

ARCHITECTURE

Grand ideas to use in your grand design

PAST MEETS PRESENT

Great views and barely a window big enough to enjoy them: such is the irony of many old stone cottages. So when Spanish architect Cadaval & Solà-Morales (+34 93 414 3714; ca-so.com) got the chance to update this house in the Pyrenees, it added another storey that doubles as a roof, with a glazed gable, clerestory windows and a row of roof lights to open up views of the surrounding mountains. The result is a home with its body in the past, and its head firmly in the present.

Words: Osvaldo Sariego Garcia; Antonio Cordero



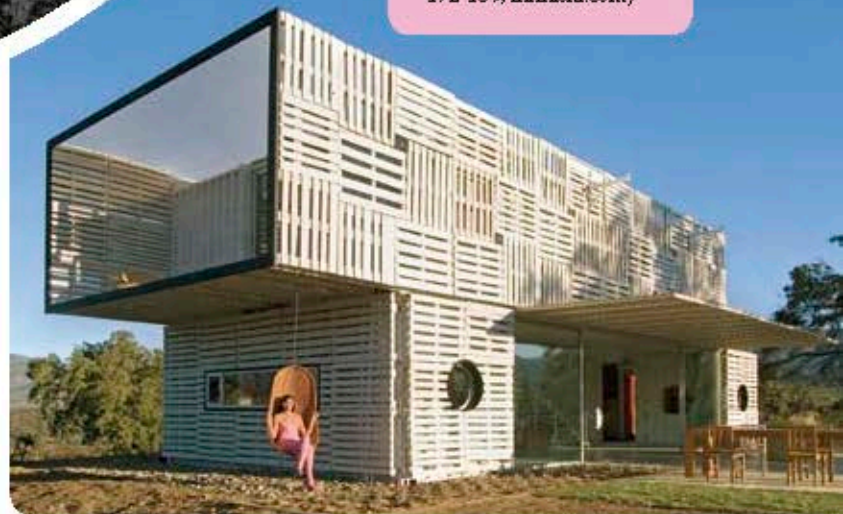
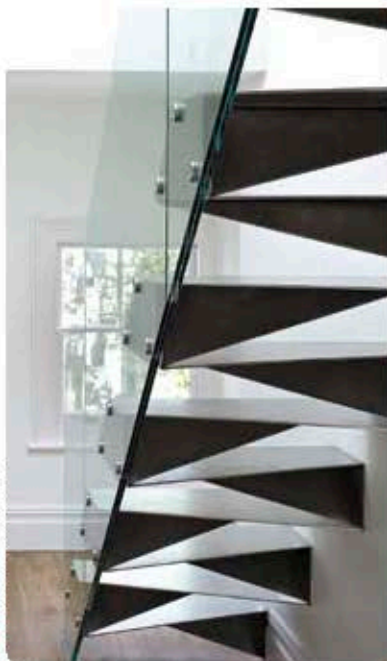
One man's trash...

Here's the ultimate in eco-friendly architecture – a house in Chile made from 85 per cent recycled materials, including three shipping containers clad with wooden pallets that can be opened up to let the sun heat the metal when it's cold, or closed to provide shade when it's hot. It's by sustainable architecture company Infrinski, which says the homes it builds from reused, non-polluting materials are light on the land as well as the pocket, ringing in at about 20 to 30 per cent cheaper than a traditional build. (+34 628 172 139; infrinski.com)

STOP AND STAIR

We love the jazzy stair treads of this Victorian home, refurbished by Bell Phillips Architects (020 7234 9830; bp-k.com). They're made from plates of brushed stainless steel welded together by Protosheet (01322 550 545; protosheet.co.uk). The side wall supporting the treads was reinforced with a steel bar, eating up about 15cm of the original hall's width. Total cost to build and install, £15,000.

Words: Sarah Bailey; Luke Tebbutt



IN THE KNOW

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