



DREW HUBBELL

# HUBBELL & HUBBELL

The notion of green design is hardly a passing fad for San Diego architect Drew Hubbell. "My parents were building with locally milled adobe block and preserving trees on construction sites 40 years ago," says Hubbell, who was raised with a keen awareness of environmental sensitivity. Today Drew is in business with his father, the artist James Hubbell, creating thoughtful, innovative organic architecture that respects nature. A leading expert in straw bale construction, Drew pioneered the permitting of straw bale structures in San Diego. "We've built over 20 homes using this 100-year-old technology," says Drew, who touts the renewable resource and points out that the material conveys a sense of solidity and connectedness not found in conventional construction.



## CHIC ESSORY

5" pigment ink  
40" x 50", \$695;  
hubbellandstudio.com



### In what ways are you environmentally conscious?

Thinking about the environment and the world at large is part of my whole persona. My family lives in a 1910 Craftsman home. We compost all of our kitchen waste and we teach our children the importance of turning off lights.

### What's "hot" in green living?

One of the biggest items we've seen is photovoltaics; solar energy use in home design is becoming more popular.

### What's the biggest misconception about green design?

That it's going to cost a lot more. It can be pricey if you incorporate everything that's out there, but you can design a house that passively heats and cools itself.

### What inspires you?

The building site itself. We work a lot in rural areas, the mountains and the desert, and some are the most incredible sites in the world. Working with local materials is also a source of inspiration.

### What challenges you?

Permits and building officials. Education is one of our biggest tasks. We were the first to permit straw bale. We produced educational notebooks and videos for city officials explaining why we wanted to use this renewable resource.

### Name your dream project.

I'd love to design a cathedral with my father. His work is reminiscent of Antonio Gaudi.

### What are you currently working on?

A small interpretive center at the Elfin Forest Recreational Reserve in Escondido. It's an organic structure that is going to have a living roof.

### Who is your design mentor?

Ken Kellogg. He's a genius who engineers his own buildings, which are very organic in nature.

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