

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2006
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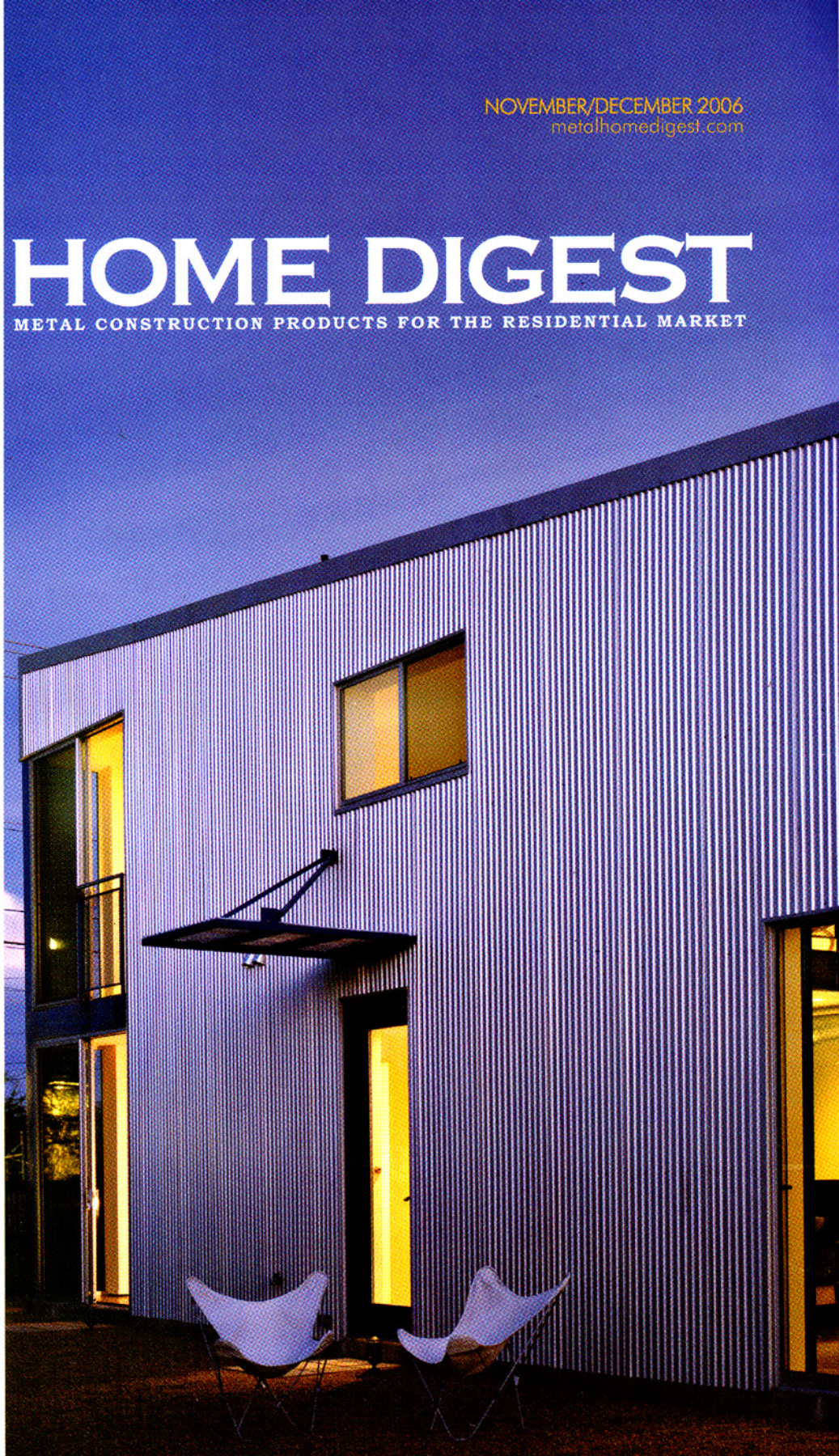
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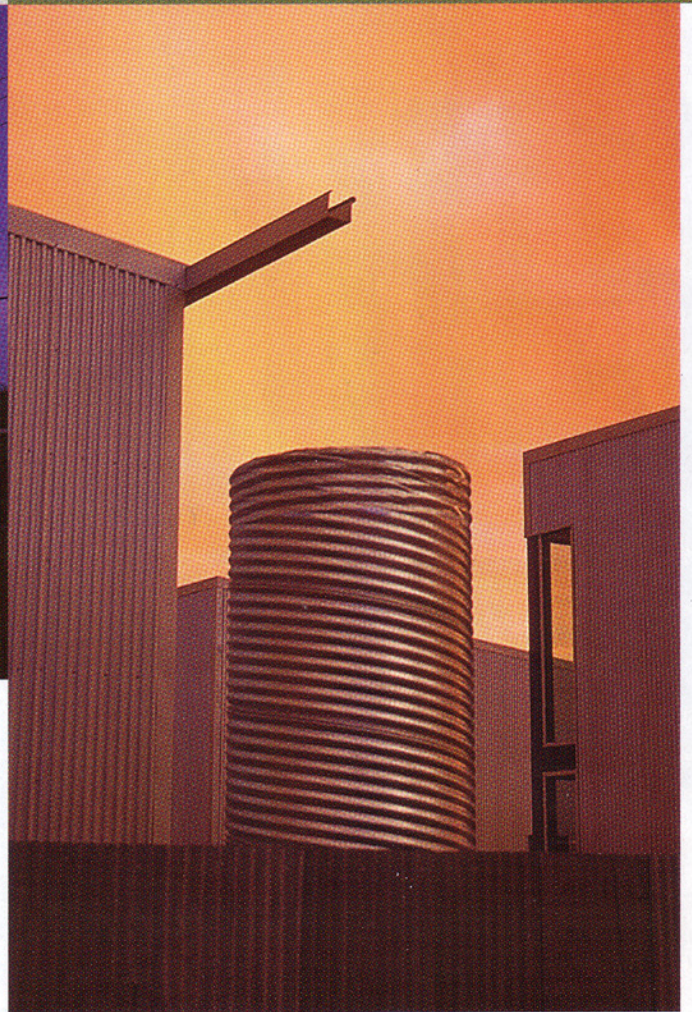


