

ARCHITECTURAL RECORD

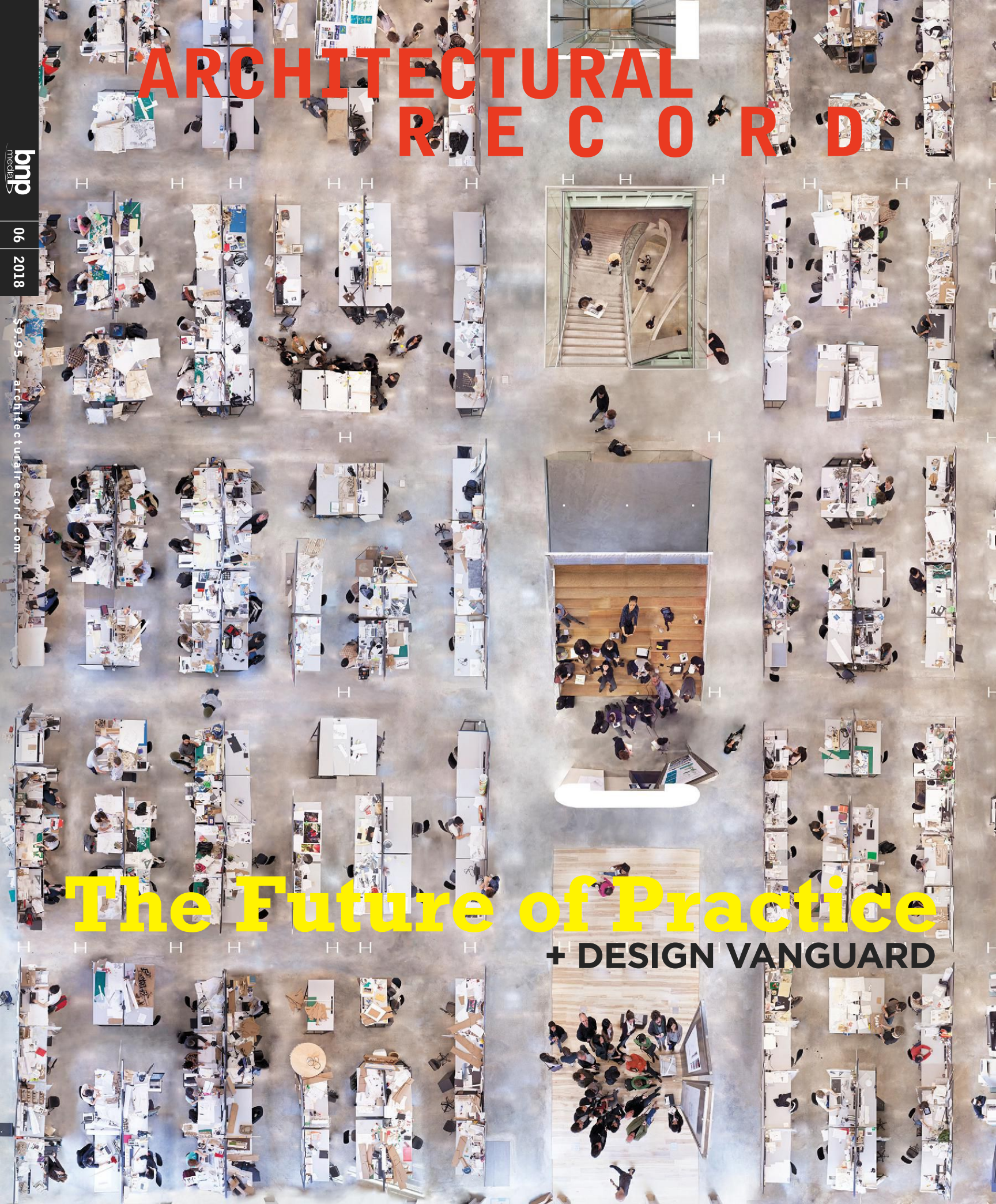
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Design Architect: Renzo Piano Building Workshop
Architect of Record: Davis Brody Bond LLP
Structural Engineer: WSP/Parsons Brinckerhoff
Photograph: Frank Oudeman



Shaking Bad

In New York, passing subways can shake entire buildings, but that wasn't an option for Columbia University's new **Jerome L. Greene Science Center**. Home to sensitive laboratory and imaging equipment requiring exceptional stability, the design by **Renzo Piano Building Workshop** relies on a steel structure to reduce floor vibrations to a miniscule 2,000 mips. Even as the elevated No. 1 train roars past, this helps ensure that nothing distracts from the scientific advances being made within the center's unshakable walls. Read more about it in **Metals in Construction** online.

 **Steel Institute of New York**

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INTERNATIONAL CORRESPONDENTS	David Cohn, Tracy Metz, Aric Chen, Chris Foges
CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHERS	Iwan Baan, Roland Halbe

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A STRIKING HOUSE IN THE ARIZONA DESERT OFFERS AN ARRAY OF INDOOR AND OUTDOOR SPACES IN HARMONY WITH ITS SETTING. BY PILAR VILADAS



THE PHOENIX-BASED architect Wendell Burnette is known for designing buildings with a keen sense of place, whether it's a galvanized zinc box of a house that sits on a flat Wisconsin crop field or the house shown here, on a five-acre site in a desert valley north of Cave Creek, Arizona. Designed as an empty-nest home for Keith and Kim Meredith, the distinctive structure defines, Burnette says, "the core concept of how we live in the desert." His clients, whom he describes as "into Eastern philosophy, paring down, and being close to nature," had no interest in a conventional house. Since their children are grown, the residence has only one bedroom and a fairly small, flexible living/dining/cooking area, as well as outdoor cooking/dining, exercise, and seating spaces. Sometimes, Burnette says, the indoor and outdoor spaces "are completely seamless."

Burnette took the site's most prominent feature—an outcrop of pink schist that runs along the east edge of the site—and extended it conceptually with a "plinth" of plaster-clad masonry that forms the base of the 3,125-square-foot house (and contains the lower-level garage, library, and exercise spaces, among others). Next, what Burnette terms

The house is composed of three distinct layers that include a masonry base, the main level, or "dispersed core," and a thick, stainless-steel-faced canopy (top). A sharp cleft through the roof and base structures marks the entrance (above).