

## ON TO THE FINALS

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## BLENDING IN

Green architects work within landscape

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# The Herald

Saturday, June 6, 2009

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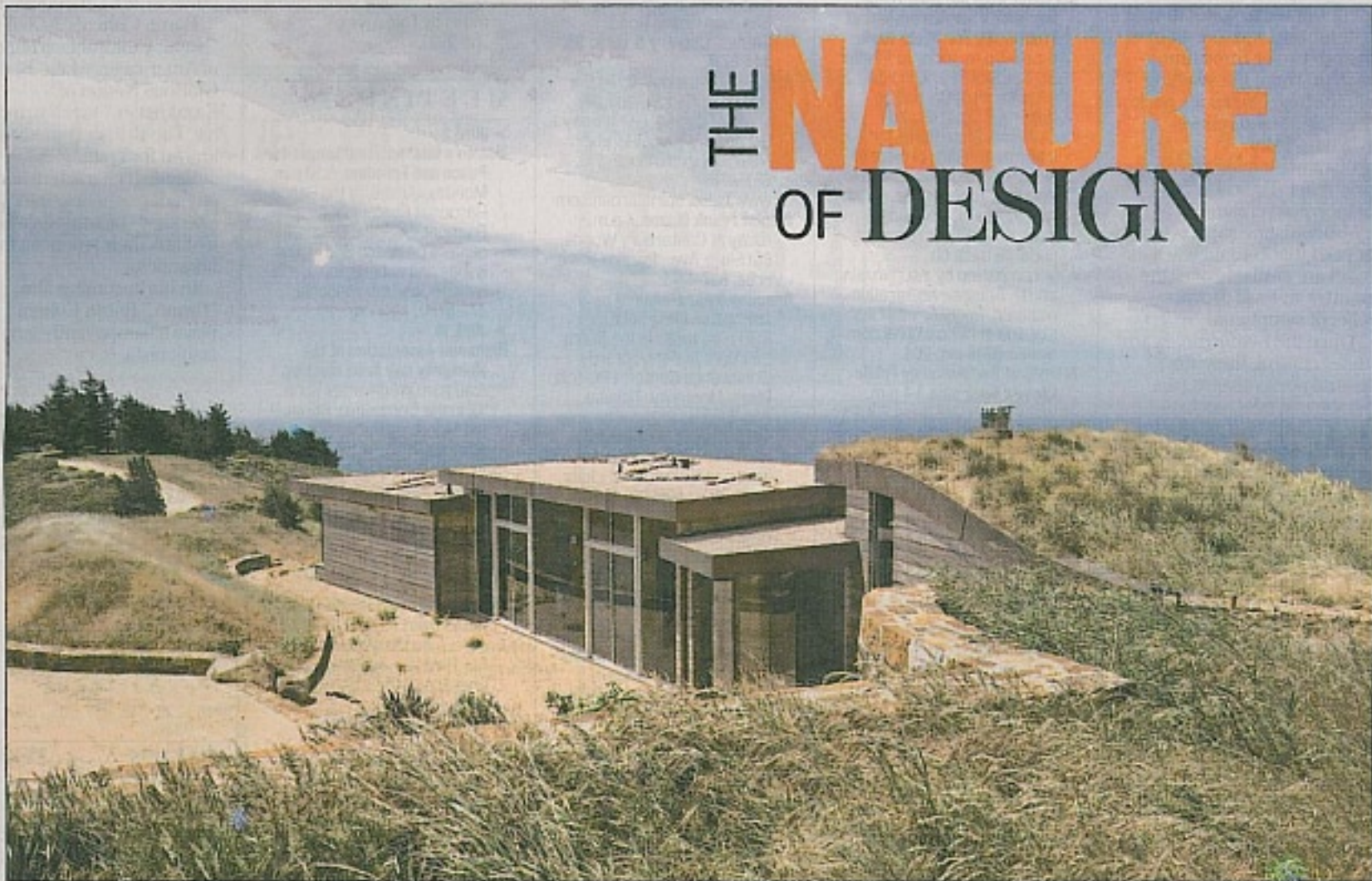
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# THE NATURE OF DESIGN



SPECIAL TO THE HERALD

Treadwell house, designed by Mary Ann Schicketanz won the Silver Award in the Green Home Project of the Year category of the Dream Home Awards.

By LISA CRAWFORD WATSON  
Herald Correspondent

For a house determined to keep a low profile, this one certainly has garnered a lot of attention. Designed with the landscape in mind, the Big Sur structure neither competes with nor concedes to the environment but, rather, collaborates with the terrain through a kind of cooperative respect for one another.

The dwelling, which slips under the view shed from elevated neighbors, is anchored into the rolling profile of the hill; the gentle slope of the ridge continues onto the roof, either embracing or ignoring its existence. The garage, built below the ridge, disappears into the hill.

Treadwell house, designed by Mary Ann Schicketanz of Carver + Schicketanz architectural firm in Carmel, has been featured in *The New York Times*, *Dwell* and, repeatedly, in an HGTV coastal homes segment featuring an interview with Schicketanz.

Most recently, the house won the Silver Award for a residence under 3,500 square feet in the Green Home Project of the Year category of the Dream Home Awards ([www.dreamhomeawards.com](http://www.dreamhomeawards.com)) annual competition open to



Left: A completed project called Duxbury Barn. Below: an interior shot of that new home.

architects, builders, interior designers and other industry professionals across the country.

"I believe the Treadwell house gets so much attention," said Schicketanz, "because it is a small house

that a lot of people can relate to. Very often the architectural pieces that get these awards are so far out of range for most people and don't have any livable quality. They are so styled and so sculptural, with so much

money attached to them that people can't go there.

"The Treadwell is a 1,900-square-foot house on a spectacular piece of coastal property with grand views. The architectural design was thoughtful in the detailing, and the house blends very well into the landscape. It is a green home without looking alternative, which is what is important to us. I think that's what gets it a lot of attention."

Carver + Schicketanz is dedicated to creating projects which fully integrate the needs of their clients with the nature of their sites. The challenge and the opportunity in designing and building the Treadwell house lay not in working against the landscape but within it.

A rock wall, constructed like an abstraction of the environment, retains the hillside from where it begins at a cut in the slope and continues on into the kitchen. Built on a coastal stone patio, the house is a complement of timber and glass, its rectangular presence angled for front-row seating before the dynamic Pacific stage.

And then there is the pink tile.

"This is the first time we worked with clients the age of my children," said Schicketanz. "We let them pick their own elements. I cringed when they chose small bright pink tiles for the bath. We're in Big Sur; everything we do is about earth tones and blending in. But now we embrace it; it is so much fun. You really can do pink tiles in Big Sur."

Renowned for focusing on thoughtful, site-specific, client-centered design, Carver + Schicketanz has created a host of projects up and down the coastline, working with reclaimed and recycled materials, including vintage barns, reclaimed timbers and found objects. Two recent projects in Big Sur are zero-energy residences, which means their power is completely self contained.

"In this climate," says Schicketanz, "you can easily generate your own energy on



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