



# 2008 editors' choice

PEOPLE, ACTIVITIES, FOOD, FASHION, HOME & GARDEN



**A** day of walking at Stinson, a night of camping at Kirby Cove. Fresh saba at Sushi Ran, an icy cosmo at the Buckeye.



Ballet classes for kids and Little League at Boyle Park. A ferry ride to Angel Island and another to S.F. Cheap sunglasses, expensive shoes and Tony's to repair them. Green buildings, reclaimed hardwoods and native plant seeds. People who care about their community. These are a few of our favorite Marin things—and we're sharing them with you in the next 24 pages as *Marin Magazine's* 2008 Editors' Choice selections. We hope you enjoy them as much as we do.





★ MICHELLE KAUFMANN DESIGNS ★

## Green to go: sustainable by design

**From the original Glidehouse** to the subsequent Sunset Breezhouse, Sidebreeze, mkLotus, mkLoft and mkSolaire models, the prefabricated homes of architect and Novato resident Michelle Kaufmann are modular, energy-efficient, built to code, and packed with such ultracool green features as bamboo floors, recycled concrete countertops, glass tile, and low-VOC paints.

Considered real estate once they're installed, mkd-homes can be found in the most chic communities along the West Coast. "Green town-home communities" are slated to appear in San Leandro, Denver and Las Vegas; resort projects, spiritual retreats and spas are also in the pipeline.

Next May, a fully functioning three-story mkSolaire with a garage, living roof and smart features will be installed at Chicago's Museum

of Science and Technology—the only other building honored this way since Frank Lloyd Wright erected a Usonian home on the same site more than 50 years ago.

Kaufmann, a former associate of celebrated Los Angeles architect Frank O. Gehry, never planned to pioneer green prefab homes, purchase a factory in Seattle to build them, open an office in Oakland to sell them, write a book (*Prefab Green*, HarperCollins, 2007) about them, or design eco-friendly home products (lighting, a bathroom vanity, a kitchen island) via mkStudios, but plenty of environmentalists and home owners are glad she did. Michelle Kaufmann Designs offices are located at 580 Second St., Ste. 245, Oakland; 510.271.8015; mkd-arc.com