

# HOUSE BEAUTIFUL'S BUILDING MANUAL

SPRING 1980 \$2

*Special Issue*

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# Airy design defies earthquakes

As much a part of its setting as the trees, this eye-catching house in San Diego, Calif., is situated on a steep precipice, opposite above, in the heart of earthquake country—a site tagged “unbuildable” for more than 50 years. Using pole framing techniques, architect Stuart MacArthur Resor of Encinitas designed a three-level contemporary he claims affords the greatest earthquake resistance possible because all support elements are anchored to creosoted utility poles embedded 6' to 8' in the ground. Poles, beams, and rafters are exposed throughout the house, dramatically revealing its structural character. Beam ends, rafter tails, and extended fasciae, below, give the design a light, almost airborne quality. To maximize privacy, the house is oriented away from the street to the span of valley beneath, opposite below. A series of decks provides the outdoor living areas that the site cannot (see plan).



PHOTOGRAPHS BY MICHAEL DENNY; DRAWING BY WILLIAM J. WARD, JR.



