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FEATURE

Hupomone Ranch

Turnbull Griffin Haesloop Architects created a weekend house in California's Chileno Valley using the most iconic of agrarian structures as inspiration: the barn.

DEPARTMENTS

Up Front 11

Housing  D.C.'s first shipping-container residences.

Products  Modish forms to accent interiors.

Design  Honda releases the plans for its experimental smart home to the public.

Bath  Barnett Residence, by Griffin Enright Architects.

Automation  Google's Nest leads the launch of Thread, a networking protocol that helps devices work together.

AIArchitect 23

Defining the Delta Region's changes, Hacin + Associates navigate housing needs in Boston, and residential architecture as a way to negotiate habitation and nature.

Workspace 40

Marmol Radziner in Los Angeles.

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Washington, D.C., may be late to the container craze, but it's jumping in with both feet: In January, the district welcomed its first shipping container restaurant, and now that trend is expanding into the residential market. On July 11, the city issued a permit for SeaUA, a project to convert a single-family home in the Brookland neighborhood of D.C. into a four-unit multifamily residence made out of containers. Washington Business Journal reports that the foundation, cellar, and first 4 feet of the exterior walls of the existing house will be kept intact, per city regulation, but there will be an additional three floors of shipping container units and a mechanical penthouse. Local architect Travis Price III, FAIA, a professor at nearby Catholic University of America (CUA), is designing the residence for a consortium of recent CUA graduates, the Brookland Equity Group. According to the architect, nearly all of the units are leased, with expected occupancy in Fall 2014, and a second project is being considered already.
New Folds. Designed by Tokyo-based studio Nendo for BoConcept, Fusion is a collection of furnishings based in the Dutch company’s aesthetic with patterns inspired by origami. The series includes plates, a sofa, shelving, and a rug (shown) whose variations in color and scale replicate the folded art form’s intricacies.

Hot Finds From modern and sleek to retro-chic, these modish forms accent interiors.

Deep Cuts. Seattle-based studio Graypants’ kerf-cut shades are made from its signature recycled corrugated cardboard and cast a patterned, luminous glow. The shades, which launched at this year’s International Contemporary Furniture Fair in New York, are supported by powdercoated steel frames for use as pendants (shown), table lamps, and sconces. Five shapes and a variety of colors, including white, black, and red-orange, are offered. graypants.com

Stylish Shell. Muted finishes and stainless steel may help an appliance blend into a kitchen, but some equipment is meant to stand out. Known for its midcentury style, Italian appliance manufacturer Smeg has expanded the color options for its FAB28 line in the U.S. market: The mod refrigerators are now offered in white, yellow, and a Union Jack flag design. The units are 57.5” tall, 23.6” wide, and 27.5” deep and offer 9.22 cubic feet of space.

Light Load. Made entirely of carbon fiber and weighing less than 5 lbs., Hong Kong–based designer Michael Young’s aptly named <5_MY Chair for Coalesse can support up to 300 lbs. To achieve its monolithic look, the fibers of inflated casings wrapped in carbon fiber were tied together to join parts such as the legs, seat, and curved back. Each chair can be stacked with up to four others. Offered in custom colors and finishes.

smegusa.com

coalesse.com
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Honda is making the plans for the experimental “smart” home it launched in March available to the public. Those interested in building their own version of the project can download reconfigurable architectural, interior design, and M/E/P 2D and 3D CAD files and PDF plans.

The nearly 2,000-square-foot Honda Smart Home was designed with Pasadena, Calif.-based Lim Chang Rohling & Associates and in partnership with the University of California, Davis, where it lives at the school’s West Village net-zero-energy development. Among the house’s sustainable features are radiant and geothermal heating and cooling, a 9.5-kilowatt solar array, FSC-certified lumber, low-carbon concrete, and xeriscaping. A 10-kilowatt-hour lithium-ion battery stores energy on site while a direct-current power source in the garage offers electric-vehicle charging.

