

ARCHITECTURAL RECORD

PROJECTS

By Clifford A. Pearson

As its name implies, Turbulence House aims to shake things up. Instead of following the standard method of on-site, wood- or steel-frame construction, this little guesthouse on a windy mesa in New Mexico tests the future, exploring new technologies that harness computer and manufacturing processes. Though the structure measures just 900 square feet, it could impact the way houses are built, according to Steven Holl, the architect who designed it.

The clients, artist Richard Tuttle and poet Mei-mei Berssenbrugge, have lived in New Mexico for many years on a compound with a couple of adobe houses, but they wanted something different for their guesthouse. They told Holl, an old friend, they imagined something manufactured like an Airstream mobile home. Holl was intrigued and agreed to work in exchange for one of Tuttle's mixed-media paintings on plywood. "Art for art" is the way the architect describes the deal.

Holl hired a pair of young architects in Texas to build the cabinets and other woodwork in the house.



Sources

Aluminum-zinc-alloy panels:
Galvalume

Aluminum windows and skylights:
Discount Glass

Steel stair and bridge: *Custom by*

Patio Productions

Cabinets and woodwork: *Ironwood Industries*

Integral-color plaster: *Rio Chama Lath and Plasterers*

Sinks and faucets: *Duravit*