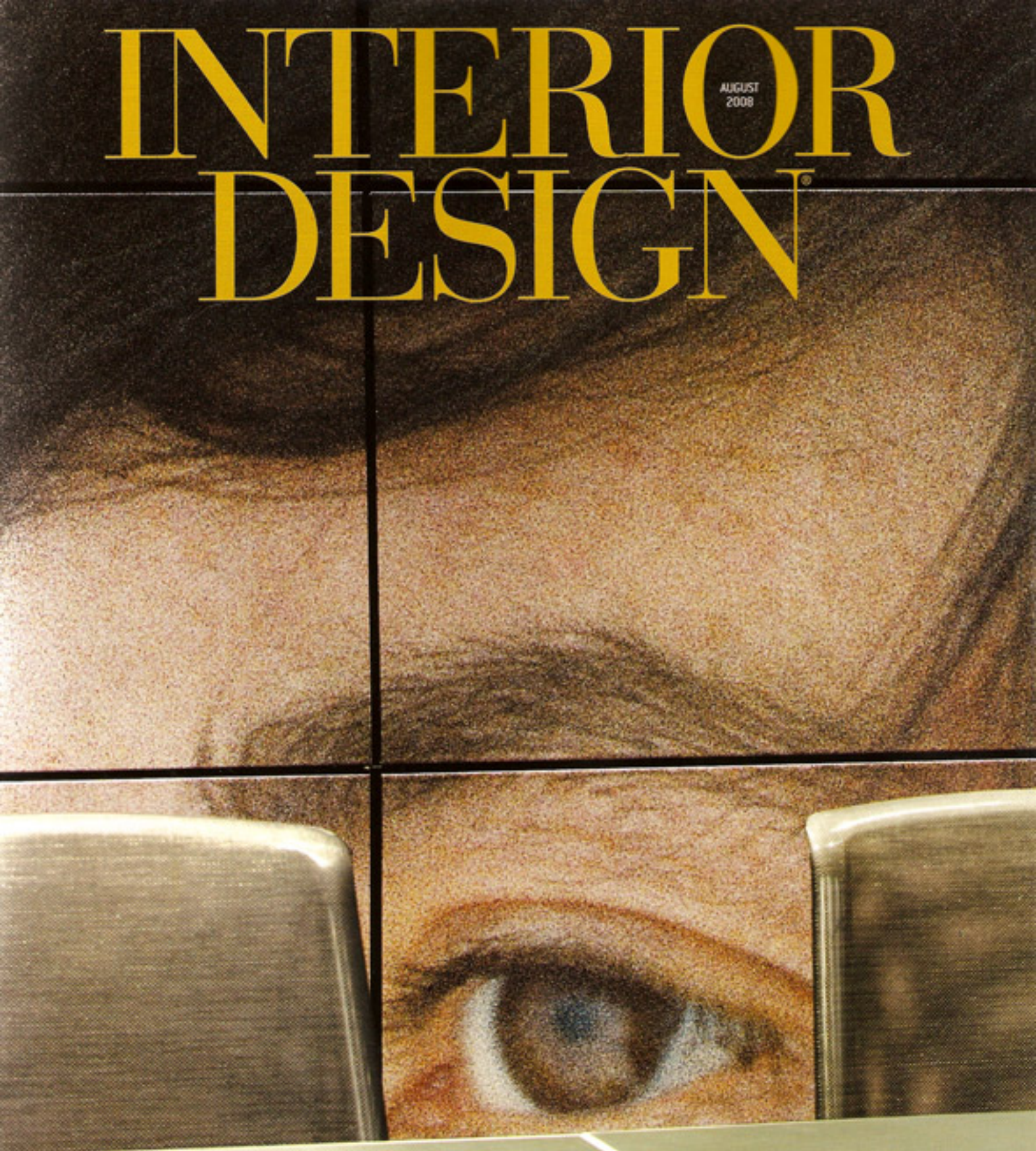


# INTERIOR DESIGN<sup>®</sup>

AUGUST  
2008



eye on art





Hitting the cutting-room floor is usually just one step from oblivion, but not in the high-end North Carolina upholstering facilities stalked by **Modern Fabrics**. James Powell's company scours workrooms to reclaim castaway yardage, then offers it online to eco-conscious consumers at 50 to 75 percent off the list price. The ever changing assortment currently includes patterns from more than a dozen manufacturers, and we're not talking cheap white muslin: Designtex mohair, Knoll cotton bouclé, Kravet polyester, Maharam nylon chenille, Pollack silk. The full lineup appears at [modern-fabrics.com](http://modern-fabrics.com).