The house is fitted with Honda’s proprietary Home Energy Management System (HEMS). Of the files that Honda released, however, the HEMS wasn’t among them. If Honda is using this project to get its foot in the energy-management arena, users may soon be able to purchase a HEMS for their own smart home. — HALLIE BUSTA
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Case Study Bath
Barnett Residence, Brentwood, Calif., Griffin Enright Architects

1. Bathtub, shower, and faucets, Dornbracht
2. Wall tiles, 12-inch-by-24-inch limestone, Stone Source
3. Countertop and backsplash, rift-cut white oak, stained ebony
4. Flooring, black walnut with walnut stain

This bath was selected from RESIDENTIAL ARCHITECT's user-submitted Project Gallery.

Find your perfect bathroom inspiration and upload your own at residentialarchitect.com/projects/bath.
Automation Nest Launches Thread

Makers of Internet-connected devices aren’t short on innovative ways to track and automate even the most mundane of household tasks. But, so far, they’ve struggled to connect the disparate parts of this growing group of gadgets. That could all change very soon.

Recently, a group of manufacturers and developers announced Thread, an Internet Protocol (IP) address-based, low-power mesh network to which consumers and product developers can connect up to 250 devices, each with direct Internet and cloud access. The open-platform protocol supports the latest version of the Internet Protocol (IPv6) over low-power wireless personal area networks—accommodating most existing protocols and platforms. The goal: Web-enabled appliances, access-control devices, and lighting-, security-, and energy-management systems from various manufacturers and with different operating requirements can share information.

Currently, makers of home appliances and other smart devices have a variety of networking protocols at their disposal. Thread addresses inconsistencies and issues among some of these, including the inability to carry IPv6 communications, battery-draining power requirements, and hub-and-spoke models that bring down the entire network if one device fails.

Thread’s founding team, dubbed the Thread Group, includes representatives from Nest Labs, ARM, Freescale Semiconductor, Samsung Electronics, Silicon Labs, and Yale Residential Lock. Its goal is to guide the protocol’s adoption.

Thread Group president Chris Boross of Nest Labs told VentureBeat that his company’s Internet-connected thermostats and smoke alarms are already running a version of Thread. And in an interview with Gigaom, he said that manufacturers could likely begin building Thread-based products by the end of the year. He added that the group will begin certifying devices in mid-2015. —HALLIE BUSTA

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AIA VOICES
TALKING POINTS | DEFINING THE DELTA REGION'S CHANGES

Jori Erdman, AIA, is the director of the Louisiana State University (LSU) School of Architecture and an executive committee member for LSU's Coastal Sustainability Studio. By 2100, she says, without major infrastructural interventions, coastal Louisiana will be largely underwater. National, state, and local entities—including LSU and dozens of other institutions—are seeking ways to maintain healthy and productive communities in dynamic natural environments. “Different ecological, infrastructural, and settlement pattern languages mean that people see the Delta Region differently,” she says, “and that has huge implications for how we work and live.”

LSU is a big state institution and a lot of our students come from Louisiana. And Louisianans come to the table with a natural understanding of their dynamic landscape. Teaching resilience is to know the nature of change itself, so they have an enormous advantage from day one. There’s greater public awareness among folks who aren’t from the Delta Region, yes—as more frequent and violent weather changes have cast a light on Louisiana’s landscape in recent years. The problem is that we don’t have a lot of models in architecture through which design can address a changing and dynamic landscape.

The Coastal Sustainability Studio helps students engage constituent groups through a group of “fellows” who are post-doctoral students in the sciences and recently licensed architects and landscape architects who have demonstrated expertise in the area of coastal sustainability. Together, they’re able to engage communities to ask hard questions not only about the future of coastal living, but what can be done today in terms of land remediation in a dynamic region.

Restoration and recovery are complicated terms, then, for the Delta Region—they imply that we can return to a fixed moment in time. But, there’s never been a fixed moment in time here. Embracing the change of coastal systems is our goal and our message. Take river diversion, for instance. It means sometimes letting things flood, which seems illogical. But while water and sediment from a diversion will cover everything in mud, and perhaps temporarily displace us, ultimately it restores nutrients and satisfies the system’s need to change.

