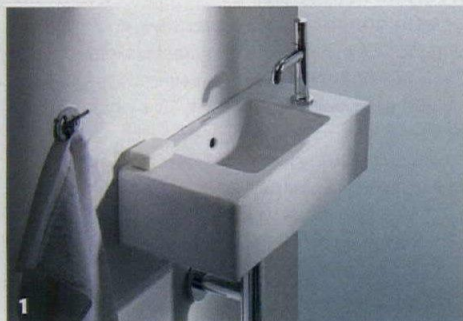
An upcoming project on Maryland's Eastern Shore will afford Jones his first opportunity to specify a folding glass wall by Nanawall. The company's SL73 model can span floor-to-ceiling openings up to 38 feet wide, is Energy Star rated, and meets the Miami-Dade County, Fla., hurricane-impact standard. "The potential is wonderful," says Jones, who knows just the feeling he hopes to achieve: "Open, relaxed, dramatic." NanaWall Systems, nanawall.com

RA For more of David Jones's favorites, including Reilly Windows and McLean Lighting's English Street Light, visit residentialarchitect.com.



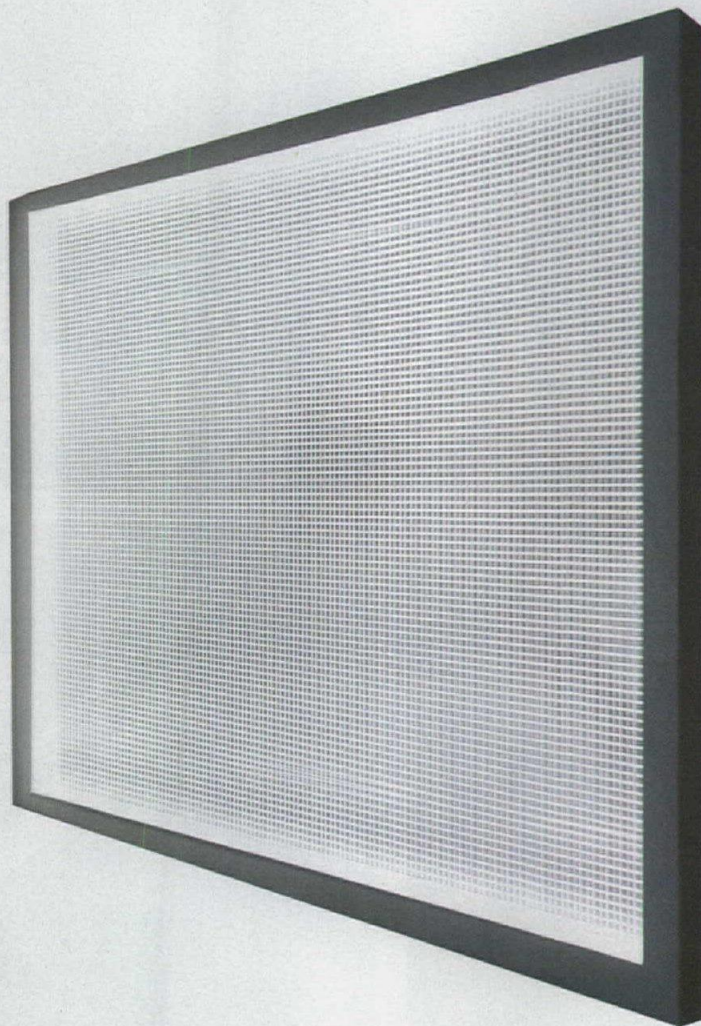
Mark Larson, AIA
Minneapolis
rehkamplarson.com

Rehkamp Larson Architects



1. Get Skinny

Larson derives special satisfaction from designing a functional powder room or bathroom into an unlikely sliver of a floor plan. There's something interesting that happens, he says, "when you've got a tiny space that actually fits," and Duravit's smallest Vero washbasin can fit almost anywhere. Diminutive in size, yet comfortable to use, "it's whimsical and beautiful," Larson says. "It makes you glad your bathroom is so small." Duravit, duravit.us



wish list

Even Glow

Having specified a backlit, translucent art panel for one of his projects, Larson completed the assembly with an eLume LED light panel. He'd love the chance to use this product again. Thin, dimmable, and custom-sized, the units are a versatile, low-power alternative to fluorescent lighting. "They're very evenly lit, not having a hot spot at the edge," Larson says. "And they're so thin that we didn't have to put a clunky frame around them." Elumination, elumination.com
Also on Mark Larson's wish list: Goldray Industries laminated glass, Woodstone pizza ovens, and Clopay Avante series garage doors.