ELARA II

What is  
innovation?



Circle 56

DESIGNwire

ECO

## Gardener on the Roof



Attention, green-roof advocates. There's a new one to top. At the California Academy of Sciences in San Francisco's Golden Gate Park, Renzo Piano Building Workshop has designed what's expected to be the Golden State's largest living roof, all 2½ acres of it. The 410,000-square-foot facility doesn't officially bow until September 27, but 1.7 million plants from nine native California species have already been sowed in 50,000 biodegradable coconut-husk trays. While the greenery and soil provide insulation, 60,000 photovoltaic cells installed in a glass canopy around the perimeter will generate up to 10 percent of the building's energy. Two bragging points are anticipated: the largest LEED Platinum building in the U.S. and the country's first museum to achieve that certification.

**From top:** On the green roof of Renzo Piano Building Workshop's California Academy of Sciences in San Francisco, glass skylights will automatically open and close for ventilation. The facility's rain forest.



TIM GRITTH/CALIFORNIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCES





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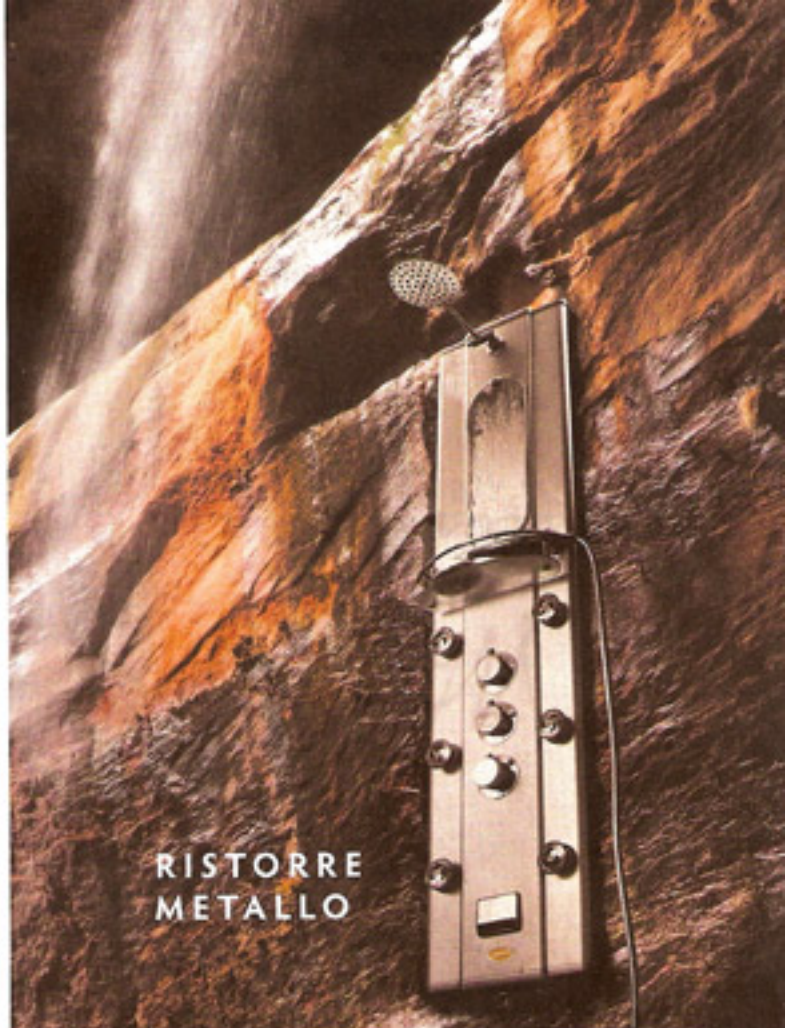


After winning a design-build competition for an arts center at the University of California, Irvine, Ehrlich Architects handed back a prize in return: the promise of LEED Silver certification for the 60,000-square-foot, \$33 million facility, which just broke ground for a 2010 opening. Naturally ventilated corridors—that means no

### Ecology 101

AC—will surround the perimeter, while louvers shade the west facade, and a network of balconies, terraces, and open walkways encourages indoor-outdoor interaction. Concrete floors will remain exposed, and galvanized-steel handrails are being produced locally. Steven Ehrlich's plans also feature a 100-seat theater, galleries, production shops, mixed-media labs, and artist studios, the latter on the top floor to take advantage of operable skylights.

*Ehrlich Architects's rendering shows a gallery at the firm's arts center for the University of California, Irvine.*



*Innovation is  
refreshing.*

**Jacuzzi.**