

Los Angeles Times Magazine

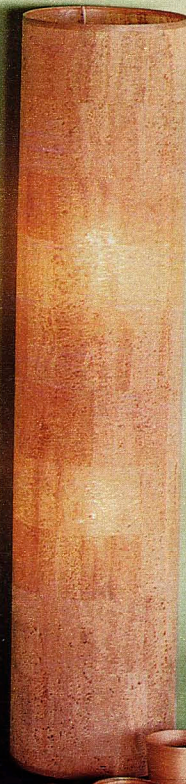
September 25, 2005

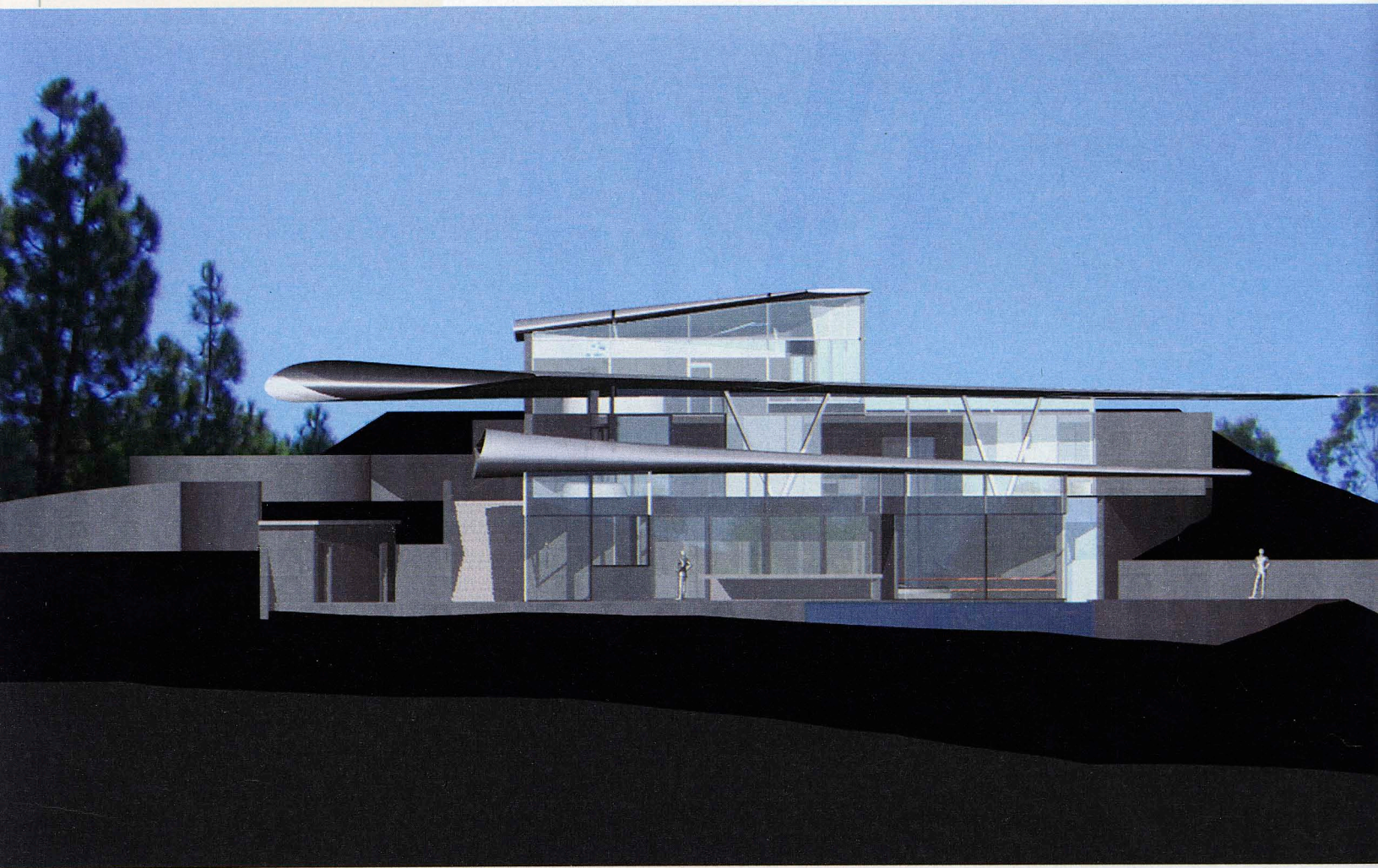
HOME DESIGN ISSUE

Green From the Ground Up

From front lawns to rooftops, environmentally sound design has evolved from the merely fashionable to a committed lifestyle

