



Clockwise from left:
TDA House, Mexico; House O, Turkey; Ordos 100
Project, Mongolia; and Jervois Residences, Singapore



OPPOSITE PAGE:
Clockwise from left: Contador-Weller House, Chile;
House in the Prairie, France; Love House, Japan;
and Camden House, United Kingdom

BUILT FOR GREATNESS

THESE EIGHT ARCHITECTS ARE CEMENTING THEIR NAMES IN AN INDUSTRY OF STEEL AND METAL, REPORTS JESSIE KOK AS SHE SEARCHES FOR THE NEXT FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT AND LE CORBUSIER



Chile
José Riesco, 28

When it comes to combining contemporary styles with the basic concern of space utilisation in a developing nation like Chile, a great reference would be the world-acclaimed Contador-Weller weekend retreat house in Valparaiso, designed by José Riesco and his partner from Riesco + Rivera Arquitectos Asociados. With the land's high cost per square metre, the architects created a generous dimension by dividing the 1,500-square-foot home into three defined units — a master bedroom suite, children's area, and public space — that fuse as one. A series of voids were also fashioned both horizontally and vertically to let natural light find its way around corners and across spaces, augmenting the appearance of space between each unit in the process. The house was constructed using cost-efficient prefabricated wood panels, which served as the basic structure and interior walls, allowing creativity to co-exist with practical cost.

Riesco's firm (founded in 2004) has already been selected as one of the 44 international firms for the Young Architects exposition in Spain and received a nomination for the Leaf Awards in the Young Architects category in London in 2008. The architect credits his work to experimentation and mixing of separate elements within a constructive system, and enjoys coming up with creative architecture that accedes to the prestige of contemporary architecture.



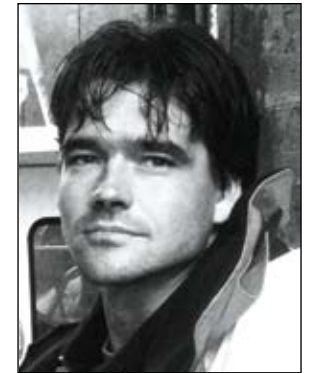
Contador-Weller House
 ABOVE:
 José Riesco and partner Francisca Rivera

France
Jean-Charles Castric, 34

With the global call for environmental protection and energy conservation, it is inspiring to see architects like Jean-Charles Castric advocate such causes by taking on the challenge of promoting energy efficiency for contemporary architecture. The architect believes that the usage and positioning of disparate elements can affect the consumption of energy, and illustrates it with his acclaimed *House in the Prairie*, where "the attention to orientation and the thermal qualities of the wooden structure combine to provide a very energy-efficient solution, heated by a single wood stove."

Casting a careful balance between the fundamental decisions of orientation, plan, volume and materials with the building program, site, budget and cultural values on which the project is based, Castric achieved an energy efficient structure that resembles a floating box on a field of grass. The house faces south-southeast, with the southerly façade open to the meadow and the sun. Its northern façade is closed and protected against the elements to prevent the over-usage of electricity during harsh weather.

A sole practitioner working in Brittany, he received his accreditation from L'ecole d'Architecture de Nantes in 1998. He collaborated with various architects before setting up his own firm in 2004 with a "No more, no less" approach to architecture. His design for the *House in the Prairie* reflects his attention to the use of materials that require little energy to produce, part of his goal to promote a sustainable building culture. This won him the Selected Britain Architecture Prize in 2006 and the first prize at the Salon Maison Bois d'Angers Awards.



House in the Prairie
 ABOVE:
 Jean-Charles Castric

Japan
Takeshi Hosaka, 34

Because space is such a luxury in Japan, Takeshi Hosaka had no choice but to find an ingenious way to combine both the indoors and outdoors in a single space. His award-winning project called the Love House reflects his special focus on the dynamics between these two areas. On just a meager 33 square metres, the two-storey house boasts a curved staircase designed in tandem with a roof that opens up for a glimpse of the sky. This makes the interior space spill over to the exterior environment. A rain curtain cascades down the house along the roof during wet weather, and natural light changes from morning to night, dancing across the interior walls as the day unfolds.

Takeshi Hosaka received his architecture degree from Yokohama National University in 1999, and his post-graduate degree in architecture from the Yokohama National University in 2001. He set up the Hosaka Takeshi Architects in 2004 while lecturing at Kokushikan University.

Hosaka's practice has handled many home architectural projects like the Love House, which has received awards from institutes like the Residential Architecture Award, TEPCO, SD Reviews Asakura Award and the Japan Institute of Architects—Architectural Excellence Awards. The firm has won an average of two awards each year for various projects between 1999 and 2008 from WAN, Architectural Design Competition, and the Forrest More Award — cementing Hosaka's position as one of the world's most exciting architects to watch.



