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Bricault House, Los Angeles

Situated in sunny Los Angeles, this 3,700 square foot residence is green in more ways than one. Not only does it boast a range of sustainable features, its owners opted to refurbish and extend their existing home in the walkable neighbourhood of Venice rather than move to a car-dependent suburb. The extension almost doubled the size of the original 2,000 square foot house; a new courtyard was added too.

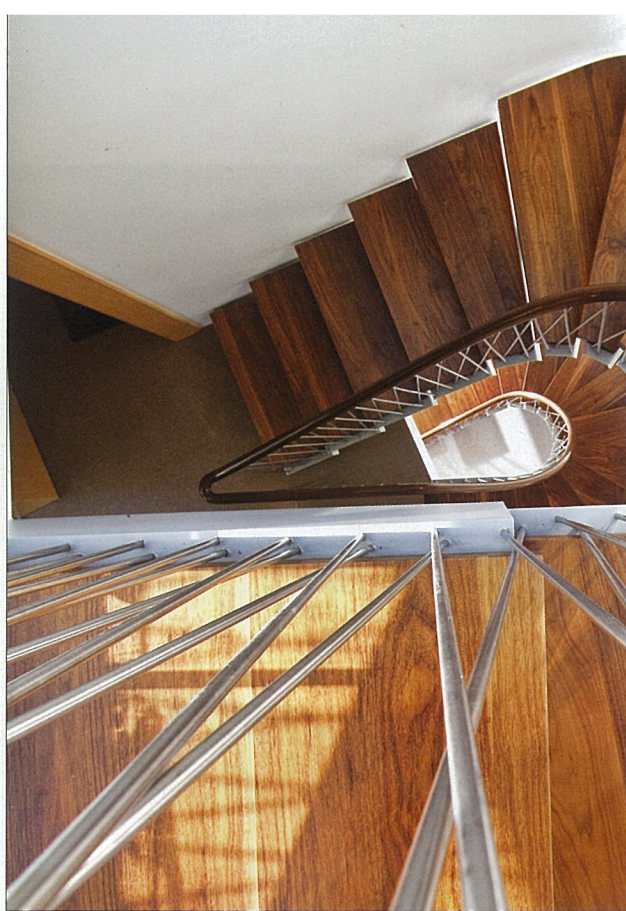
The Bricault House's most striking feature is a green wall that wraps around

three sides of the new master bedroom, creating a visual link between greenery in the courtyard and the building itself. A green roof sits on top of the building too - one half is a vegetable garden, the other half a mix of indigenous, low maintenance grasses and shrubs. All landscaping is fed by a combination of captured rainwater and recycled greywater.

Twenty four 220-watt solar PV panels on the roof provide electricity. There are plenty of other green features too, including low flush toilets, low VOC paints, LED light-

ing and cork flooring. Built from a steel frame with timber panel infill, the walls feature recycled cotton fibre battens and are insulated with Icynene spray foam. The house is heated with a high efficiency gas boiler, which distributes heat via an underfloor pipe network. With a climate as ideal as Los Angeles, Bricault Architects were keen to create a seamless link between indoors and out - a central sculptural staircase links the ground floor with a rooftop deck, doubling as a "chimney" that draws cool breezes through the house and ventilates naturally.





(above right and below) A green wall wraps around three sides of the new master bedroom at the Bricault House and is designed to link the house with greenery in the courtyard outside (opposite, bottom left); the building's green roof (opposite, bottom right) is divided in two - one half is a vegetable garden, the other a mix of indigenous, low maintenance grasses and shrubs

