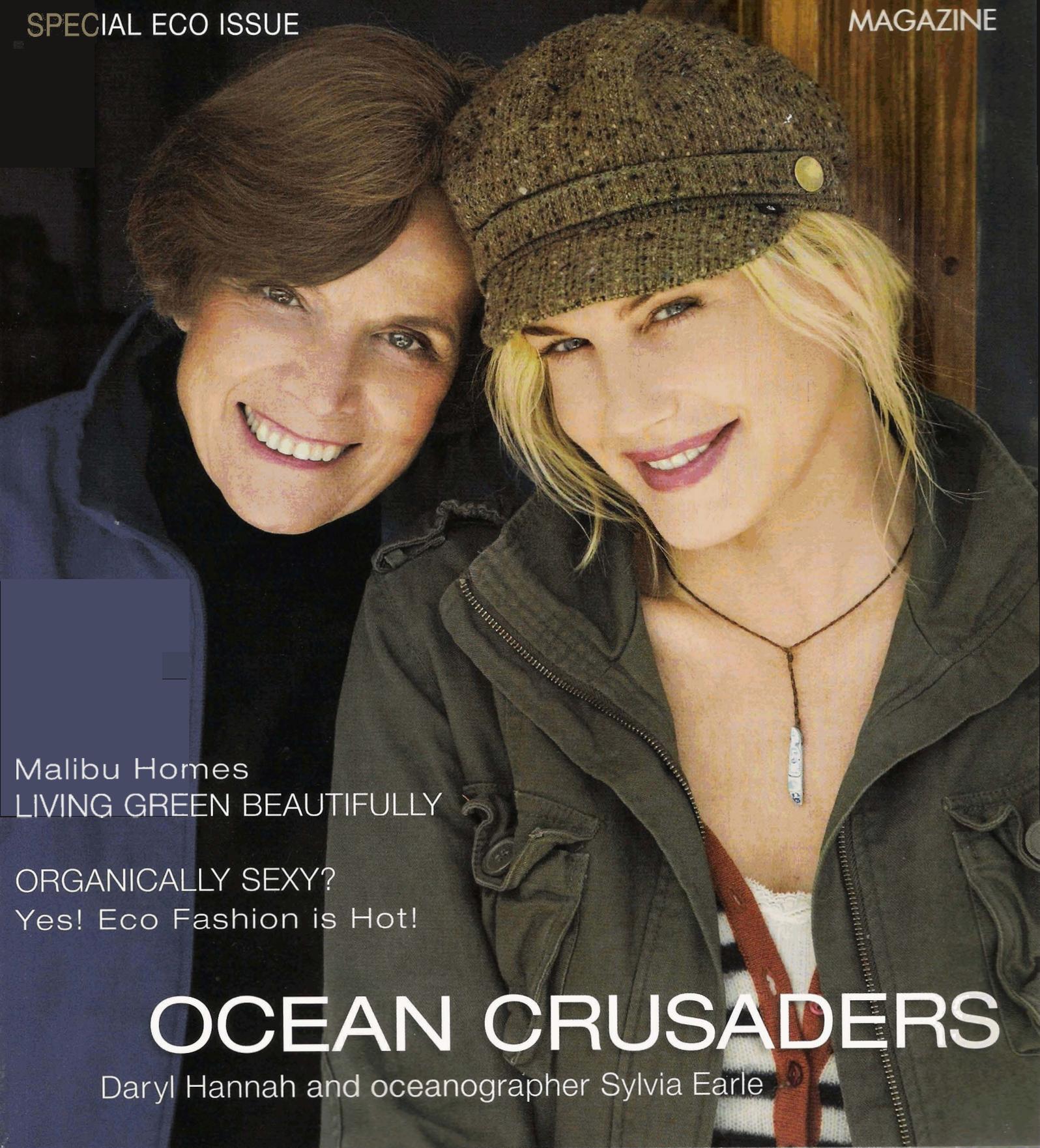


MALIBU TIMES

SPECIAL ECO ISSUE

MAGAZINE



Malibu Homes
LIVING GREEN BEAUTIFULLY

ORGANICALLY SEXY?
Yes! Eco Fashion is Hot!

OCEAN CRUSADERS

Daryl Hannah and oceanographer Sylvia Earle

WHERE BEAUTY AND ECOLOGY MEET

Certainly, a spectacular view from a Malibu residence is not terribly uncommon, but as you make the one and a half mile journey up Big Rock Drive from Pacific Coast Highway on the way to Georgia Goldfarb and Walter Zelman's home, the stage is gradually set for what many visitors can only describe as "breathtaking." From the front of the property, the lawn melts seamlessly into the deep blue of the Pacific, as Palos Verdes and Catalina and Santa Barbara islands are all visible on a clear day. The rest of the panorama is lightly developed or completely undeveloped canyon scenery.

"It's exhilarating," said Julia Russell, founder of the Eco-Home Network that hosted an open house at the property. "The house really takes advantage of every vista."

