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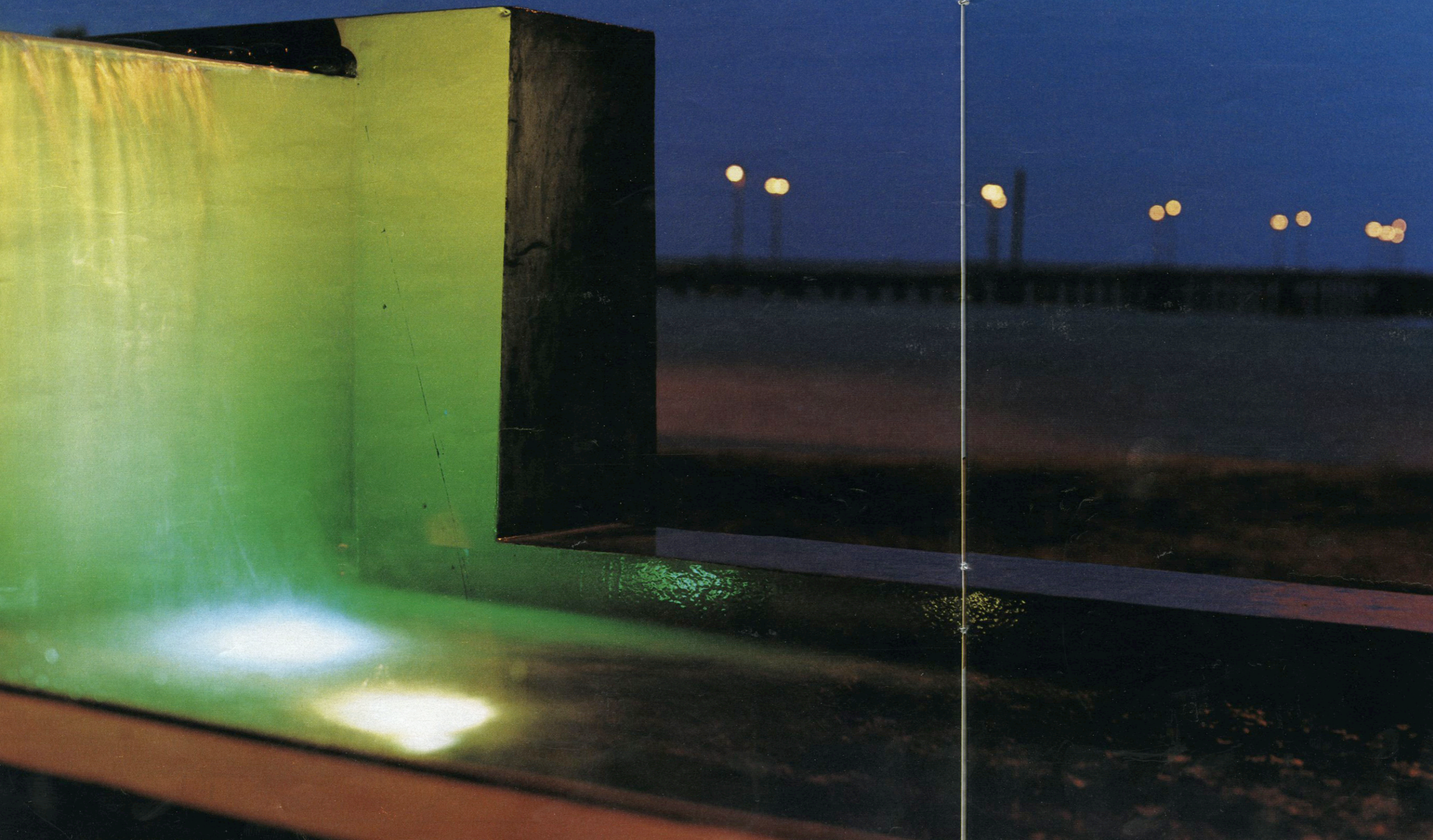
# H<sub>2</sub>OME

DECORATIVE POOLS, FOUNTAINS AND INDOOR STREAMS ARE THE NEW WORKS OF ART

# WATER COOLER

A house in Venice relies on the elements to tame the heat

PHOTOGRAPHS BY JOÃO CANZIANI



Architect David Hertz's client wanted to make a statement with his new home on the Venice boardwalk. His mandate: "Design something dramatic." Hertz, known for his sustainable architecture, obliged by creating a two-story home with a walkout basement all clad in prefabricated metal refrigerator panels—"the kind used for ice houses and meat lockers," he explains. But the signature piece of the "Panel House," as it is now called, is a triple waterfall that cascades from poured-in-place concrete weirs into a reflecting pool, then over a spillway into a catch basin even with the boardwalk. An ingenious 10-by-15-foot living room window, made of three pieces of glass siliconed together to form one giant picture window, lowers to capture incoming breezes. They cool as they flow over the reflecting pool, eliminating the need for air conditioning. The water feature is a visual and sensual experience as well: Boardwalkers often stop to run their hands through the cool water on hot summer days or regard themselves in the mirror-finished windows, while their animal companions slurp water from the catch basin. "Very few people walk by," says Hertz, "without reaching out and touching it." **w**

**SEASIDE:** Water flows from the reflecting pool into a catch basin by the Venice boardwalk. The one-way mirror-finish on the windows, above, lets the homeowner see out but keeps passersby from peering in. The Solarban 60 glass and photovoltaic panels on the roof help conserve energy.



**TAKE THE AIR:** Santa Monica architect David Hertz looks out over the main window, lowered to rail height, which allows for natural ventilation of the seaside home. The water below cools the breezes, making air conditioning unnecessary.



FEATURE  
**TYCH FONT**

**ARCHITECT:** David Hertz Architects  
 Studio of Environmental  
 Architecture, Santa Monica,  
 310-829-9932.

**CONCEPT:** Waterfall as air  
 conditioner.

**CHARACTERISTIC:** "Cools incoming  
 air and makes air conditioning  
 necessary; photovoltaic panels  
 produce any negative electrical  
 load."  
 —David Hertz

**CLIENT:** "Sound is very  
 important—it's hard to compete  
 with the waves."  
 —D.H.

**DETAIL:** Water cascades from weirs on both sides into the  
 reflecting pool, then slips down its face for a triple waterfall  
 effect. The reflecting pool also bounces light onto the ceiling  
 of the master bedroom, creating a rippling water pattern.

