

# JIMMION

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Davis Hertz at his studio in Santa Monica, CA

# 30 min. with David Hertz

## [ The Architect ]

Interview & Photography -Jimon  
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**1] What inspired you to study/practice architecture?**

I was interested in architecture as a kid. My father a surgeon and my mother being an artist- it was a merge of science and creativity. I was fascinated by Frank Lloyd Wright at a young age and I realized my wanting to be an architect in Junior High.

**2] What school did you attend?**

I attended Southern California institute of Architecture, straight out of High School.

**3] Where did you do your internship?**

I apprenticed with John Lautner for three and a half years and my internship was with Frank Gehry for one and a half years.

**4] What was the most important lesson you learned during your internship?**

I learned a lot, but most importantly, both my mentors considered architecture art and a way of self expression. I also learned to work hard and fight for my ideas through bureaucracy.

**5] What genre of Architecture intrigues you the most?**

Indigenous architecture because of its climatic responsibility. The whole idea of architecture before architects that utilized nature.

**6] Have you ever made a pilgrimage to visit a specific structure?**

I have made many pilgrimages, one stands out. I was attending SCIA, myself and a friend shaved our heads, backpacked and became monks of architecture and visited all of Le Corbusier's work. I did another one to Japan specifically for Tadao Ando's work.

**7] Have you ever been in a structure that you did not want to leave, because it inspired you so much?**

There are several that come to mind: the Gothic cathedrals. Le Corbusier designed chapels where the light is so dynamic in presence that you want to stay and experience it at all hours. Others are by Tadao Ando in the island of Naoshima. The buildings are built into the nature.

**8] When you design what comes first?**

The concept is first

**9] You were born in Los Angeles, what would be your second choice for city?**

New York.

**10] You do a lot of pro-bono work, is there one that stands out in your mind?**

The Marine Mammal Rescue Facility in Santa Monica Bay.

**11] You have designed furniture that is privately collected or is in the Smithsonian Institution's National Building Museum, do you still design furniture? If not, why?**

I started designing furniture before I was entrusted in designing buildings. Currently, I only design furniture that is part of the architecture itself, basically it's built-in.

**12] Your company Syndesis Inc. created a material called Syndecrete, what are the benefits of using Syndecrete?**

Syndecrete was an environmentally safe product that was created by using societies waste that I deemed reusable. It has half the weight of concrete. I sold that company three years ago to focus on architecture.

**13] What can you tell us about your current project "The Wing House" in Malibu?**

The Wing house in Malibu is a culmination of being involved in architecture for 30 years and how we can build without so much waste. It's how can we get something, like a 747 airplane, which there are hundreds of in the desert, and up-cycle them, by building new structures with them.

**14] 3 things/people that have inspired you most recently or regularly?**

I am inspired by nature and natural forms. Recently I bought a boat and restored it. The design of the boat has inspired me immensely. Basically nautical structures, including marine mammals, since they all have design in common.