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REAL ESTATE AND HOME DESIGN

GREEN Homes That Tread Lightly on the Land LIVING


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Grand Rooms
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Building Blocks

Architects are putting the pieces in place for a greener world.

BY KATE WAFER

AS ARCHITECTS EMBRACE the next wave of ecological design, a greater effort is being made to appeal to all strata of homeowner. "Being green doesn't mean mud floors and corrugated siding," says architect Robin Donaldson of Shubin + Donaldson, based in Santa Barbara. "You can still have luxury and manage your environmental footprint." Shubin + Donaldson, along with the following group of firms, represents a new era of building, with projects that are good design first and kind to the earth, naturally.

Architectural firm Shubin + Donaldson is contributing to the green movement with residences such as one for a Santa Barbara family.



Shubin + Donaldson

The firm Shubin + Donaldson has elevated the quality of design to appeal to homeowners who expect rich materials, while maintaining ecological sensitivity. "In terms of the sophistication of our clients, they expect both livable beauty and resource efficiency. They're not mutually exclusive," says principal architect Robin Donaldson. In describing a clients' residence on Santa Barbara's American Riviera, the architect quickly cites the contemporary design's green qualities. The house incorporates three separate solar-power systems: Fifteen photovoltaic arrays generate electricity that reduces the owners' electric bills; a passive-solar system heats domestic hot water; and another supplements the pool heater year-round. And parts of the original house were dismantled and donated to Habitat for Humanity. Throughout the three-story, 3,200-square-foot residence, the architect has carefully crafted sightlines out windows and glass doors that open up the home's neutral palette to blend with views of the Channel Islands and Santa Ynez Mountains. Walnut floors, a mahogany wall and floor-to-ceiling bookshelves punctuate the minimal interiors by Genie Gable Interior Design.

CIRO GORINO

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