It’s such a dynamic region, in fact, that there are several ways to talk about it. When scientists talk about the word “design,” for instance, they’re using it to define a series of experiments supported by methods. Engineers speak about “design” in terms of optimization. When our architecture students and faculty gather around the table, they have to address those definitions in order to contribute to the process. The architect’s capacity to visualize a particular outcome makes us productive members in these conversations and capitalizes on our expert knowledge of the constructed environment. —As told to William Richards

AIAArchitect
FUTURE 24 PERSPECTIVE 25
MARKET FORCES | BOSTON’S HACIN + ASSOCIATES NAVIGATES HOUSING NEEDS IN A GROWING CITY

DAVID HACIN, FAIA, IS FOUNDING PRINCIPAL AND PRESIDENT of Hacin + Associates (H+A), based in Boston. The firm, founded in 1993, has roots in private residential design and, over time, has taken on an increasing amount of commercial work in a sometimes vexing market. Boston has unique zoning restrictions aimed at protecting the character of the city’s distinct neighborhoods while promoting forward-looking designs. Prataap Patrose, deputy director for urban design at the Boston Redevelopment Authority, speaks to the architectural richness of the city. “Context is rich in Boston, and it often varies dramatically from one block to the next and one street to the next,” he says.

According to Patrose, Hacin is especially adept at respecting Boston’s unique character while making contemporary interventions in keeping with the city’s progressive inclinations. “If you’re trying to build in Boston, architects often do one of two things,” he says. “They can be slavish about historicism or they can create unique forms for the sake of being different. David does something much more difficult. His designs always take the context and reinterpret it. His designs are both unabashedly contemporary and responsive.”

Hacin’s Boston is experiencing an urban renaissance with a growing population that’s driven by an influx of downsizing baby boomers and city-loving Millennials. “We’re seeing a much greater emphasis on the demand side, whether within the city of Boston or in areas within the 128 Beltway,” says Daniel St. Clair, managing director at Spaulding & Slye Investments, also one of Hacin’s clients and current chair of the ULI Boston/New England District Council. “People are drawn to places connected to transit, with a mix of uses and a sense of place.” But strong demand and limited supply are pushing up the cost of housing very dramatically. Only New York and San Francisco have higher rents than Greater Boston among a set of 19 comparable regions, according to the Boston Foundation’s 2013 Greater Boston Housing Report Card.

Workforce housing continues to be scarce. Boston’s new mayor, Marty Walsh, has also expressed an interest in increasing the production of middle-income housing in the city. Among other things, he’s investigating streamlining the complex approval process for construction projects. Hacin is hopeful about this prospect, especially because the approval process is one of the factors driving up the cost of housing in Boston. Although H-A is working on two rental housing projects now, the firm has traditionally done more work in the ownership market. In addition to rental properties, H-A is working on several condominium projects catering to different income levels. Not surprisingly, Hacin is excited to see a renewed focus on building for sale. “As rents go so high, homeownership will become more appealing, and it will also help create more stable communities here,” Hacin says.

The Land Problem
Land is undeniably scarce in Boston. Beyond infill development, Hacin says new development initiatives—such as the Greenway, the area around Fenway Park, and the Innovation District, where Hacin’s firm recently completed District Hall, the first freestanding city-sponsored innovation center of its kind—have put formerly undesirable sites back in play.
This is fortunate for Hacin, as his firm has a knack for rethinking neighborhoods and helping create new environments. “Our practice is often hired to build the first residential building in a neighborhood that was not residential, or to build something that no one had considered before. And when we’re done, a flood of new development usually follows,” he says.

“In Boston, having the credibility that comes with being a part of the community is very helpful,” says Hacin, who was president of his neighborhood association before he started working in the South End. Noting that Boston can be a difficult market for out-of-towners, Hacin regrets that the city might at times be missing out on external expertise but knows there’s a reason for the local bias. “People here want you to know the community if you’re going to be changing it, and I understand that dynamic,” he says.

Hacin says his firm today is operating like a well-oiled machine, and he sees Boston as a city ripe with opportunity. “Right now there’s no question the city is doing very, very well,” he says. “And it’s ironic, because you don’t have to go very far from Boston to see a very different economic landscape.”