2. Strong Finish

One of the most ancient of the building arts, traditional plaster (shown in the firm project at far left) remains the gold standard of interior wall finishes, and Larson is a big fan. "We use real plaster on projects where we're looking for something more artful or controllable," he says. "It's durable, cleanable, and repairable. It's really an elegant way to bring a personal finish to a space." [USG, usg.com](http://USG.usg.com)

3. Means of Support

One of Larson's favorite details (shown at left in a firm project) is a bone-simple galvanized steel column produced to his specs by a local fabricator. "It has a great material quality," he says. And, true enough, this is one structural piece that expresses exactly what it is and what it does. "It's timeless," he adds. "It's modern because it has a bright finish, but it's also kind of old-school. And you never have to paint or finish it." American Galvanizers Association, galvanizeit.org

4. Further Reflection

Made of a resin with 38 percent recycled content, Chroma solid surface material from 3form is available in a rainbow of translucent colors. "It has almost a glow," says Larson, who uses the material in thick slabs that combine visual heft with a certain vaporous quality (see the firm's project shown at left). "Even more than glass, it takes on the light around it," he says. "And it's still durable enough to be a countertop." [3form, 3-form.com](http://3form.com)



RA For more of Mark Larson's favorites, including Thermomass insulated foundations, visit residentialarchitect.com.

ARCHITECTS' CHOICE



Scott Hughes, AIA
Venice, Calif., and
Hobe Sound, Fla.
huum.com

Hughes Umbanhowar

wish list

Panel of Experts

Parklex panels combine a kraft-paper-and-resin core, bonded under high pressure and temperature, with wood veneers treated for resistance to moisture and UV rays. Hughes has tapped the company's Façade panel for an upcoming project, in which it will clad walls that transition from indoors to outdoors. "It's a stable material that can be used on a continuous internal-external surface," he says, "so it reads as one continuous volume." Parklex, parklex.com

Also on Scott Hughes's wish list: Weiland Sliding Doors and Windows.



1

1. Handheld

Hughes pays particular attention to the elements of his buildings that people actually touch, and the FSB 1176 door lever is one he reaches for—as it were—again and again. "It's a timeless, classic design that feels solid in your hand," he says. "It's an almost iconic lever. It's something that no one else does as well." FSB, fsb.de



2

2. Wall Star

The result of more than 95 years of design innovation, Toto's coordinated suites of bathroom fixtures, fittings, and accessories range in style from the classic to the cutting edge. Hughes favors the Aquia wall-hung toilet, as much for its flawless performance as for its space-saving minimalist profile. "It's the state of the art," he says. "Everyone else is only catching up." Toto USA, totousa.com

3. Jewel Boxes

Hughes's kitchen designs are very much his own, but often he assembles them (including the one in this photo) from elements produced by Bulthaup. "They're not overdesigned," he says. "They have a classic balance that complements our architectural vision." A current favorite is the company's b3 line, a modular system of cabinets and accessories available in a wide range of materials and colors. Bulthaup, bulthaup.com



3



For more of Scott Hughes's favorites, including Dornbracht's Tara line and Zeluck Windows, visit residentialarchitect.com.



David Brach, AIA
Salt Lake City, Utah
brachdesign.com

Brach Design



2



3



1

1. Air Force

Energy-recovery ventilation is a must in Brach's supertight Passive House projects, and he calls UltimateAir's RecoupAerator 200DX "the de facto cost-effective Passive House ERV in North America." The unit exchanges the air in an average house about once every two hours at a 95 percent heat recovery rate, while also providing humidity control and MERV 12-level filtration. UltimateAir, ultimateair.com

2. Open Season

Brach specifies German-made Unilux windows (shown here in a firm project) for their flexible configurations, vaultlike construction, and high energy-efficiency. The company offers the same tilt-turn operation in four different materials, but Brach prefers the wood-aluminum version. His favorite features: "large sizes, great U-value, and wood interiors." Unilux, unilux.de

