

# california

HOME + DESIGN

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AUGUST 2006

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CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: COURTESY OF ARTISTRONKAGE; DAN FLETCHER; BRIDGES; HILSON, STEPHANIE MICHEDA; COURTESY OF THE GLARY AND WILHELM SCHRIMANN COLLECTION; BERGONZI/ATI GEMMA/ATI; COURTESY OF TWIN POINTE STUDIOS

# HOME GREEN HOME

DEVELOPER STEVE GLENN BREAKS GROUND ON A SERIES OF ECO-CONSCIOUS HOMES. BY SHERISE DORF

Santa Monica-based real-estate developer Steve Glenn believes that if it were possible, most people would choose to live in a space that reflects both their aesthetic and social values. So the former tech guy—who sold his first software company to Apple in 1989 and then launched a couple of successful dot-coms in the 1990s—founded LivingHomes. These modern homes combine clean, minimalist design (the first set are by noted architect Ray Kappe) with the strictest green building standards, along with the speed of prefab construction. If you “shop at Whole Foods, practice yoga and drive a Prius,” Glenn says, there’s a good chance you’ll want to own one of his company’s homes.

The first LivingHome, composed of 11 modules that were assembled on the Santa Monica site over the course of one day in April, is a three-level, 2,500-square-foot showcase for numerous green technologies, including solar heating, a gray-water reclamation system and recycled building materials. “This house is not as energy-efficient as you can get,” the purist in Glenn is compelled to reveal. “If it were 1,000

square feet and underground or straw bale, it would be much more so.” Despite these “limitations,” the home is on track to receive the highest rating from the U.S. Green Building Council’s LEED for Homes pilot program. With contracts for seven other homes and a planned development in Joshua Tree, Glenn’s latest venture is off to a promising start. ■

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: Steve Glenn in front of the first LivingHome in Santa Monica, which is also his own dream house; the house is built from eco-friendly materials, including steel framing and cedar siding certified by the Forest Stewardship Council; when completed, the home will have drought-tolerant landscaping and a rooftop garden.

