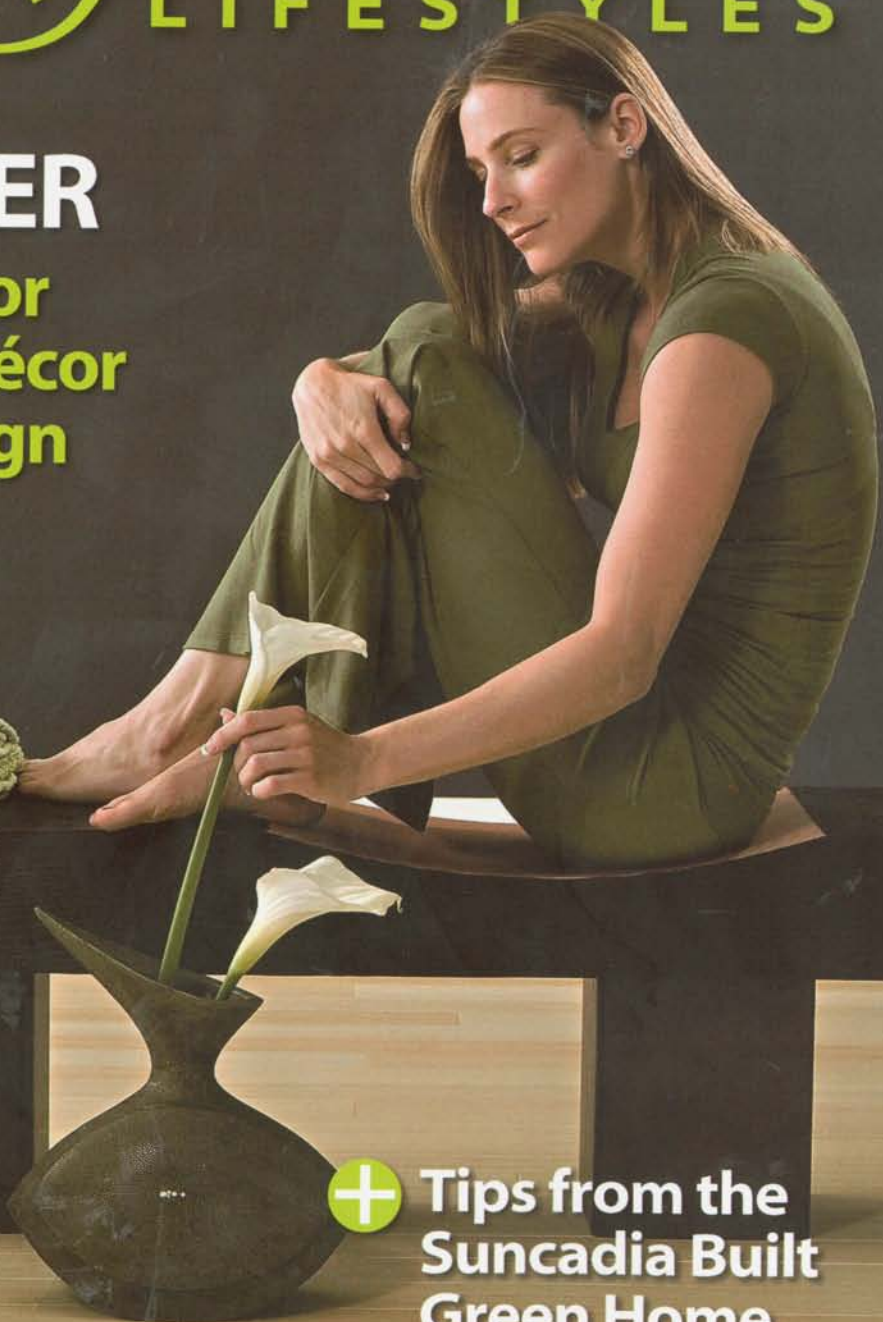


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Tips from the
Suncadia Built
Green Home

SUSTAINABILITY, MEET STYLE

Your eco-conscience can rest easy—
green décor is more stylish than ever

WRITTEN BY ALLISON LIND PHOTOGRAPHS BY HANK DREW



PAINT Distant Hills by American Pride, zero VOC, \$26.10 per gallon at **Environmental Home Center**, (206) 682-7332, environmentalhomecenter.com; **MIRROR** (recycled glass), \$650-\$3,500, custom designed by **Beth Fishman**, (206) 547-2152, bethfishman.com; **BENCH** Bench Henge 2 in Douglas fir, \$2,000, **Urban Hardwoods**, (206) 766-8199, urbanhardwoods.com; **FLOORING** bamboo flooring by **Teragrën**, for local retailers visit teragren.com; **PILLOW** K Studio, \$98 at **Inform Interiors**, (206) 622-1608, informinteriors.com; **TOWELS** Nandina in Sasa Meadow Grass, \$13-\$51 at **Frenchy's**, (206) 325-9582, frenchysdayspa.com; **VASE** Green Stingray (recycled shagreen skin) by R&Y Augousti, \$450 at **Seva Home**, (206) 323-9920, sevahome.com; **APPAREL** bamboo fabrics by Carilyn Vaile, T-shirt, \$102, pants, \$168 at **Luly Yang Couture**, (206) 623-8200, lulydesign.com. Model: Arwen Becker, Seattle Model's Guild, (206) 622-1406, smgmodels.com.

