

Outside's

# Go

TRAVEL & STYLE FOR MEN

THE REASON  
**Kevin  
Costner**  
ALWAYS RISKS IT

CAN OPULENT  
ADVENTURES  
ALSO BE GREEN?

FREE  
MASERATI!

## BUILD NOW

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IS RIPE FOR  
A SECOND  
HOME

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## The Visionary: David Sklar

**When Star Island, a 35-acre private resort in the Bahamas, opens in late 2009, it will offer every luxury and still rack up a carbon footprint of nearly zero. CEO David Sklar talks about why and how he turned away from fossil fuels.**

**You're an architect and land developer with no prior experience in green building. How did you end up masterminding an eco-resort?**

I was going through an analysis of providing the basic services. I started asking myself, Where are we going to bring all of these resources from? Almost all the power in the Bahamas is generated from diesel-fed power plants. When I really started to explore this, I thought to myself, There's got to be a better way.

**How did you get from alternative energy to bamboo sheets, fair-trade furniture, and shade-grown coffee?**

You can't explore and learn about these different fuels without becoming more cognizant of all of the environmental issues. I really started to believe and accept as fact that we have a serious environmental crisis on our hands on a global scale. Up until that point, I'm kind of ashamed to admit, I didn't really know it.



*David Sklar/Dalu Design*

**Was going green a smart economic decision?**

Initially it seemed like it was going to be a really poor economic decision. It was more of a personal-belief decision. I have a six-year-old son, and it was a decision I made as a parent realizing that if I didn't do something, I wouldn't be able to look him in the eye because clearly the problem is going to be more his than mine.

**What's your favorite green feature?**

The more high-tech one is gasification. It's a process where you're taking a lot of waste—things such as packing material, boxes, things that are carbon-based—and you actually put them through a process, and it generates power. The low-tech one is rainwater harvesting. Based on the average rainfall that we get, we're going to see somewhere between five and ten million gallons a year just coming off of our roofs. That's a lot of fresh water.

**What will your guests have to give up for the sake of an earth-friendly vacation?**

They'll have to give up their guilt.

**Is there a take-home lesson?**

Hopefully what people will take away is, "Wow, it was great. I didn't have to give up anything." And then, "Why can't I have it like this at home?" The answer is, if enough people start demanding it, the economics will evolve. I was raised on fossil fuels just like everybody else. But eventually, our children are going to laugh at us because we burned things to make power.

[starislandbahamas.com](http://starislandbahamas.com)