3. Watershed Moment

Boat builders have proved the durability of epoxy-coated marine plywood in damp environments, so Brach feels comfortable using this combination for wet-duty assemblies such as this custom hand basin. "I have done this several times to make wood sinks," he says, "and so far, so good." Needless to say, the results are as beautiful as they are durable. Wolstenholme International, www.wolstenholme.com

wish list

Fuel Gauge

With sensors installed inside a house's electrical panel, eMonitor measures the energy use of every circuit and appliance in the building. The system communicates via Wi-Fi with a programmable thermostat and can be controlled via any Internet-connected device. "You can see in real time how much energy things are using," Brach says. "You can validate your energy model and identify problems."

Powerhouse Dynamics, powerhousedynamics.com Also on David Brach's wish list: Bio PCmat thermal storage mats.

RA

For more of David Brach's favorites, including Mitsubishi Electric's split-system heat pump, Accoya modified wood, and Functional Fenestration window operators, visit residentialarchitect.com.



Matthew Hufft,
AIA, LEED AP
Kansas City, Mo.
hufft.com

Hufft Projects

1. Well Rounded

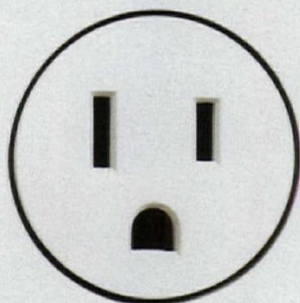
Bocci's 22 line includes power outlets, lighting controls, and telephone and data connections, all of which mount flush to a wall surface. Hufft is especially partial to the elegant round power receptacle. "It can get mudded right into the wall," he says. "There's no trim plate at all. It's really well designed." Bocci, bocci.ca

2. Counter Proposal

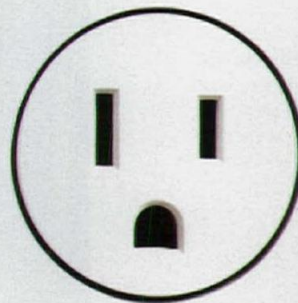
Caesarstone's name recalls its origin, on an Israeli kibbutz near the ancient Roman city of Caesarea. But the countertop material, shown here in a house by the firm, has become a modern classic. Tough, versatile, and attractive, it is also made in plants that meet stringent environmental standards. "We spec it in 2-centimeter [thickness] with modern cabinetry," Hufft says. "It looks a little sleeker." Caesarstone, caesarstoneus.com

3. Soft Power

Available by the yard in widths up to 70³/₄ inches and in 58 Pantone Matching System colors, FilzFelt wool felt adds texture, color, and warmth to any interior surface. "It's great for bedrooms, where you want something with a little depth and softness to it," Hufft says. "And it really dampens sound." FilzFelt, filzfelt.com



1



2



3

wish list

Juice Maker

Hufft has his eye on ClearEdge Power's PureCell Model 5 residential fuel cell, which produces electricity from natural gas by a combustion-free—and virtually pollution-free—electrochemical process. Because it can make a residence independent of grid power, Hufft says, "it's a real alternative, and pretty intriguing. We're hoping to get it installed in a house this year." ClearEdge Power, clearedgepower.com
Also on Matthew Hufft's wish list: FTF Design Studio hardware.

RA For more of Matthew Hufft's favorites, including Heath Ceramics Classic Field tile and Fleetwood Windows & Doors, visit residentialarchitect.com.

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Houston
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Dillon Kyle Architecture