- > Architectural eco chic
- > Building green dreams
- > Bamboo-zled
- > Sol survivors





green living: the case studies

A preview of sustainable attractions coming soon from three local architects

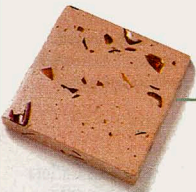
BY MICHAEL WEBB

1 WING HOUSE | David Hertz, a passionate advocate of sustainability, became an environmentalist in the late 1970s after surfing in polluted Santa Monica Bay. The buildings he has created during the last two decades are models of thoughtful, environmentally sensitive design. The most ambitious of his future projects is Wing House, which he hopes to build high in the Santa Monica Mountains on the fire-scarred ranch once owned by designer Tony Duquette.

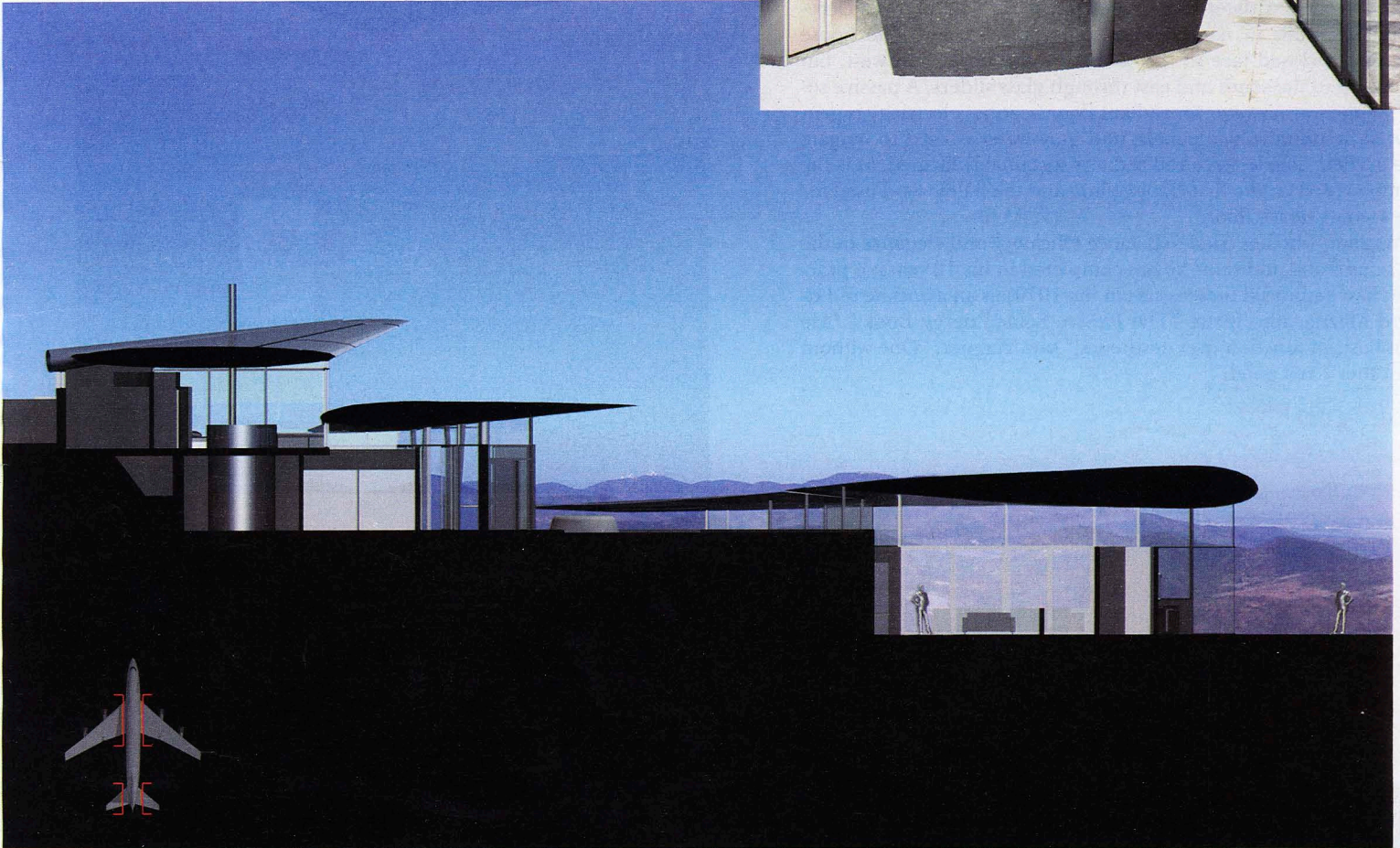
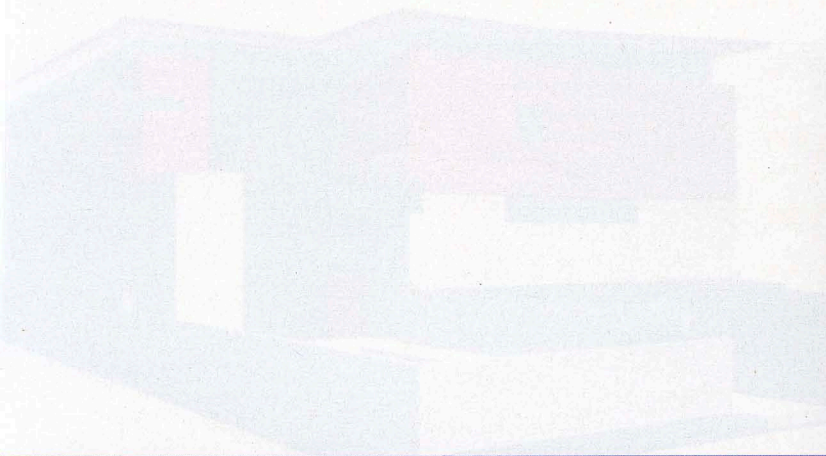
In a major recycling effort, pieces of a decommissioned Boeing 747 will be flown to the remote Ventura County site by helicopter and used to enclose separate structures. The 2,500-square-foot wings, each supported by four concrete columns at different heights, will cover the living areas and terraces, and the horizontal stabilizers will be the master-suite roof. The air cavity in the wings will provide insulation, and the flaps, when activated, will offer shade and natural ventilation. Window glass will be set into the concrete floor and rammed-earth walls will absorb the winter sun's low rays.

In a 1991 BBC television documentary, British architect Norman Foster

Michael Webb has written 20 books on architecture and design, most recently "Art/Invention House" and "Adventurous Wine Architecture."



WHAT: SYNDECRETE
IN LIEU OF: POURED CONCRETE
WHY: RECYCLED; NO WASTE CREATED DURING MANUFACTURE
CONTACT: WWW.SYNDESISINC.COM, (310) 829-993



extolled the 747 as the ultimate technological building site, and Hertz discovered that he could buy an entire plane for the cost of scrap, or about the same price as a Mercedes-Benz. Like the Native Americans who used every part of the buffalo, he plans to incorporate sections of the fuselage into an art studio, animal barn and dining pavilion. The nose will be tilted on end to serve as a meditation pavilion, with the cockpit windows as a skylight.

Americans discard enough aluminum to replace the nation's commercial air fleet every three months, and Hertz was pleased to find a productive use for this material—as he has for the carpet waste used in Syndecrete, the lightweight concrete that he's produced for the last 20 years. Duquette, who assembled fantastic structures from found objects, would surely applaud.

Come fly with me: David Hertz will set a recycled Boeing 747 on a permanent "runway" in the Santa Monica Mountains.