

## Out of the Ashes, Houses That Fight Fires

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Four years after a wildfire burned down their wood-framed house in north San Diego County, Sara Malta and her husband moved into their new home, a 3,000-square-foot, cream-colored, minimalist modern home nestled among boulders. Perched on a cliff, the house is constructed mostly from concrete, steel and dual-paned tempered glass.

HIDE CAPTIONS ▾ | 1 of 19



## Out of the Ashes, Houses That Fight Fires

[BACK TO THE BEGINNING](#)

[EXPLORE MORE](#)



Sara Matta and her architect, Keoni Rosa, are shown on the master bedroom's balcony. "It's like a freeway underpass with all the rebar and the steel," says Mr. Rosa, adding that the home's unusual design and commercial-grade building techniques reflects Ms. Matta's anti-fire mantra throughout the project: 'no wood.'

[HIDE CAPTIONS](#) 2 of 19



## Out of the Ashes, Houses That Fight Fires

[BACK TO THE BEGINNING](#)

[EXPLORE MORE](#)



Inside, there are polished concrete floors and aluminum-framed windows. The living room opens up to a large concrete deck with canyon and mountain views.

HIDE CAPTIONS | 3 of 19





A wood-burning stove in the living room sits in front of a concrete wall with a wood-grain pattern.

## Out of the Ashes, Houses That Fight Fires

[BACK TO THE BEGINNING](#)

[EXPLORE MORE](#)



The master bedroom is pictured. 'The notion of creating something was really good,' says Ms. Matta, the 68-year-old retired head of the county's 211 program, a public helpline and information service. Her prior home was paid off, and insurance covered most of the roughly \$300 a square foot cost to build the new home.

[HIDE CAPTIONS](#) | 5 of 19

## Out of the Ashes, Houses That Fight Fires

[BACK TO THE BEGINNING](#)

[EXPLORE MORE](#)



The master bathroom includes a freestanding tub with a view of the mountains.

HIDE CAPTIONS  6 of 19



## Out of the Ashes, Houses That Fight Fires

[BACK TO THE BEGINNING](#)

[EXPLORE MORE](#)



Mr. Rosa says the home's unusually sturdy design and commercial-grade building techniques reflects the Mattias' anti-fire mantra.

[HIDE CAPTIONS](#) | 7 of 19