

materials, budget, and program. There's also a global perspective that comes with the geographical freedom. "We all travel extensively, and I have land in Belgium, where I hope eventually to end up," says Jahnke, whose wife is Belgian. "Creating a business like ours means I could easily do that."

The partners currently have several residences under construction in Bend, and they are looking at commercial interiors projects, as well. They constantly submit designs to competitions worldwide, an exercise they say keeps them exploring and experimenting. According to Jahnke, the potential is limitless. "There is an enormous amount of development out there, and much of it bad," he says. "We know there are people who are looking for something better." Dividing up to find those special clients is working for Pique. *Ingrid Spencer*

Tumalo House, Tumalo, Oregon, 2008

A narrow home stacked to express the experience of ascending from the scale of trees to the expansive sky. The second and third floors appear to float.



Garren Residence, Bend, Oregon, 2007

This low-slung residence rests on a prairie site in the high desert of central Oregon. The strong horizontal elements visually tie the building to the surrounding landscape. Three parallel axis walls orient the house toward prominent views and define outdoor rooms, expanding the small footprint out into the site. The steel-clad spine wall separates private and public portions of the dwelling, above grade and below. A large central void delivers natural light to basement rooms.

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Work

Idea becomes business for two British designers

Experimenting with concrete in school paved the way for British industrial designers Will Crawford and Peter Brewin to enter the business of helping disaster relief workers. The two entrepreneurs are the brains behind Concrete Canvas Technologies, a new company that is marketing inflatable concrete tents to aid organizations as well as the U.S. and U.K. military.



Concrete Canvas: Add water, use a battery-powered fan to inflate, and wait 12 hours.

Crawford and Brewin met three years ago in an industrial design and engineering class at the Royal College of Art in London, where they were pursuing master's degrees. Inspired by the sophistication of an egg, the two explored the use of inflation to create forms that were structurally sound yet lightweight by blowing up balloons filled with plaster. They decided to use inflation to create forms, and found concrete to be an easily compressible material. "There are two basic aspects to the design—cement-impregnated cloth and the use of inflation," says Crawford.

To erect the tent, you add water to the bag and inflate it with air, and 12 hours later it is ready to use. The two students entered their idea in the British Cement Association's annual competition in 2004 for new and innovative uses of concrete, and they won second prize.

During summer vacation, they traveled to Uganda to do field tests.



They spent a month meeting U.N. agencies and nongovernmental organizations and visited six different refugee camps where they tested the idea. They were met with a positive response from aid agencies, who have long needed a way to quickly erect shelters on demand.

After graduation in August 2005, Crawford and Brewin started the company with their prize money, and secured their first round of financing from private investors in April 2006, as well as through a grant from the British government. With the idea that a free trial will lead to sales, the firm has handed out prototype tents to clients like the U.K. and U.S. military and the Red Cross.

With the durability of a portable building and the ease-of-use of a tent, the structures have an estimated life span of five to 10 years, which outlives the normal wear of a tent, while remaining logistically easier and cheaper to manage than prefabricated portable buildings. While cost has yet to be determined—based on further prototype testing—Crawford says he and Brewin plan to take the product to the commercial marketplace, as shelters for sheds and agristorage, or to sell the concrete cloth in rolls to builders for instant hard pouring. *Dianna Dilworth*

For more information on Concrete Canvas and more pictures of the structure in action, go to archrecord.construction.com/archrecord2/.