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# PROJECT RUNWAY

A JUMBO JET IS RECYCLED AND REFASHIONED INTO A MALIBU HOME

**HOME OF THE FUTURE**, extreme recycling, or just plain eccentric? We can't decide. But this house-in-progress, built from a deconstructed 747 jumbo jet, is what we'd like to see more of in the future: Let's call it industrial-strength prefab. The project required obtaining permits from 17 government agencies, a California Highway Patrol escort for the super-oversize load, and a rented helicopter to ferry the wings to the site.

Despite all this, owner Francie Rehwald held to her vision for the hilltop parcel that was once owned by Hollywood set designer Tony Duquette. Rehwald said she wanted feminine curves, not angles, for her dream home. She and architect David Hertz both wanted a long, low profile so the house wouldn't obstruct any Malibu canyon or mountain views. Hertz's initial sketches suggested the wings of an airplane, so why not use a real one? The ultimate in recycled materials.

**DESIGN** David Hertz Architects & SEA Studio of Environmental Architecture, Santa Monica ([studioea.com](http://studioea.com))



BY KATHLEEN N. BRENZEL | PHOTOGRAPHS BY DAVE LAURIDSEN

## How to find a junked plane

Like hundreds of aging 747s from the U.S. fleet, this one was retired to an "airplane junkyard" in California's Mojave Desert. Francie Rehwald snapped it up for \$35,000, the price of its principal raw material—aluminum—without engines and electrical components.

The jet was 63 feet high, 195 feet wingtip to wingtip, and 230 feet long—about two-thirds the length of a football field.



## How to haul it

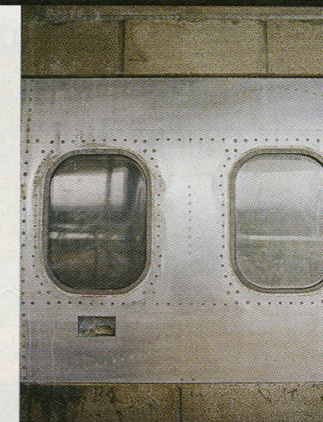
With the plane "filleted" (sliced in half lengthwise, with wings still attached) then dismantled, specially rigged flatbed trucks hauled the pieces to Camarillo, California. From there, the 125-foot wings, too long for trucking up winding roads, got dropped in by a Chinook helicopter.

LEFT: RON SENSO (2)



## How it's green

Architect David Hertz likens the reuse of the plane's 4.5 million parts to recycling a "big aluminum can." The entire 747 had enough strong, lightweight parts to create the main house and six smaller structures, including an art studio, a barn, and a meditation pavilion that uses the cockpit window as a skylight.



## How to assemble it into a home

The plane's wings cover living and kitchen areas as well as a guest wing. The top level of the house, which is the master suite, uses the stabilizers from the plane's tail section for a roof. And a first-class stairway will provide access to a bank of storage cabinets between the library/media room and a guest room. ■