Architect David Hertz would rather live outdoors than indoors, as evidenced by his home in Venice, California. The compound's four buildings—the first two built in the mid-1990s and the latter two in the early 2000s—surround a central courtyard and pool, and there's barely a wall in the structure that doesn't burst open with windows. As in most of the house, the floor of the office-playroom—used by Hertz and his wife's three children more as play space than workplace—is made of Hertz's unique mix of concrete and recycled materials (like glass chips, old computer parts, scrap wood), sold as Syndecrete.