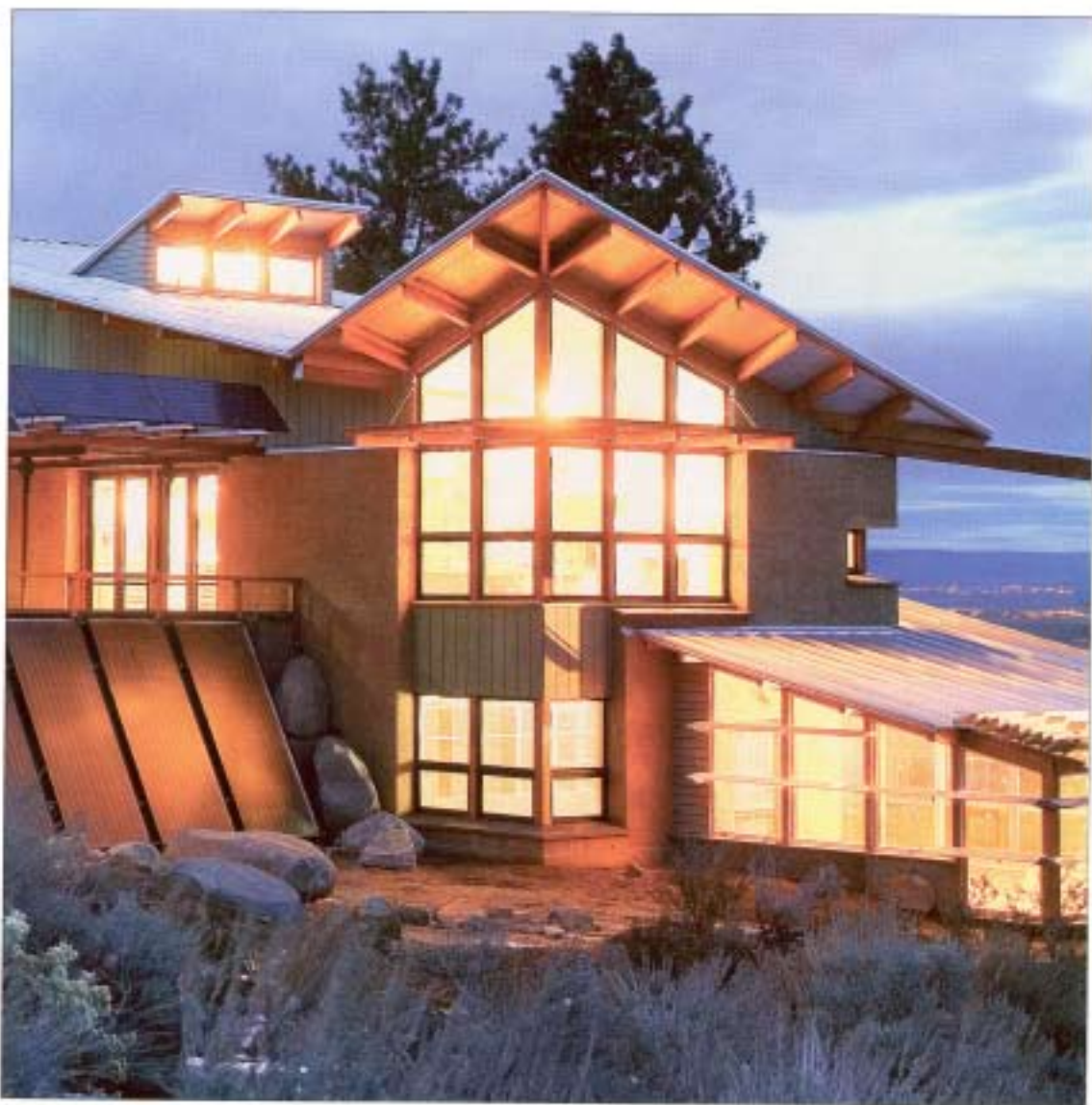


The Robb Report COLLECTION™

REAL ESTATE AND HOME DESIGN



Green Houses

Healthy Homes, High-Rises and Furnishings

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Above and right: Architect Stan Field's Silicon Valley house for Atari cofounder Sam Tramiel is constructed from recycled materials.

Stan Field

IN NORTHERN CALIFORNIA'S SILICON VALLEY, Palo Alto architect Stan Field has made another aspect of green building—recycled materials—the hallmark of a Silicon Valley home designed for Sam Tramiel, one of the founders of Atari, and his family. Having recently arrived in California from Israel, Field became intrigued with the beauty of Northern California redwood. Soon the materials began to drive the architecture. "It wasn't only the recycling, it was more the idea of getting in touch with the materials and letting them speak," he says.

Field discovered old redwood wine vats in Sonoma County and used them for the exteriors of the Tramiel house in combination with zinc, known for its anticorrosive and thermal qualities. "I wanted to weave the two languages together to create almost a handmade building," Field explains, "where the nailing pattern of the wood spoke to the zinc and the joints of the zinc spoke to the wood and



DESIGNING FOR THE FUTURE

Los Angeles, a city that has been described as being addicted to cars, is not the place one would expect to find a state-of-the-art eco-friendly home. Yet it is exactly where architect James Chuda, known for his environmental design, chose to build his own green home as a prototype for green architecture and nontoxic living. Chuda created the home with the help of his wife, Nancy Gould Chuda, an environmental activist.

Nestled in the Hollywood Hills, under the *H* in the Hollywood sign, the home is set between two legendary landmarks: the concrete-and-stone mansion once owned by Humphrey Bogart, and Bugsy Siegel's Lago del Mar, recently owned by Madonna. Chuda responded to the location with a contemporary concrete home that is an interplay of geometric shapes. A retain-

ing wall along the back of the house was designed to keep the structure cool in the hot summers.

The home incorporates cutting-edge materials and furnishings that are not harmful to human health and the environment. Troy and Lisa Adams, of Troy Adams Design in Los Angeles, were instrumental in getting key members of the "Green Team" together to design each of the rooms in the four-bedroom home.

Troy Adams also designed one of the home's most important gathering places: the kitchen and adjacent dining area. Both rooms are made of completely recyclable materials, including cork and bamboo flooring, lava stone countertops, cherry and wenge cabinets made in Germany under strict environmental standards, and

energy-efficient appliances and lighting. The eco-friendly design, however, did not scrimp on comfort or convenience, as evidenced by a granite water feature that emits soothing sounds, and aluminum roll-top "garages" that hide appliances, contributing to the streamlined look.

The Chudas' commitment to environmental and holistic design is extremely personal. In 1991, they lost a daughter to a nonhereditary form of cancer they suspect was caused by environmental toxins. A year later they founded the Children's Health Environmental Coalition (CHEC), dedicated to educating the public about environmental toxins that affect children's health. Last year, the home was briefly open to the public for tours, with net proceeds benefiting CHEC. —J.F.



The exterior is clad in redwood from old Northern California wine vats and zinc sheeting.

there was this interplay." The resulting 5,500-square-foot structure is less a single-family home than a collection of three interconnected buildings resembling a small village, each with unusual domed and vaulted roofs.

Inside, the light maple wood suggests a more refined in-

terior shell in juxtaposition to the hand-hewn feeling of the exteriors. An elegant suspended staircase rises up from the entrance hall, lit with natural light from the glass-enclosed entry below. The front door was salvaged from the home that previously occupied the site.