

# residential architect

A MAGAZINE OF THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

MAY • JUNE 2011

hanley wood

## guiding light

desai/chia explores  
the alchemy  
of illumination

shotgun chic / off-the-grid /  
shedding borders / live-work-conserve /  
airstream dream / toilet tech

[www.residentialarchitect.com](http://www.residentialarchitect.com)

# mobile hot spot

a remodeled airstream provides a cozy, portable live/work space.

**a**irstream trailers have long enjoyed popularity among architects and the architecturally inclined. When Matthew Hofmann, LEED AP, purchased and remodeled his own vintage 1978 Airstream, he liked it so much that he decided to make it his full-time residence. Not only does the Santa Barbara-based architect live in the 160-square-foot trailer, but he also uses it as his firm's office.

The key to residing and working in such a small space, Hofmann says, is making sure every object serves more than one purpose. His main work area—consisting of a built-in dinette, a computer, and a printer stowed in a custom drawer—doubles as his dining area, and the seating converts to a



Photos: Matthew Hofmann

guest bed. He tries to keep papers to a minimum, preferring to conduct business with digital files and documents as much as possible. "Anything you leave out turns to clutter really quickly," he says.

Following a complete interior renovation, Hofmann restored the trailer's original polished aluminum exterior. His handiwork inside and out has drummed up new business; after seeing his Airstream, several clients have asked him to customize their own trailers.—*meghan drueding*



Bamboo countertops and floors brighten the trailer's interiors, as does a recycled-glass tile shower space. Hofmann's workspace (above right) also serves as his dining area and guest room.



The 25-foot-long Airstream currently is parked on a residential site in Santa Barbara, Calif. Hofmann restored the aluminum skin to its gleaming original state.