Hacin sees hope in the extension of the Boston “T” subway system’s Green Line, which will connect Somerville and Medford, (municipalities within the Boston metropolitan area). “Everyone wants to live in downtown Boston, but within 45 minutes of Boston are really fantastic communities—towns that have been left behind and could participate more in what’s happening in Boston and at the same time provide a pressure-release valve to the extraordinary housing costs we have here,” he says. —Sara Fernández Cendón

**AIAPERSPECTIVE**

**THE RESILIENT HOME**

EARLY LAST FALL, NEARLY A YEAR AFTER SUPERSTORM SANDY tore through parts of the East Coast, Toronto’s SUSTAINABLE.TO Architecture + Building broke ground on a house they designed for the Designing Recovery awards program, sponsored by the AIA, Architecture for Humanity, Dow Building Solutions, Make It Right, and the St. Bernard Project [see “Designing Recovery,” in Residential Architect, Volume 2, 2014].

When construction begins this summer, the citizens of Rockaway, N.Y., will see residential design that responds to the challenge of climate change. For the AIA and its allies who have partnered in this historic undertaking—the first in a planned series of such projects following the competition’s completion earlier this year—this groundbreaking is the next logical step in thinking about residential design.

The profession’s growing commitment to sustainable residential design has also been carried forward by such initiatives as the AIA/HUD Secretary’s Housing & Community Design Awards program, which specifically identified energy conservation as a criterion of design excellence. Confronted by the growing instances of major natural disasters, beginning with Hurricane Katrina, our understanding of sustainability has now expanded to include resilience. And with it has come greater appreciation of the key role of residential design in shaping communities.

This new understanding sees residential architecture as a creative way to negotiate habitation and nature. How we create shelter has a ripple effect on everything from our daily lives to the health of the ecosystem in which we live. Incentivizing every citizen to contribute to community resilience efforts isn’t about asking them to trade individual property rights for the rights of a community to ensure its continued viability. Rather, it’s about protecting a home’s value by making it a resilient place where homeowners’ lives are less likely to be disrupted and communities more resilient in the face of the increasing instances of violent weather.

With the support of the AIA and its partners, what is happening in Rockaway will hopefully not stay in Rockaway. Projects like the Resilient House promise to revolutionize home building as architects respond creatively and compassionately to those who are picking up the pieces of shattered lives. —Helene Combs Dreiling, FAIA

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For many, the idea of a perfect weekend retreat is sun, surf, and sand. But for one young San Francisco family with three children, the idea of hoeing, planting, and working the land had a much greater appeal. They chose a nearly 160-acre plot in the Chileno Valley—a Homestead Act land grant that was kept intact over the years—that is a mere 3 miles from downtown Petaluma, Calif. The area continues to be more actively agrarian than its famed wine country neighbors of Sonoma and Napa to the east, and it was that ranching spirit that drew the family to a retreat inspired by a barn, which is arguably the most iconic farm building of them all.

“Our office has worked with the barn typology a lot over the years, going back to Bill Turnbull’s Sea Ranch houses. That is in the firm’s DNA,” says principal Eric Haesloop, FAIA, of San Francisco–based Turnbull Griffin Haesloop Architects, which designed the house. “There’s something about the quality of barns, they sit really well in the landscape.” Working with landscape architect Lutsko Associates, Landscape, the lush land tract was curated, removing dilapidated old structures and some trees to enhance the expansive views that run the length of the valley. The modestly sized 2,498-square-foot house was sited to take advantage of those views.

But for all of the agrarian influence on the structure, “this isn’t a barn, of course,” Haesloop says. “It’s a house. We drew on the barn but framed it in a really minimal palette. That became the organizing principle.” That palette included western red cedar walls and a corrugated metal roof, all painted white. The angles of a traditional barn structure were abstracted to allow for a large double-height central living area with a loft, and family spaces such as the kitchen, bedrooms, and bathrooms were placed under the lower eaves to either side, in what Haesloop terms “the saddlebags” of the house.

The interior finishes of wood, concrete, and stone maintain the minimalism, as do the furnishings, which were selected by Erin Martin
Design. The aesthetic conceals a rigorous sustainability strategy: A 4-inch-thick concrete floor is inlaid with radiant heating and cooling; and the painted cedar-panelled walls are filled with closed-cell spray-in insulation. The combination of these systems created enough thermal mass to allow the house to be naturally ventilated through large windows, and to receive LEED Platinum certification. A 10-kilowatt solar array offsets the family’s energy usage, and a field of geothermal piping, buried 6 feet under the meadow to the rear of the house, provides the heat and hot water.

