

GREEN DESIGN GROWS UP

Industry Advancements Give Sustainable Products A Fresh New Look

BY EUSTACIA HUEN



The lumber used in the production of **SKLAR'S WAVE BEDROOM** set comes from within 500 miles of the factory from legal and well managed forests.

Prior to its opening last year, the highly anticipated 1 Hotel & Homes South Beach tapped Miami-based furnishings brand Artefacto, and its CEO Paulo Bacchi, to design one of its penthouse units. The prevailing theme? Green – as in eco-friendly.

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tually saves energy. We also hear more requests lately from designers and clients to source sustainable products.”

Bacchi adds: “I am already witnessing Miami react to more sustainable design.”

Indeed, as a study by BCC Research reported in November, the green building-materials market in the United States is set to reach \$69 billion by 2019. And today's products are leaps and bounds ahead of what was available even 15 years ago, when

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builders and designers were limited to very expensive and often generic-looking options when going green.

Now, thanks to advances in technology and demand from an increasingly eco-conscious public, options abound, and many green products are so attractive that they blend seamlessly with their conventional counterparts.

But aesthetics are only part of the equation, Bacchi says: “The most important thing is to educate



The **AURA PENDANT** by Tech Lighting, available at LBU Lighting, offers substantial energy savings as well as a low-voltage electronic dimmer.

Designer Julian Lechner created **KAFFEFORM CUPS AND SAUCERS** with recycled coffee grounds and renewable raw materials. The products are washable and reusable.



CAESARSTONE COUNTERTOPS, available at Allied Kitchen & Bath, are made from engineered quartz using sustainable practices.

The **CALLIGARIS SAMI UPHOLSTERED WOODEN CHAIR** is Forest Stewardship Council certified, meaning it was made following guidelines to support worldwide management of forests and plantations.



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Today's designers are taking eco-friendly design in wildly different directions. At the London Design Festival in September, The Art of Progress exhibition showcased a series of upcycled furniture, earth-friendly fixtures and sustainable accessories. Artists from the UK-based Human Nature collective demonstrated cutting marble tiles with water jet ma-

chines, making coffee cups from recycled coffee grounds and fashioning lamps from restored 19th-century brass and glass globes. Far from the dull products of the past, these are sturdy yet distinctive art forms.

For Portuguese designer Martinho Pita, sustainable design is not only about using eco-friendly materials. It's also about utilizing stronger and higher quality materials that could last for generations. In his Bichos collection of hand-

made lamps, he uses branches from the azinheira holly oak tree, known for its durability. Since the tree is edging toward extinction, harvesting its wood requires extra care and attention to ensure that the right branches are cut at the right angle for the rest of the tree to survive.

At Artefacto, a Brazilian brand famous for its pieces from Jader Almeida's trademark collection of 1960s-influenced curvy seats, minimalistic lighting fixtures and unusual cork

and marble stools, being eco-friendly is not simply a fleeting design trend but part of the company's DNA.

“We use wood that is certifiably sustainable from tracts with trees that have fallen down naturally as well as bamboo and rattan,” says Bacchi. “It's the Brazilian way. Deforestation is a challenging issue, and we must address our consumption, and this must begin with the kind of materials we use.”

On the other hand, some take a

Kobi Karp, CEO of Miami-based Kobi Karp Architecture and Interior Design, believes that sustainable design is the future and the best way to design buildings and spaces in the long run.



Combining a restored 19th-century brass frame and hand-blown glass globes, Lionel Jadot Workshops demonstrates a glamorous take on upcycling in **THE BELL LAMP**.



As the world's first intelligent in-home garden, **GROVE ECOSYSTEM** features a mini garden on top of an aquarium, providing fish with clean water and plants with organic nutrients.



Available at Allied Kitchen & Bath, **HANSGRÖHE FAUCETS** feature EcoAIR technology, which adds air to every drop of water, offering up to 40 percent water savings.

Bell Lamp photo by Serge Anton

futuristic approach when it comes to eco-friendly design, sourcing new manufacturing techniques, materials and even product types that are currently undeveloped or even non-existent. Kobi Karp, CEO of Miami-based Kobi Karp Architecture and Interior Design, believes that sustainable design is the future and the best way to design buildings and

spaces in the long run.

He sees this trend gathering speed in South Florida. For instance, Karp and his team recently created a roof-

top pool with a glass bottom, heated via solar power. During the day, the pool acts as a natural skylight for the living area below. At night, LEDs are switched on to create a dramatic look for the residence.

In particular, designers have taken great strides in honing water-saving options. In August, Nebia launched a highly successful Kickstarter campaign for a pioneering showerhead design that raised more than \$3 million and attracted more than 8,500

backers, including Apple CEO Tim Cook. Utilizing the same technology often used in building rocket engines and medical equipment, Nebia created a showerhead that atomizes water into millions of tiny droplets. This means the showerhead can cover 10 times more surface area and save approximately 70 percent of water used. The easily installable product – constructed from a high-density polymer with an anodized aluminum bracket – is quite sleek as well.

Marjan Van Aube's **CURRENT WINDOWS** deliver an eco-friendly edge to traditional stained glass windows with solar cells that generate renewable energy.



Photo by Paolo Ulian & Moreno Ratti

No material is wasted in **LITTLE GERLA**, a collection created by Moreno Ratti using a water jet machine to cut a single marble tile into vases of different sizes and shapes.



Yet, 3-D printing might have the most potential for advancing sustainable design. In September, the Venice Future exhibition showcased Breaking the Mould, a project that paired 3-D-printed ceramic with traditional Murano glass-blowing to create 14 unique vessels – hybrids of cutting-edge technology and centuries-old craft.

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While Murano glass is expensive to manufacture, implementing 3-D printing into the production process could save money and waste.

Paulo Bacchi, CEO of Artefacto, created the Arte 5 Canyon line of products, including the **RIGEL NATURAL LOUNGE CHAIR**, made with raw organic woods that give the appearance of being untouched.



NEBIA'S innovative self-installed system has a 27-inch adjustable sliding bracket, a portable wand and a 45-degree tilt showerhead, which may minimize water usage by 70 percent.

Chicago designer Liz Daily agrees. According to *The Guardian UK*, she believes the ability to test products by creating inexpensive parts or molds with 3-D printers could help “eliminate product flaws earlier in the process to help create higher-quality products, resulting in less overall product waste,” she says.

Daily also highlighted the potential of 3-D printing to replace broken product parts: “I think reclaiming the idea of ‘product repair’

could make a serious impact on the idea of sustainability by reintroducing the idea of fixing products when they break, rather than replacing the whole product,” she says.

Ultimately, whether it comes in the form of natural materials or high-tech sleekness, Bacchi sees sustainable design quickly gaining traction with consumers and design professionals in South Florida and beyond, he says: “The change is happening.” ○