Residential Units Emerge *In Industrial Neighborhood*



By Kristy Vogelpohl
Staff Writer

What do you do with a neighborhood that is "basically a mix of old and decrepit adobe buildings from the turn of the century, and metal buildings housing industrial businesses from the '70s"? You turn it into a residential neighborhood, or at least that's what architect Rob Paulus did to create Barrio Metalico in a forgotten corner of Tucson, AZ.



"This funky mix of past and present would become the design language we would work with to create the Barrio Metalico experience," explained Paulus. "The first thing we knew was the transitional neighborhood required a design that would stand up to the industrial edge of the surroundings, while also creating an introspective and peaceful interior to live in."

And stand up it would. Paulus embraced the mixed industrial appearance of the neighborhood in his design, using metal skin on the exterior of the units, and salvaged distressed wood and corrugated metal from a demolished building on the perimeter fencing.

American Steel Building Co. manufactured the metal building structural system for all nine units, each one measuring 1,557 sq. ft. MBCI manufactured the PBD profile metal panels used on the roof and walls. The panels were formed from 26-gauge steel with a

Galvalume finish. Approximately 10,000 sq. ft. and 19,600 sq. ft. of panels were used on the roof and walls respectively. Fast Fab Erectors acted as the metal building erector, metal roofing installer and metal wall panel installer.

According to the architect, the panel was chosen for its symmetrical profile and low cost. Other profiles were considered, "but they all cost more and essentially would perform in the same manner," added Paulus. "The entire project was based on simplicity, so we purposely went with the simple profile."