Love House
 ABOVE
 Takeshi Hosaka

Singapore
Khairudin Saharom, 34

Designing a home in land-scarce Singapore, where dwelling spaces are usually built vertically, gave the architect and media personality Khairudin Saharom of Aamer Architects the inspiration to draw attention to the skyline with his penthouse project at Jervois Residences.

Choosing to pass over city views in favour of privacy for his clients, the architect covered the perimeter of the rooftop pavilion with shrubs, blocking out the street noises in the process and drawing one's attention to the Singapore skies. Water features were also added and Khairudin complemented the natural foliage feel by doing up the home interiors in polished wood and black metal structures for clean lines. Glass and rattan accents evoke the beauty of modern rustic living.

The influences were derived from Saharom's travels and works in Southeast Asia where he has been commissioned for commercial projects in India, Jakarta and Dubai. An expert on Asian homes, he hosts a show entitled *Heavenly Heaven* on Channel



News Asia, which features the most luxurious homes in the Middle-East. He has also won the Young Designer Award. Coupled with his involvement in government ministries like the Ministry of Community Development Youth and Sports (MCYS) and the Health Promotion Board, the media-darling architect, who has a master's degree in architecture from the National University of Singapore, is definitely one face to watch out for.



Jervois Residence penthouse
 ABOVE
 Khairudin Saharom

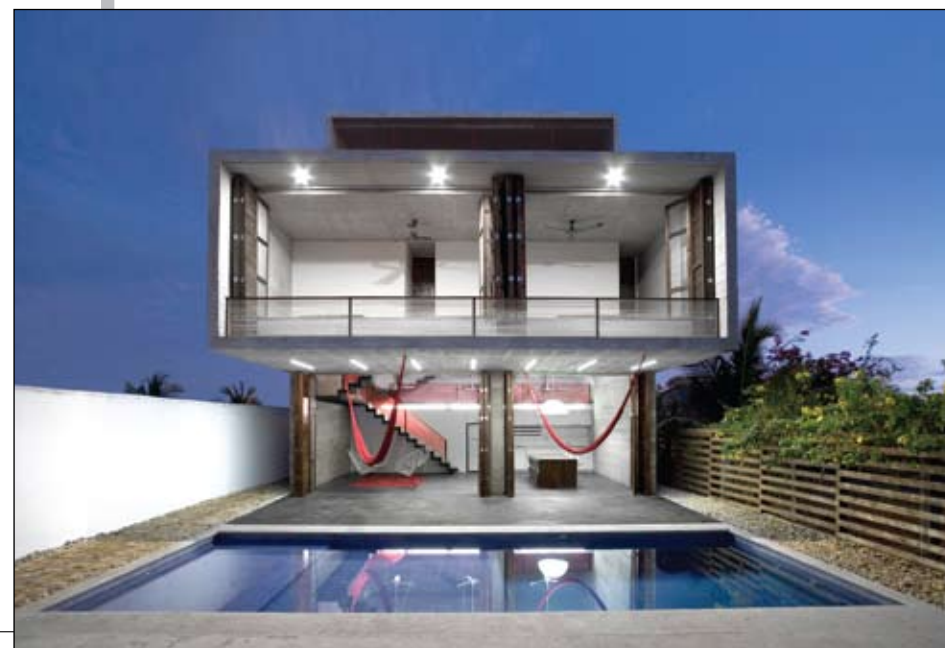
Spain

Eduardo Cadaval, 31

Coming up with a blueprint for a beach house in the warm climate of Puerto Escondido, Mexico may seem like an easy task, but not for Eduardo Cadaval and his wife Clara Solà-Morales from Cadaval & Solà-Morales. The award-winning duo required pragmatic planning without forsaking the aesthetics. They designed an outstanding structure in full concrete for practical coolness in the hot tropical weather while boasting a fully unblocked view of the Pacific Ocean.

What gives the house its personality is a central outdoor space that is protected by a concrete roof, yet receives the full natural movement of air, water and light. Hung with red hammocks, it invites guests for sheltered siestas in the embracing calm of nature.

Cadaval graduated from the National University of Mexico (with special honors) and obtained a master's degree in Architecture and Urban Design from Harvard University. He taught at Harvard's Career Discovery program, the Boston Architectural Center, Calgary's University Barcelona program and the National University of Mexico. In 2003, he started Cadaval & Sola-Morales in New York and relocated to Barcelona in 2005. His firm has completed projects in the United States, Spain and Mexico and his works have been selected for multiple exhibitions internationally. The studio has also won numerous awards including the prestigious Bauwelt Prize (Munich 2009), the Young Architects Prize from the Catalan Institute of Architects (Barcelona 2008), and the Design Vanguard Prize (New York 2008).