Behind the house, past the meadow, is an in-ground pool, complete with a pool shed, solar hot-water heater, and built-in benches that the owner fashioned from eucalyptus trees harvested from the site. (An outdoor dining table for 30 from the same wood is next on his to-do list.)

As for the family’s farming aspirations, they are starting small: A kitchen garden is the sole focus of their food production for now, but they hope to expand it to the scale of a community garden. They’ll likely not take on agro-giants any time soon, but there may yet be a Haesloop-designed roadside farmstand in the future.
The clients were interested in a very minimalist palette, so the architects clad the abstracted barn form in western red cedar, painted white, topped by painted Nu-Wave corrugated metal roofing from AEP Span. The monochromatic approach creates a striking contrast to the surrounding landscape.

The 274-square-foot pool shed also draws from the barn typology, but with more classically modernist lines than the main house. The structure features a storage space, an outdoor kitchenette with stainless steel countertops, and a solar hot-water heater to heat the pool and hot tub.
Project Credits

**Project**
Hupomone Ranch, Petaluma, Calif.

**Client**
Withheld

**Architect**
Turnbull Griffin Haesloop Architects, San Francisco—Eric Haesloop, FAIA, Jule Tsai, Mark Hoffman (project team)

**General Contractor**
Sawyer Construction

**Landscape Architect**
Lutsko Associates, Landscape

**Mechanical Engineer**
Meline Engineering

**Civil Engineer**
Adobe Associates

**Structural Engineer**
MKM & Associates

**Geotechnical Consultant**
Bauer Associates

**Energy Consultant**
Loios + Ubbelohde Associates

**LEED Consultant**
Michael Heacock + Associates

**Interior Design**
Erin Martin Design

**Size**
2,498 square feet (main house); 1,051 square feet (garage); 274 square feet (pool house)

**Cost**
Withheld

Materials and Sources

**Countertops**
Belgian Bluestone (kitchen); Carrara Marble (bath); Stainless steel (pool house kitchen)

**Doors**
Liberty Valley Doors libertyvalleydoors.com

**Exterior Siding**
Western red cedar, painted

**Flooring**
Concrete radiant floor; Restoration Timber restorationtimber.com

**Tile**
Waterworks (bath) waterworks.com

**Roof**
AEP Span aepspan.com

**Skylights and Windows**
Wasco Skylights wascoskylights.com; Blomberg Window Systems blombergwindowsystems.com

The double-height central living room is the core of the house, and a loft over the entry porch allows for a bilevel gathering. The 4-inch-thick concrete floors of the ground level give way to salvaged white oak from Restoration Timber on the stair treads and loft floor above.

The kitchen opens out onto the living room and is lined with Belgian Bluestone countertops. Windows overlook the meadow, pool, and garden.

Living spaces such as the master bedroom, children’s bunkroom, and master bath are also located under the eaves on either side of the central living space. Finishes remain elemental throughout, with operable aluminum windows and painted wood walls in the bedroom.

The master bath features Carrara Marble countertops and handmade clay tiles from the Grove Brickworks collection at Waterworks.
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Leo Marmol, FAIA, and Ron Radziner, FAIA, cut their teeth restoring the iconic work of Rudolph Schindler and Richard Neutra. And their firm's Los Angeles headquarters—a 17,000-square-foot former aircraft parts factory built shortly after World War II—is something of an icon itself. A flat-roofed volume fronting an industrial shed spanned by 80-foot bowstring trusses, the structure follows a popular design of the postwar era, Radziner says, calling it "a beautiful and sought-after building type in Southern California."

When the partners set up shop here in 2002, the building's character was obscured by linoleum tile and dropped ceilings. By exposing the arched roof and replicating the original steel-framed windows, "We brought it back much more closely to what it originally was," Radziner says.

The firm, which provides design/build services on many of its projects, maintains 25,000 square feet of shop space on a separate site and a satellite office in San Francisco. But most of its architectural staff—some 80 people—share this airy, voluminous space. "I like that the younger people can overhear conversations the senior people have with consultants and clients," says Radziner, who notes that all the work surfaces were set deliberately at drafting-table height. "That gives you the option of standing when you work ... [and] it puts you at the level of someone walking by," which supports the office's interactive, collaborative culture. "There's always the hum of voices," he says. —BRUCE D. SNIDER

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