

# AZURE

DESIGN | ARCHITECTURE | ART



A CLEAN, GREEN  
NEW ORLEANS  
RENZO PIANO'S FINELY  
TUNED MUSEUM  
HIGHLIGHTS FROM  
EUROLUCE, NEOCON  
AND ICFF  
BEST SHELVING AND  
STORAGE OPTIONS

# GREAT IDEAS

YOU SHOULD  
KNOW ABOUT

**10**  
DESIGNERS  
WHO ARE  
SHAPING THE  
FUTURE

**24**  
EYE-POPPING  
DETAILS THAT  
MAKE A SPACE  
BRILLIANT

CAN/US \$7.95  
AZUREMAGAZINE.COM

PM40048073 R09064  
SEPTEMBER 2009





MARK MILLER  
ARCHITECT

**HEALTHY  
LEARNING  
ENVIRONMENTS**

**THE CLASSROOMS** IMPROVE WELLNESS AND STIMULATE LEARNING BY INCLUDING SUCH GREEN ELEMENTS AS NATURAL LIGHT AND NON-TOXIC INTERIOR FINISHES. THEY CAN ALSO BE DEPLOYED AND ASSEMBLED QUICKLY.



## **ECO-SMART CLASSROOMS, CALIFORNIA**

The statistics are alarming: 36 percent of American school districts use portable classrooms, resulting in more than 385,000 trailers scattered across the country, many of which pose serious health risks due to inadequate ventilation, mould growth and off-gassing toxins. Figuring there had to be a better option, San Francisco architect Mark Miller, 47, founded Project Frog to manufacture a healthier alternative. "We realized the big problem for schools is finding the time and money needed to create permanent environments," says Miller, who notes that building a traditional school can take up to 10 years. When faced with an immediate need for space, school boards resort to trailers, and although they are usually intended as a stopgap many end up becoming permanent schoolyard fixtures.

Project Frog bypasses conventional construction processes by building prefabs that are flexible, adaptable and far healthier. Studies have shown that just having access to natural light can dramatically improve a child's learning abilities and

decrease sick days. Project Frog's schools include living roofs, natural ventilation, high-efficiency windows, natural light systems, and low-VOC carpets and paint – all geared toward creating a positive learning environment. "We're manipulating daylight and convection currents to push energy demands down," says Miller. "When looking at life cycle costs, we can create a building that will cost less over time."

The company's enviro-awareness also takes into account pollution caused by transportation. By working with numerous fabrication facilities across the country, the structures can be manufactured and delivered regionally. Each project is assembled from pre-engineered, factory-made parts, which can be customized for different climates and site requirements. This fall, three new projects will be completed. "Forget the conventional definition of a building," says Miller. "We're delivering a powerful device." **TIM McKEOUGH**