1. Material Benefit

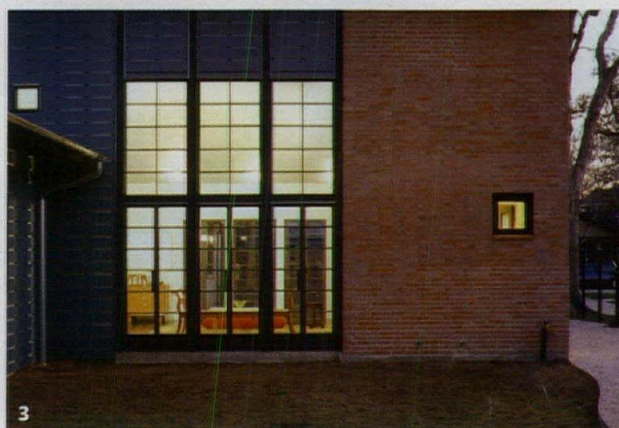
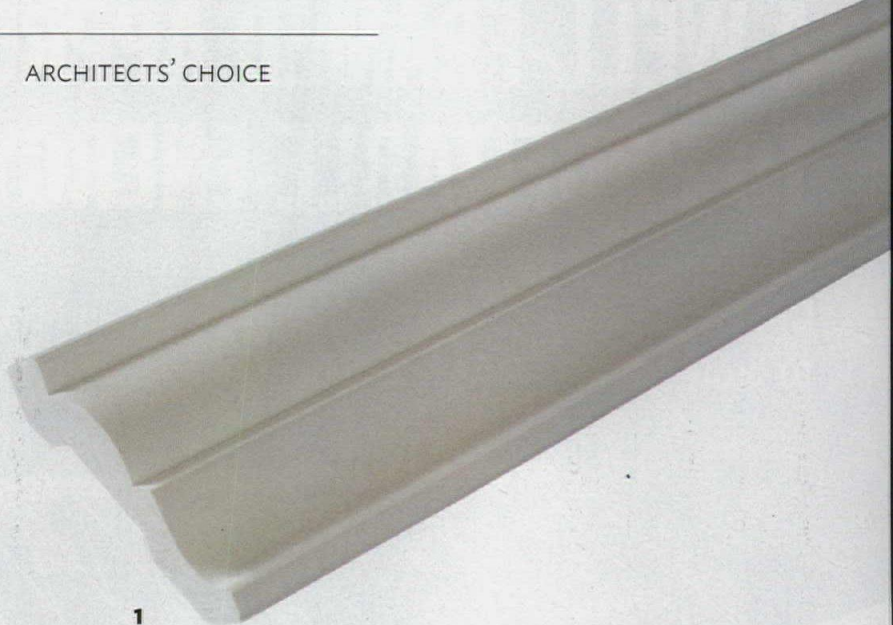
Wood is good for a lot of things, but when it comes to exterior trim exposed to harsh conditions, Azek PVC presents an attractive alternative. Kyle likes the material's dimensional stability, long life (the manufacturer warranties it for 25 years), and workability. "It paints really well, and it cuts very well, so we use it fairly often," he says. Azek Building Products, azek.com

2. Matched Set

Steel doors and windows have a delicacy of proportion that no other commonly used material can match. Portella's custom steel window comes in casement, awning, and hopper configurations in three standard finishes (custom finishes are available). Kyle says, "It mimics a putty-glazed window, but does it in a way that seems very clean and modern." The Architect Series doors come in standard and arch-top profiles. Portella, portella.com

3. Common Bond

Made using the same process since 1891, St. Joe brick still comes out of individual wooden molds. "It has a kind of sandy finish, so it has this soft feel to it," says Kyle, who used it in the home shown in this photo. "It has a very strong association for me with Houston. A lot of mid-century houses here used it, and most of Rice University is built out of St. Joe brick. It goes really well with a traditional or modern house." St. Joe Brick Works, stjoebbrickworks.com



wish list

Top Floor

Despite its association with Depression-era kitchen floors, Kyle finds Marmoleum anything but depressing. "I just think it has fun colors and patterns; it's kind of a happy material." And though it was invented in the 19th century, it's a modern sustainability superstar. Made of linseed oil, wood flour, and jute, "it's renewable," Kyle notes. "It has a nice green profile." And blue, yellow, red, and orange ... Forbo Flooring Systems, forbo-flooring.com

RA

For more of Dillon Kyle's favorites, including Cor-Ten steel, visit residentialarchitect.com.



