

What remained of these buildings was razed, the scrap hauled out, the surface graded flat, and in their place have grown two giant white marquees with shiny steel innards--what Habell calls pavilions one and two.

"It was the fastest stabling we could get, to get people in and the horses back," said Habell.

One of the pavilions can house 104 horses, the other 144. The roofing material is non-flammable. The floors are rubber matted. The plumbing and the electrics is a work in progress.

"And all this is going to get a nice two, three inches of sand," said Habell, pointing to the wide aisles slicing through the middle of the stables. "We'll see how this works out for now," he added, for, if the light, airy structures prove popular with the trainers, they could become a more permanent addition to

the San Luis Rey landscape. "They keep them at Gulfstream and Laurel Park," he said. "All the trainers I've brought by really like it."

Not all the barns perished. Seven barns survived--somehow.

"It's so bizarre how it attacked certain things and not others," he said, about the capricious nature of the fire--a "dirty fire," Habell called it, as it behaved in a dirty-rotten way. These barns were pressure washed top to bottom, given a new lick of paint, and their roofs replaced with metal. Habell and crew have also erected a little box-city of rooms for the stable staff to live in.

Two-hundred palm trees were hacked down. New wash-racks are being pieced together. Scorched manure bins have been re-built. And new day pens and hot-walking machines are on the



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to-do list. **Cont. p6**

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