



GOLDEN HOUR

music superstar
KACEY MUSGRAVES
kicks back in Nashville

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DESIGN MAKES A DIFFERENCE
trailblazing architects lead the way

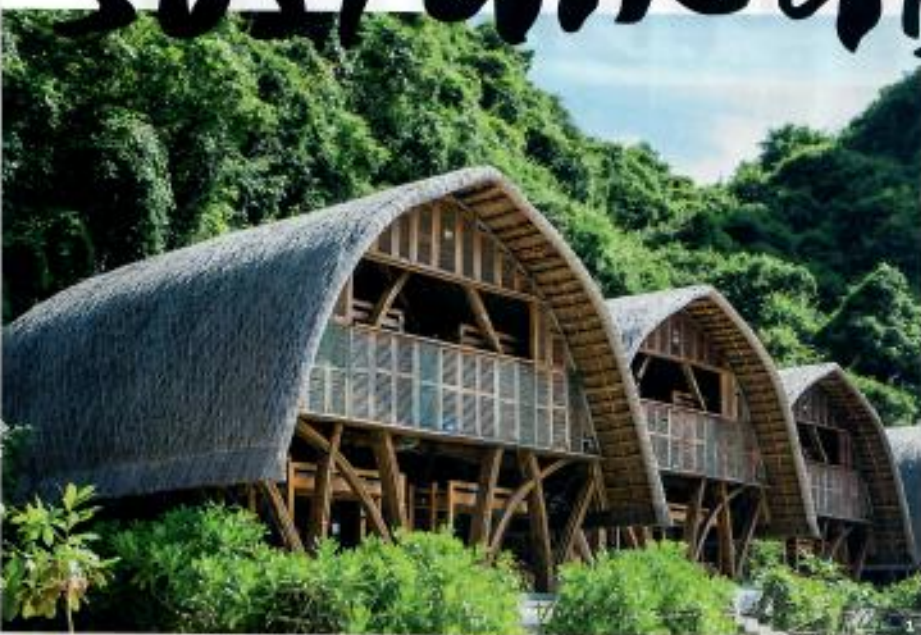
sustainability



A DINING SPACE AT THE CASTAWAY ISLAND RESORT, A VIETNAM HOTEL, DESIGNED BY VTN ARCHITECTS USING BAMBOO CONSTRUCTION.

In the face of climate change, top architects and designers are reimagining the way we build now: embracing local materials, revitalizing craft, and championing building innovations. To capture the state of sustainability, we've rounded up forward-thinking projects (and products!) from around the globe. The stakes have never been higher....

sustainability



An Idea Takes Root

"The first condition of sustainability is that buildings need to have a long life." So says **Vo Trong Nghia** in his new monograph, *Vo Trong Nghia: Building Nature* (Thames & Hudson). Since founding his namesake firm in 2006, the Vietnam-based architect has explored ways to do right by the planet, taking inspiration from—and forging lasting connections with—Mother Earth. Central to that mission has been his innovative use of bamboo, a durable, fast-growing, and readily available material that lends itself to large spans and sculptural forms. Nghia calls it "the green steel of the 21st century." The firm's recently completed Casamia Community House project on the outskirts of Hoi An, for instance, incorporates bamboo as a means to withstand the strong winds of its riverfront site, while the Castaway Island Resort in the Cat Ba Archipelago minimizes its impact on the beach, with poles that have been soaked in mud, smoked, then assembled using bamboo dowel nails and rope. "We design our bamboo buildings like machines, with parts that can be replaced if necessary," says Nghia, who acknowledges that there are geographic and climatic limitations to the material. "Through architecture I want to protect our planet and reintroduce greenery into the city." vtnarchitects.net —SAM COCHRAN



1. BAMBOO GUEST BUNGALOWS AT THE CASTAWAY ISLAND RESORT. 2. CASAMIA COMMUNITY HOUSE



TRASH TO TREASURE

Doing good has never looked better at Kohler WasteLAB, which transforms clay and glaze refuse from Kohler's extensive offerings into new designs for the home. Its latest collection, Abstra, comprises monochrome and patterned tiles bearing a sinuous relief that promises to delight the senses while easing the mind. amnsacks.com —s.c.

Sustainability



1. A VESSEL FOR CHANGE, A FLOATING OFFICE IN ROTTERDAM DESIGNED BY POWERHOUSE COMPANY. 2. GIFTED BY THE CITY, THE BUILDING MERGES BUSINESS AND PLEASURE.

Floating the Concept

"For us, sustainability also means creating something that people love," says Nanne de Ru, a founding partner of the international architecture practice **Powerhouse Company**. "Beautiful things will be reused." Those ideals are now on full display in Rotterdam's Rijnhaven port, where the firm's new project, billed as the world's largest floating office, is docked. Dubbed **A Vessel for Change**, the building was conceived in collaboration with the Global Center on Adaptation (GCA), an institute founded by the Netherlands government to research how cities can adapt to climate change as well as implement and accelerate those innovations. "We rose to the challenge and designed and developed this unique concept, making it circular, energy-positive, and carbon-negative," notes Ru. The 48,438-square-foot office (home to the GCA) can be deconstructed and relocated, traveling by waterway from site to site. In the event of a flood it will rise with the water, adapting to the changing planet. Prefabricated timber and standardized joints, meanwhile, increase ease of construction. "We had to deal with the right kind of floating foundation," recalls Ru, who explains that the concrete pontoon was not only durable but also thermal efficient, with water cooling the building in summer and helping to heat it in winter. The building is also a crowd-pleaser, with a communal restaurant and a swimming pool. Talk about making a splash. powerhouse-company.com —GAY GASSMANN



EXTRA! EXTRA! Waste has become a source of wonder thanks to a new collaboration between the multidisciplinary design firm **Stacklab** and veteran decorative-arts gallery **Maison Gerard**. Their joint platform, **STACKABL**, invites users to assemble unique furnishings via an inventory of leftovers from local manufacturers. (Think felt remnants, ethically harvested wood, and recycled aluminum.) To demonstrate the possibilities, they invited a who's who of the design world to conceive bespoke pieces, from a crimson chaise longue by *Jamie Drake and Caleb Anderson* to a striped armchair by *Elena Frampton*. Trash? We think not. stackabl.shop —s.c