

welcome

This month we are going all out suggesting ways to help the environment. To make a difference we need to be guided by an eco-consciousness, a highly evolved one would be an ideal situation, but an average one will do too! So if it means rationalising electricity and water usage at home, choosing natural fibres and produce and looking out for even a residual contribution; we would have made a start.

Our House of the Month (p40) is the story of a devout environmentalist. Spreading eco-awareness among the school children of Delhi Administration, through workshops and other *Bhagidari* programmes of the Delhi Government, Radhika Anand maintains garden tables, dining as well as coffee, makes her own compost and spends her free time at her organic farm. Keeping in line with the Recycle, Reuse theme we bring you 10 Ways with Salvage (p50) to add a quirky touch to your homes.

Project Planning (p109) this time helps you build a Green Home. Right from building styles, to floorings, wall finishes and paints we have green options for you. Having done that we send you shopping for eco and organic products that can make a small but nonetheless important contribution.

Starting this month we have a special new section that will put you on the road to becoming a designer. Our HOW TO...Master the Art of Design (p101) is a six-part series on getting you set to be able to take on small Diwali time projects, all by yourself. Architect Designer Prof Michael Knowles will over the next six months, through an interactive feature make sure that you get the basics right and let your creativity blossom. Get ready to discover your true potential in an organised manner this festival season.

All this and the regulars!

Happy Reading



AMITABH TANEJA, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF



Commitment to ECO-CONSCIOUSNESS



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP

1 "If the bee disappeared off the surface of the globe, then man would only have four years of life left." Hence a design to attract bees in the cities. Amy Pliszka designs a home for them. 'Using my understanding of the honeybee organism I was able to compile my 'bee brief' from which all my textile processes and material choices evolved, providing waterproofing, insulation and ventilation whilst being attractive to bees. (amypliszka@gmail.com)

2 Kami pots/vases made from 100% biodegradable cellulose by Ett La Benn encourage a new way of thinking in eco-friendly lifestyle products. (www.ettlabenn.com)

3 Spool by Grain is a build-it-yourself modular system that can be assembled into a variety of freestanding structures such as screens, table bases or partitions. Made from paper spools upcycled from the Los Angeles apparel industry and connectors of chipboard, Spool is sold in kits of 240 spools and 520 connectors, which can build a structure about 55 in / 139.7 cm H x 40 in / 101.6 W x 7 in / 17.8 D. Each spool has a random graphic pattern that indicates which type of fiber they once held. (www.graindesign.com)

4 World's first concept for a monobloc hemp chair made of natural fibers, BASF's water-based acrylic resin, Acrodur, which means the only by-product is water. Hemp and kenaf are compressed with a water-based thermoset binder to form an eco-friendly, lightweight and yet strong composite by Werner Aisslinger. (www.aislinger.de)



Half the year is already over and we should now be ready for another round of vows. This time it is the renewing of eco vows. We pledge to make this a better year by making our eco+ a regular, by always looking for eco options and supporting people engaged in such practices.

Any activity that results in reduction of energy consumption is eco friendly. Of course it is also cost saving. Strange we didn't think of saving money earlier and that so much money is spent to create an eco consciousness! Traditionally we have been a very 'Re-cycling' society till the culture of use and throw became a fad. Fortunately it's only been a generation or two, so it should not be all that difficult to reverse the trend. Only this time it comes on the back of a fashionable mantra rather than a forced option, as a measure of austerity. The vehicle this time, the fashionable trend, is our key to sustainability in this case. It is a given that this time around re-cycling as a chosen lifestyle will be a celebrated one.

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