TDA House

ABOVE
Clara Solà-Morales and
Eduardo Cadaval

Switzerland

Reto Pedrocchi, 36 and Beat Meier, 36

By using innovative practicality and progressive thinking in their designs, a number of awards have been given to Reto Pedrocchi and Beat Meier. But international exposure came via an invitation by world-renowned architect Jacques Herzog for Pedrocchi and Meier to be part of the 2008 *Ordos 100 Project*. The groundbreaking scheme featured 100 up-and-coming architects from around the world to design 100 homes in 100 days for one of the most remote corners of the globe in Ordos, Chinese Inner Mongolia.

Task to design a villa on a 179-hectare lot, the duo took the weather and climate of the dry Mongolian desert into account and used concrete to create walls that kept a constant temperature within the interior. The floors were lined with smooth terrazzo. A swimming pool was constructed in the centre of the villa surrounded by pavements running along the various rooms. The main living room has a double volume glass wall that allows light in. Supplementary rooms, like a sauna and gym, and a small dining room next to the living room were also created in the upper floor. The pragmatic thought process demonstrated by both architects can be attributed to their strong training with Herzog of the famous Herzog & de Meuron Architekten.

It was also while working under Herzog that the partners realised their concepts, ideas and practical approaches toward projects were often similar, creating great synergy and dynamics for turning ideas into reality. The duo have won various international awards including the Mies Van Der Rohe Award, while receiving special mention in the "Swiss at Work – Quality, Innovation and Precision" event held by the Dauphin Human Design Group in Cologne in 2007.



Ordos 100 Project

ABOVE
Reto Pedrocchi and Beat Meier

Turkey

Hasan Calislar, 37

One would expect any architect who has had numerous works published in magazines to be contented with a sought-after signature style. Not the 37-year-old Hasan Calislar, who still strives to create historical and contemporary styles inspired by his travels and experiences with different cultures. A good reflection of this cultural recreation is the House O, which conforms to the architect's style of offering a modern lifestyle approach while remaining in keeping with the geography and the scenery of the area. A balance between traditional and modern, the house incorporates the common mosaic of heavy stones found in many buildings in the Turkish Mediterranean with contemporary glass windows for faster cooling under the Bodrum heat. For the sake of space and ventilation, the house is built without walls, and partitions were made to create individual spaces. According to the architect, this allows the "interconnectivity and use of light to permit the feeling of a single, spacious living area."

Calislar graduated from the Mimar Sinan University in 1992 and conducted his postgraduate studies on Power and Sovereignty in Architecture at Yildiz Technical University. He set up the Erginoglu & Calislar architects in 1993. His architectural preservation philosophy won him the Art of Building Conservation prize in the National Architecture Exhibition and the Construction Prize in Turkey. He has also represented Turkey in the Mies Van der Rohe Architectural Foundation Competition, and was a jury member in Uludag University Faculty of Architecture.



House O
ABOVE
Hasan Calislar (right)

United Kingdom

Richard Shaw, 29

Richard Shaw is described as "an undoubtedly talented designer" by Alan Crawford of the architectural firm Crawford Partnership, which Richard co-heads. He has received worldwide attention with his use of modern architectural styles to provide new life for old, uniformed and constrained metropolitan homes exemplified by the Grafton Crescent Extension project.

Shaw introduces novel spaces into old places without overlooking design. This proves to be an important focal point for most cosmopolitan areas, where city-living honours the talent of creating space out of air. Meeting the challenge of handling difficult urban spaces, Shaw introduced light and space to open up the dim interior of the Camden House, and replaced an existing dilapidated small rear extension in the backyard with a new glass extension at ground floor level. A new timber and glass pod addition was added to the townhouse accessible via a stair's half-landing. Upping the space quotient, the



lower level was reworked to accommodate a new and breezier kitchen cum dining area with full-folding glass doors to replace the tiny original kitchen that was in the ground floor living room. At night, the house stands out from the rest of the cookie-cutter neighborhood with its brightly lit glass pod.

"Overall, I feel that the new additions bear a relationship with the historical massing of rear extensions along this terrace," says the Nottingham University graduate, of his latest juxtaposition between the old and new. "Reconfiguring the house suits the needs of the clients and their living pattern, and forms a greater connection between the house and the garden."



Camden House
ABOVE
Richard Shaw