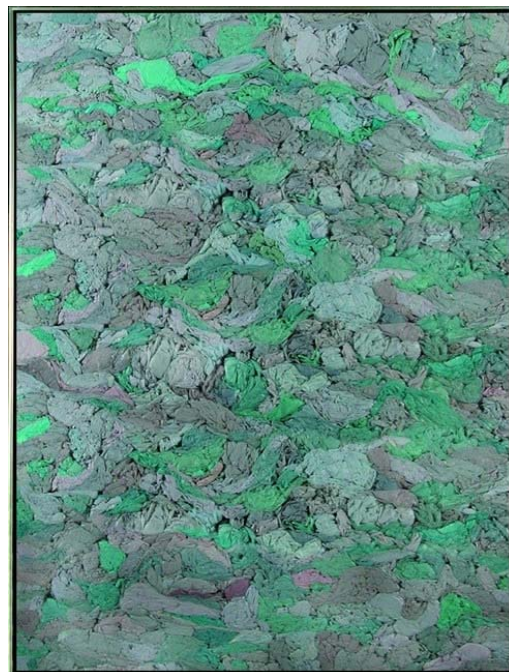


Verdigris LLC Newsletter

November 2011

Warming to Chic Eco Friendly Décor

Will and Jada Smith recently unveiled their 25,000 square foot Malibu, California home, furnished entirely from handcrafted, ecologically friendly furnishings. Will told Architectural Digest, "We wanted to feel the love and labor that went into every piece of this place." Superstars are not the only consumers demanding the quality and craftsmanship of handmade furniture. Due to a wide amount of media coverage, we are becoming increasingly aware of the damage we as a population have caused to our environment.



Green Print Recycled Plastic Bags
by John Dahlsen



Jungle Drum Handcrafted
by Guido Brinkmann

With scientific studies showing the damage caused to the ozone layer and the ways in which we can help eliminate any further damage, many of us are becoming more conscious about our consumer habits.

As a direct result, the demand for eco-friendly items like furniture has rapidly increased. With furniture being manufactured from a myriad of materials using various methods, many customers now prefer to make an educated decision as to the products they purchase for their home. In some cases, this may be in order to purchase items that are safe for the environment and their family collectively. One of the main advantages of purchasing ecologically friendly furniture is that all pieces will be manufactured using non-toxic, renewable materials. The benefit of investing in these types of products goes beyond the demand for earth friendly.

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Many families opt to purchase ecologically friendly items for health reasons as eco-friendly goods will not harm your health. Some home furnishings may be produced using noxious materials which can be harmful to both you and your children. This factor is particularly important if any member of your family suffers from extreme allergies. The Mayo Clinic recommends choosing easy-to-clean chairs, dressers and nightstands made of leather, wood, metal or plastic as part of allergy proofing your home. Furniture that is made using toxic substances can be harmful to the quality of air within your home which could lead to health problems in the future. If you saw an item that may work well within your home but discovered it was manufactured using noxious materials or substances, would you still consider purchasing it or would you opt for an eco-friendly alternative? For this reason, it always advantageous to peruse the labels of any furniture pieces you see before purchase.



Accent of Knowledge Honduras Mahogany & Marble
by Jonathan Cox



Vintage Damask Kimono Jacket
by Violeta Villacorta

Since these pieces will not contain harmful substances, you can also be guaranteed that the manufacturing process used to create each piece was not damaging to the environment. Although many wooden furniture pieces may be manufactured using recycled wood, there is still the issue that trees have been cut in order to obtain the wood required and thus some damage has been caused to our environment. When purchasing eco-friendly furniture, all pieces will be made using wood which has been taken from a certified wood harvesting site or ASC certified by the Forest Stewardship Council A.C. The FSC has been around for almost 20 years and they have been enormously important in formal determination of standards for the responsible harvest of wood (used in furniture, flooring and paper), particularly from the world's rapidly disappearing rainforests. Within these sites, trees are grown for the primary purpose of harvesting and once a tree has been cut down, a new tree is immediately planted.

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A growing design trend in ecologically friendly furniture is creating furniture from bamboo, an extremely strong, fast growing grass, rather than manufactured wood.

An often overlooked aspect of purchasing ecologically friendly furniture is that it is cost effective. Unlike mass produced pieces of furniture which may be manufactured using harmful substances, eco-friendly furniture pieces do not possess extravagant price tags. Thus they are not only affordable but beneficial to the environment. With more designers opting to create green furniture pieces, homeowners are now indulged with a range of modern and traditionally designed pieces which are kind to the environment and their wallets without compromising style or aesthetic. Websites such as Eco1stArt.com feature contemporary ecologically friendly furniture pieces that cater to all tastes.

Last but by no means least; by purchasing ecologically friendly furniture for your home, you will be doing your bit to help prevent deforestation. Purchasing eco-friendly goods will help to prevent global warming and deforestation to some extent and will help to reduce the amount of waste which can be accumulated from manufacturing furniture in a non-ecologically friendly manner.



Zebrawood, Walnut, Slate Entry Table
by Reed Hansuld



Ocean Driftwood Bench
by Maxwell Newhouse

As more homeowners become aware of the benefits of this type of furniture and see that environmentally friendly does not mean compromised style and quality, we can all collectively help to do our bit to preserve the environment and make some savings along the way.

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