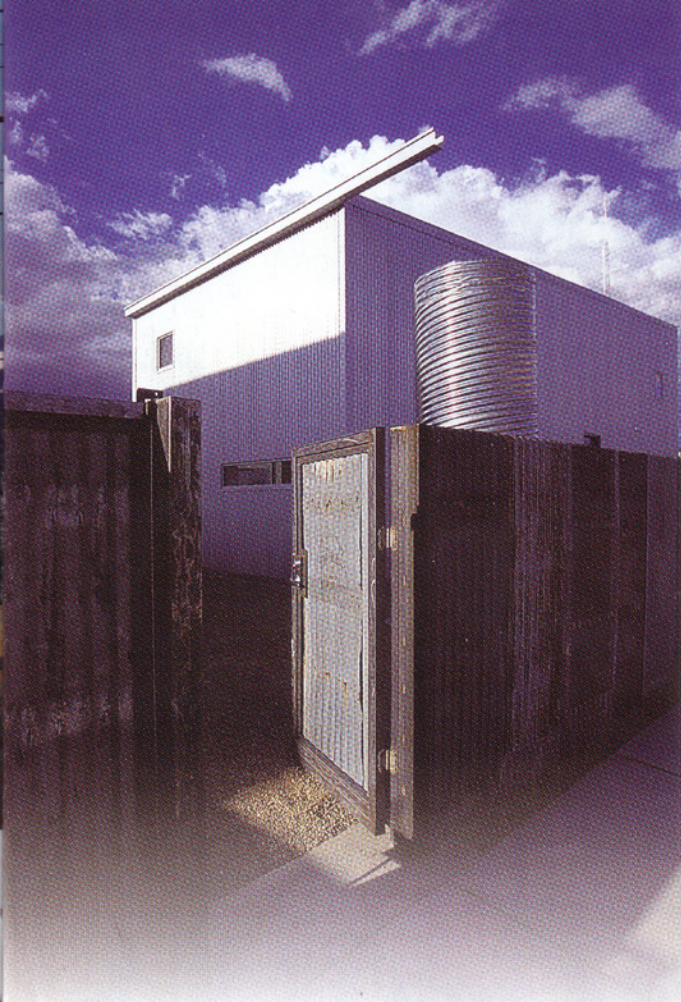
Each unit has a mill-finish steel stair manufactured and installed by Myrmo & Son Inc. McNichols $\frac{3}{4}$ " #9 standard 10-gauge expanded metal panels were used as guardrail infills. Caliber West LLC, also the general contractor, installed a corrugated metal water-harvesting tank for each unit as well. Each cistern is 12' tall and 4' in diameter and is made from an industry standard road culvert set in concrete footing. The interior is then sealed watertight with a hose bibb at the bottom. The reclaimed water is ideal for watering plants or washing cars.



The perimeter fencing is comprised of recycled corrugated metal, measuring approximately 420 linear feet and 6' high. The recycled metal came from a shed that had to be demolished on an adjacent site. As an unplanned aesthetic addition, the metal has graffiti that dates back to 1945. Also utilized in the perimeter fencing is the salvaged distressed wood and a portion of an existing adobe structure that housed factory workers in the early 1900s. The corrugated metal for the fencing was fabricated by Cactus Jack (John Winters).

"The project requirements were to establish a residential precedent in a primarily industrial neighborhood," said Paulus. "The use of metal allowed us to create a very functional and durable project that embraced the essence of the neighborhood while appealing to advocates of modern design."





The design of the interior of the units addresses the needs associated with loft living, while also alluding to the industrial aspect of the exterior. The units were designed to be warm and intimate with a modern flare. Interior finishes include polished and sealed concrete floors, mill-finished steel stairs and guardrails, maple cabinetry and exposed ductwork.

Each unit exceeds local energy codes with features such as solar water heating, R-48+ blown-in-blanket insulated walls, and high-performance aluminum window frames with 1" insulated glass and integral Low-E coating. The units have been enrolled in the local electric utility "Guarantee Home Program" which ensures optimal mechanical performance and affords a per-kilowatt-hour rate for the first five years.





Barrio Metalico was developed jointly with the Ilce House Lofts, another project designed by Paulus, and has triggered local interest in urban infill projects and alternative



housing. Finished in February 2005, Paulus said the response has been great.

“The owners have been very pleased with the homes and enjoy the sense of community that is created by the project,” he added. “A big draw to the project was its modern design aesthetic and this is shared by the occupants who appreciate the layout and feel they live amongst other design aficionados.”

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