The home represents much more

By Sean Caffey | Photos by Maile Mason



Malibu residents Georgia Goldfarb and Walter Zelman's home offers energy efficient options with beautiful panoramic views. "Low-e." or low emitting glass reflects heat back into the room, reducing loss of heat through glass in the winter.

"I have been committed to ecologically sustainable living since I read Rachel Carson's 'Silent Spring.'"

—Georgia Goldfarb

beyond its beauty; it is also designed to be an energy efficient and ecologically minded living space.

Solar roof panels power the property by day and leave enough energy to run lights and other electrical items at night. The home's water is heated with thermal solar panels; water is pumped from the water heater to the roof where it is heated and returned to the hot water tank for storage and use.

Other key environmental elements are radiant heat generated from the cement floor on the ground level of the house, hydronic heat upstairs that employs hot water to heat rooms, countertops made from composites of recycled material, and natural ventilation and cooling provided by the home's architecture, which takes advantage of the area's mild climate and ocean breezes.

"We set out to build an architecturally beautiful home that is eco-friendly and to help teach people the lesson that it doesn't have to cost a fortune," said Zelman, a professor of health policy at USC.

"I'd say we met two of those three goals—the budget is out of control, but it's not really due to the eco stuff. We've had difficulties with contractors and things like that; it's impossible to anticipate all the things that come up."

This is where the Eco-Home Network comes in. Eco-Home is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to educate the public on how to make lifestyle choices to help protect the environment and improve quality of life. The network has roughly two hundred members whose homes are in various stages of development in terms of implementing positive ecological improvements, Russell said. Their goal is to give

their members checklists on what types of things they should be focusing on to make their homes more “green,” and trying to show them relatively inexpensive ways to do that.

Large double-paned “low-e” glass windows and doors are a notable feature of Goldfarb and Zelman’s three-thousand-square-foot, two-bedroom home, which also has a family room and a study—a whole side of the home facing the ocean is virtually all glass. “Low-e,” or low emitting, glass is coated with a glaze containing microscopically thin metal or metallic oxide layers allowing visible light in, and reflecting infrared radiant heat back into the room, reducing loss of heat through glass during winter. They get by without air conditioning through natural ventilation, the use of shades and the low-e windows, which work in reverse during summer.

The couple has a one-hundred-gallon electric water heater to back up the two, four-foot by ten-foot solar panels used to heat domestic water. A net-metering agreement with Southern California Edison returns dollars to Goldfarb and Zelman’s bill. The radiant and hydronic heating in the home is powered by a Munchkin boiler, which regulates the temperature of returned water, so it only fires up to heat the water when the actual temperature has dropped.

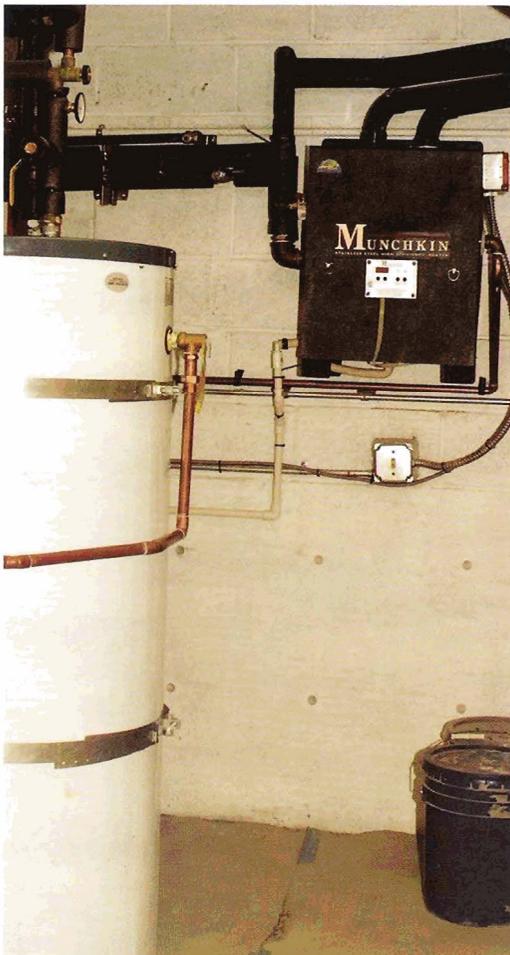
Having originally purchased the land in 1999, it has taken seven years for Goldfarb and Zelman to realize their dream and they are still just getting adjusted to the life there.

“This house makes me completely re-orient all of my thinking,” Zelman said. “[Due to the solar energy], we have to do everything at the height of the day. The energy companies tell people not to use a lot of electricity during the middle of the day, but we have to.” Of course, the couple’s use of energy does not have an adverse affect on the environment.

The idea of the green home was more Goldfarb’s, but her husband was very willing to oblige. “I have been committed to ecologically sustainable living since I read Rachel Carson’s ‘Silent Spring,’” she said. “Walter was certainly supportive in the effort to create a green house, but he was willing to have me take the lead in the effort.” ■



Above: The home’s countertops are made from composites of recycled material.



Left: A Munchkin boiler powers radiant and hydronic heating in the home, heating water only when the actual temperature has dropped.