Product: Cascade™
Color shown: Pewter Gray

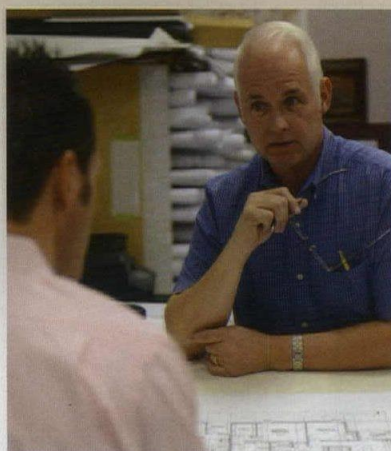
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"When planning and designing my new home this past year, I really wanted a roof that was different, unique and would reflect the English Tudor architecture of my home. Having designed homes of architectural significance for over 30 years, I'm very particular about scale and dimensions of all aspects on my homes. Cascade Pewter Gray offered the diamond shape that is reminiscent of older classic looks. I could have specified any roof on my home, but Cascade was the best choice for me."

Brent Gibson – Owner, Brent Gibson Classic Home Design





John Maniscalco, AIA
San Francisco
m-architecture.com

Maniscalco Architecture

1. Pinup

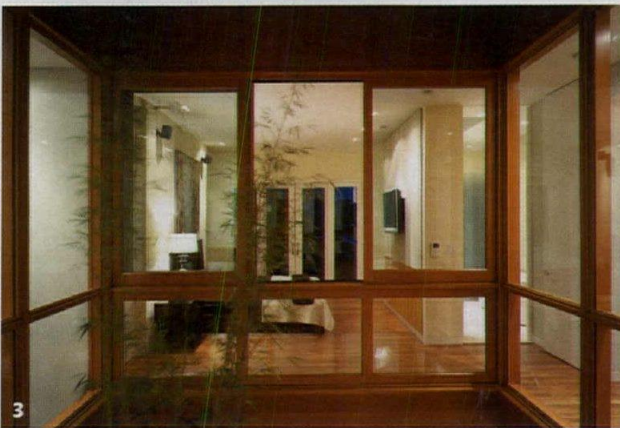
Vin de Garde can supply an oenophile's every need, from cooling systems to complete custom cellars. Maniscalco gives top marks to the Nek-Rite storage system, which supports bottles on stainless steel pins that project from a fixed wall panel available in wood and powdercoat finishes. "It allows the bottles to be displayed almost as art," he says. Vin de Garde, vindegarde.ca

2. Global Perspective

We've sensed a natural affinity between Maniscalco's work and the Bocci 14 pendant light, and the San Francisco-based architect agrees. "The individual globes have a handcrafted quality," he says. "It works from close up and far away, and it's got a really nice, organic feel that reinforces the clean lines of my architecture." Bocci, bocci.ca

3. Framed Art

Based near Seattle, Quantum builds custom, all-wood and clad windows and doors—including the Slide & Fold door system, which permits openings up to 42 feet wide. Maniscalco made an assembly of the company's sliding doors and windows the centerpiece of the Cube House in San Francisco, shown. "They've got extremely clean profiles and a rich palette of materials," he says. Quantum Windows & Doors, quantumwindows.com



wish list

Fine Line

In dubbing its glazing system the Invisible Wall, Vitrocsa may be stretching the truth, but not by much. The aluminum alloy frames around its sliding, pivoting, and guillotine units are only $\frac{3}{4}$ inch wide. Panel sizes up to 200 square feet are available, and the company has supplied sliding units up to 15 feet tall. "That's my dream product," Maniscalco says. "Absolutely zero sight lines anywhere. It's spectacularly minimal." Vitrocsa USA, vitrocsa.com

RA For more of John Maniscalco's favorites, including Spark Modern Fires, Maiden Stone limestone, Dinesen wood flooring, and PentalQuartz Counters, visit residentialarchitect.com.

