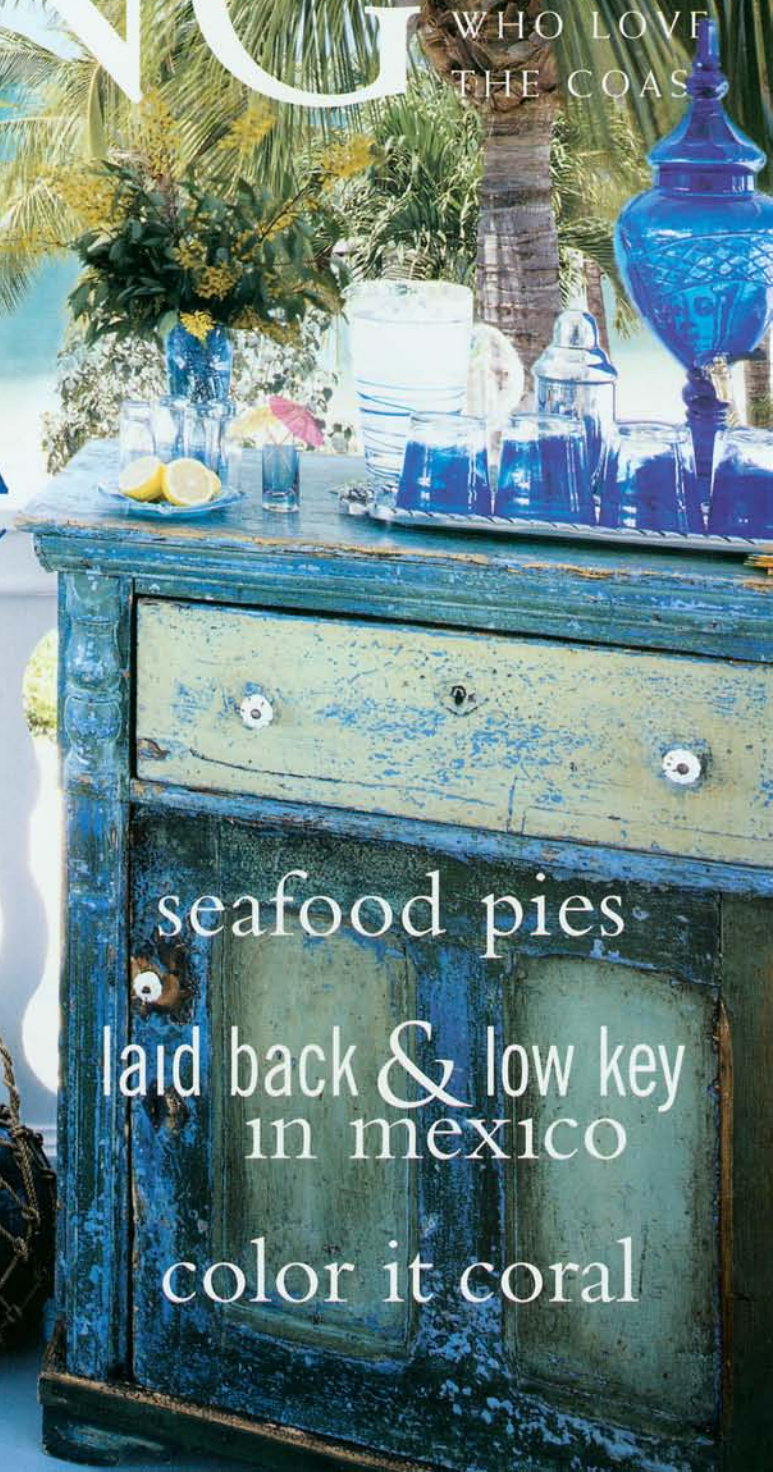


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# THE ROBERT REDFORD BUILDING



Moule & Polyzoides Architects and Urbanists, the three-story structure—named for longtime NRDC trustee Robert Redford—feels more like a sophisticated beach house. “We wanted it to look like a building that belonged by the ocean,” says architect Elizabeth Moule. Clapboard siding, slat

environment on the natural one. Solar panels supply 20 percent of energy needs. Sensors dim or turn off lights based on natural light levels and whether a room is occupied. A basement system processes rainwater and gray water, which are reused to flush toilets and nourish plants. Materials throughout are non-toxic, recyclable, recycled, or readily renewable. Just about

all wood materials came from certified-sustainable forests and nonthreatened tree species.

Using 60 percent less water and less than half the energy of a standard office building its size, the project is one of the first to earn the Green Building Council’s Platinum rating under



TIM STREET-PORTER

Version 2.0 of LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) standards.

“Sustainability is about making places that will outlive their mortgages and their builders,” Elizabeth says. “The structure has a fairly generic layout, so it could be adapted to other uses in the future.”

Yes, one day the NRDC center may itself be recycled. Meanwhile, it exemplifies green design that is both effective and attractive, a beacon for building smarter.

For more info, visit [mparchitects.com](http://mparchitects.com) or [nrdc.org/cities/building](http://nrdc.org/cities/building).

The NRDC’s Southern California center exemplifies resourceful, eco-friendly architecture.



The Santa Monica office of the Natural Resources Defense Council confounds those who think cutting-edge “green” design must resemble a soulless biosphere. Designed by

BY JEFF BOOK

railings, and a homey roof terrace echo nearby bungalows.

The effort to conserve resources began by salvaging an existing structure in a pedestrian-oriented area. The result showcases materials and methods that reduce the impact of the built