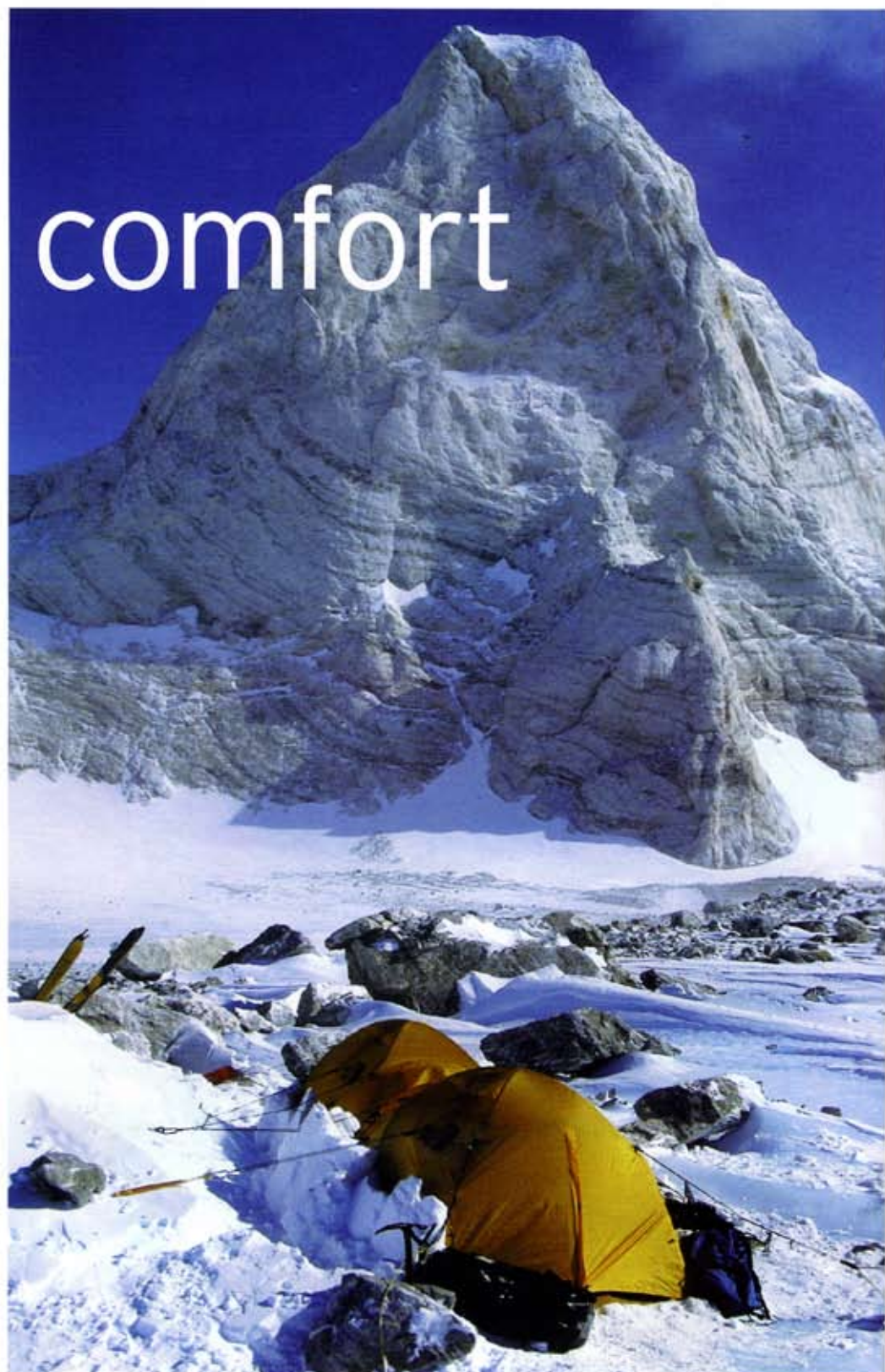


cold comfort

The tents below Minaret Peak. ▶

Absolute beachfront property in Punta Arenas, Chile. ▼



For a man who spent 16 bone-freezing days in Antarctica tracing the steps of earlier explorers along Horseshoe Valley, photographer Jason Kimberley has an extraordinary admission to make: he begins his book **Antarctica: A Different Adventure** by telling us 'I hate the cold. One of my greatest fears is that of being stuck, exposed and helpless and slowly freezing to death, in some lonely wasteland.'

Luckily for Jason, and for us, neither he nor his two companions (Jason Veale and Peter Hillary) suffered such a terrible fate on their adventurous 2005 trip to Antarctica – although they had some hairy moments en route, including snow storms and whiteouts. They thoroughly enjoyed their boys' own adventure and called each other the Boss, Mertz and Oates,

after explorer greets Sir Ernest Shackleton 'the Boss' to his men), Dr Xavier Mertz and Lawrence Oates. But their main purpose was to canvass the state of Antarctica today, and investigate the uneasy suspicion that some governments see the beautiful frozen continent as 'just another resource to exploit'.

The future of Antarctica, Kimberley concludes, is 'a litmus test for us all. It holds the key to our climate history and is the last bastion of pristine wilderness on our planet. Our challenge is to preserve it.'

Let's hope that this magnificent book contributes to our awareness of the fragility and preciousness of Antarctica.

(The intrepid chap on the front cover, by the way, is Jason Veale, dashing naked across the Horseshoe Valley in -15°C .) **qr**



▲ The Boss (Peter Hillary, Mertz (Jason Veale) and Oates (Jason Kimberley).



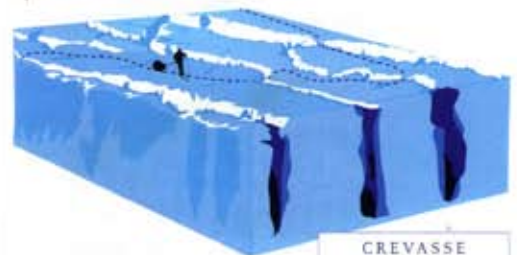
▲ The tail fin is the only visible section of a DC-6 that crash-landed near Patriot Hills several years ago. The pilot had to make a forced landing in a whiteout. He managed to save the passengers.

◀ Raised footprints: the wind has stripped away the surrounding snow from tracks made the day before, leaving only the compressed snow from our footprints, which now sit 5 centimetres above ground level. These raised footprints are a remarkable Antarctic quirk.

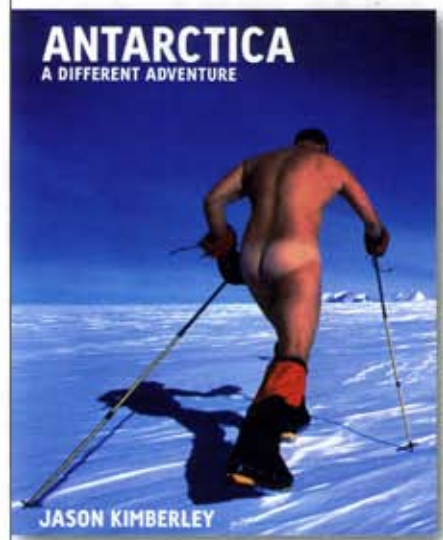
▼ Blue ice fields, Minaret Peak.



◆ Beginning of the crevasse field.



CREVASSE CROSS SECTION



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