Residential Architect

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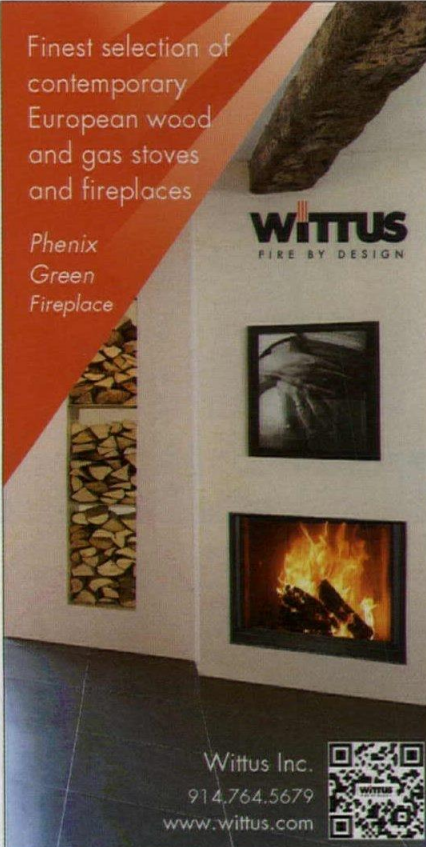
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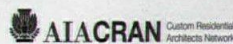


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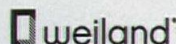
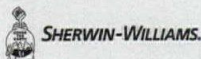


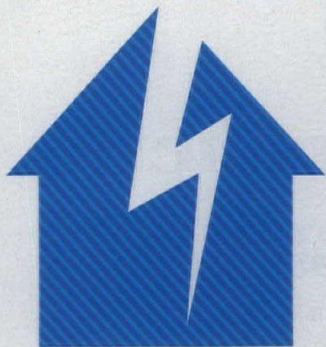
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KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

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TERRAPIN BRIGHT GREEN

Since his early work with visionary Buckminster Fuller, sustainability expert Browning has always pushed to expand the reach of environmentally conscious building and development. Through prior work with the Rocky Mountain Institute, as a founding member of the Board of Directors of the U.S. Green Building Council, and at his current company, Terrapin Bright Green, Browning has helped to "green" large scale residential and commercial projects across the globe.

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BRIAN MACKAY-LYONS, FRAIC, HON. FAIA,
MACKAY-LYONS SWEETAPPLE ARCHITECTS

The future promises more extreme weather and demands more thoughtful solutions to how we design and build our houses. No doubt some of our best ideas will come from architects already coping with challenging sites and harsh conditions. Architect Brian MacKay-Lyons designs award-winning houses in Nova Scotia, where no site is more than 40 miles from the ocean and Eastern seaboard storms.

AGENDA AT-A-GLANCE

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 9

Housing Tour—San Francisco's Finest

**AIA Custom Residential Architects
Network Forum**

Welcome Reception

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 10

Keynote Address—Designing for Resilience,
Bill Browning, Hon. AIA, Founder, Terrapin
Bright Green

Designing for Resilience—Local Threats,
Global Challenges

**2013 RESIDENTIAL ARCHITECT Leadership
Awards Luncheon**

- Hall of Fame
- Top Firm
- Rising Star

Special Award-Winners Panel Discussion

Breakout Sessions

- Building a Sustainable Design/Build Business
- A Passive House Case Study
- High-End Green: Can Luxury and Sustainability Coexist?
- Learning from California Modernism

Special Participatory Event—
"You On View"

Cocktail Reception

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 11

Keynote Address—Design in the Age of Climate
Change, Brian MacKay-Lyons, FRAIC, Hon. FAIA,
MacKay-Lyons Sweetapple Architects

Resilient Design Is Good Design—
What Architects Are Doing Right and
What They Can Do Better

Reinvention Symposium Adjourns

SPEAKERS

David Baker, FAIA, David Baker + Partners Architects

Alan Barlis, AIA, BarlisWedlick Architects

Bill Browning, Hon. AIA, Founder,
Terrapin Bright Green

Eric Cesal, LEED AP, Director Reconstruction &
Resiliency Studio, Architecture for Humanity

Steven Ehrlich, FAIA, Ehrlich Architects

Anne Fougerson, FAIA, Fougerson Architecture

Eric Haesloop, FAIA, LEED AP, Turnbull Griffin Haesloop

Katherine Hogan, Assoc. AIA,
Tonic Design | Tonic Construction

Brian MacKay-Lyons, FRAIC, Hon. FAIA,
MacKay-Lyons Sweetapple Architects

Byron Mouton, AIA, Director of URBANbuild and
Professor of Practice, Tulane School of Architecture

Vincent Petrarca, Tonic Design | Tonic Construction

Craig Steely, Craig Steely Architecture

George Suyama, FAIA, Suyama Peterson Deguchi

David Warner, CEO, Redhorse Constructors

Dennis Wedlick, AIA, BarlisWedlick Architects

Takashi Yanai, AIA, Ehrlich Architects

Marchetto Higgins Stieve Architects

HOBOKEN, N.J.

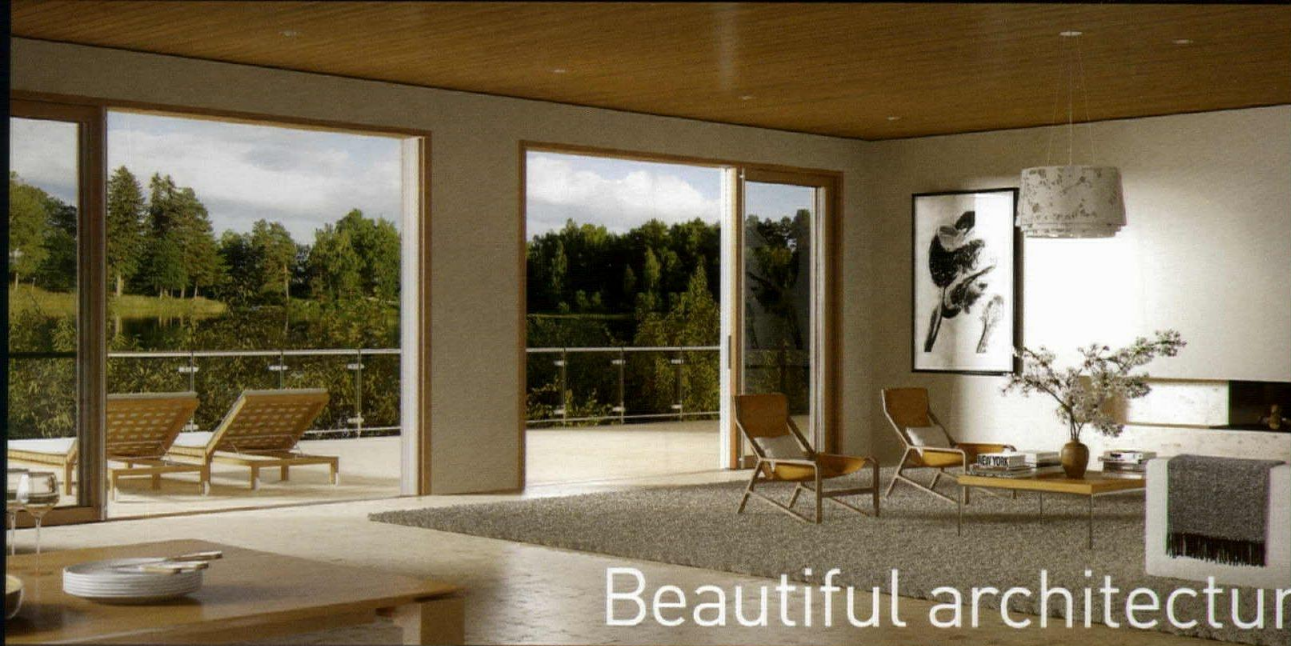
TEXT BY DEANE MADSEN

When Marchetto Higgins Stieve Architects (MHS Architects) founder Dean Marchetto, AIA, drove by a former church in 1995, it occurred to him that the building might make an interesting office. The church, which had been sold to the American Legion in the 1930s, had had its interior outfitted with a dropped ceiling and wood-paneled walls. But Marchetto was optimistic. Upon lifting up the ceiling tiles, he saw the original barrel-vaulted ceiling above. He purchased the building and turned the old sanctuary space into a beautiful studio.

Fast-forward to 2011, when MHS decided to expand its flat-backed church building with a rounded, modern, apselike addition. Partnering with nearby Stevens Institute of Technology, Marchetto and his team designed a zinc-clad structure supported by bent steel tubes over a ground-level parking space. Working with parametric tools, the firm had each zinc panel custom laser-cut, numbered, and shipped to the site, and then carefully bent and installed. Now, as Marchetto tells it, when clients walk down the former church aisle to his office in the apse, "It's a nice transition from the formal space into the more freeform, interesting space. ... It's very dramatic as clients come in."



RA See more project images
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