In life, we often have to make sacrifices. But trade style for sustainability? We style-seeking shoppers say nay.

There was a time when "environmentally friendly" was equated with all things—*read negative connotation*—"natural." But as environmental consciousness rises so does the demand for products that make both Mother Nature and Sister Style proud.

The green concept is nothing new, especially here in environmentally sensitive Seattle. But thanks to that ever-increasing awareness, more and more style-conscious companies are becoming eco-conscious as well—expanding our green décor selections to a showroom-worthy level.

"There are really great things that can look interesting without looking like gum wrappers glued together," says interior designer **Keith Miller**, ASID, of Miller & Associates Interior

Consultants (206-226-7541). The market has enabled us to have products that are elegant, luxurious, modern—what people don't expect green to be."

As an example, Miller cites the Woodinville-based counter-top manufacturer, Squak Mountain Stone, whose limestone- or soap-stonelike products made of recycled materials can be found at the **Environmental Home Center** (environmentalhomecenter.com).

The EHC—Seattle's hub for green building—has an extensive selection of surfaces for a responsibly built home. While most of these products have been around for quite a while, new offerings continue hitting the market. For that, you can thank those shoppers making conscientious choices.

"The demand for responsible production is really what's driving our selection process," Miller says, explaining that it occurs when consumers ask the right questions. "Honestly,

when you purchase products, do you really know where and how they were made? Who's making them, and what chemicals are involved? What's the impact on our health?"

Treat shopping for home décor like shopping for food and examining nutrition labels, he says; you need the facts behind something to make an intelligent selection.

BUT IF YOU'RE MORE INTERESTED in style than facts, what's the draw?

"There are those who make conscious choices about the products they buy, but it's important to reach the others who don't—who become more aware *after* purchasing a beautiful item that just happens to be sustainable," says **Rebecca Luke**, co-founder and senior stylist of the Sustainable Style Foundation (sustainablestyle.org). "That's when we're making more of an impact."

And that's where style-savvy manufacturers

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come into play, taking sustainability out of the realm of building standards and into that of high-end home furnishings. They're creating green décor that is also sophisticated design.

"There's so much out there that is beautifully designed and in our own city," Luke says. She cites Ballard's **Copernican Design** (copernicandesign.com) as a prime example.

"Their items are beautiful—they're hip and stylish, sustainable and green," she says. "As far as local, they're the best example of how it's possible to do something really modern and stylish and still be green."

Greener Lifestyles (greenerlifestyles.com) in Ballard also has great examples of what can be done in green interiors, she adds.

While some companies are elevating our selection of green décor, others are expanding our perception of exactly what green is.

Urban Hardwoods (urbanhardwoods.com) takes the concept of recycling to a unique

level. The company works with the City of Seattle to reclaim trees that are pulled down during construction, then recycles them into one-of-a-kind pieces of furniture.

"That's such a great story behind each piece, and they're beautifully designed," Luke says.

While there's a plethora of incredible green design happening across the world, local resources are an important component of green. Regional renewable resources not only help cut back on the waste and pollution caused by the shipping process, but it's easier to track the ecological responsibility of local companies.

"Pay attention to the footprint—the evolution of an item, from what it's made of to how it's manufactured, to how it gets to its final location," Luke says. "Simply buying locally versus having something shipped is an unusual green concept."

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EASY BEING GREEN

If you're not interested in refurbishing or rebuilding your home, interior designer Josie Briggs, F.I.D.A., of Studio Celadon (206-706-0506; studioceladon.com) offers a one-step solution: "The simplest way to make a space greener is to use no-VOC or low-VOC products," she says.

Paints and coatings, adhesives and sealants, carpet systems and composite wood materials typically contain toxins (or Volatile Organic Compounds) such as formaldehyde. "The toxins circulate in the air and land in soft materials such as carpet, upholstered pieces, drapery, etc.," she says. Sensitivities to these toxins can cause allergies or illnesses. Nontoxic options are available locally at 1 Earth 1 Design, the Environmental Home Center or Greener Lifestyles.

Another easy step, Briggs advises, is to use environmentally friendly house cleaners and remove chlorine bleach from your home. "Chlorine is loaded with dioxins, which get into water supplies," she says. "Animals and humans ingest the dioxins, and our bodies do not know how to process them."

WALL COVERING embossed Wall Flats (made of 100 percent bamboo pulp) in Seesaw by **Inhabit**, visit inhabitoliving.com for local retailers; **HANGING VASES** Plant Orb by Perch (non-toxic glaze, sisal cord), \$96 at **Velocity Art & Design**, (206) 781-9494, velocityartanddesign.com; **CANDLESTICK** recycled aluminum Antler candlesticks by Roost, \$44-\$56 at **Velocity Art & Design**; **TABLE** Recycled aluminum bistro table by Girari, \$1,000 at **Seva Home**, (206) 323-9920, sevahome.com; **COASTERS** Hammershell and stingray coasters by R&Y Augusti, \$35 each at **Seva Home**.

NOW THAT YOU'RE INSPIRED to better your décor *and* better the environment, where do you go?

Seattleites have some great options for local eco-friendly home décor, especially when it comes to the newest all-the-rage

“Simply **BUYING LOCALLY** is an unusual green concept.”

renewable resource: bamboo. One of the country's top manufacturers of bamboo flooring, panels and veneer is based on Bainbridge Island. Founded by husband-and-wife team David and Ann Knight, **Teragren** (teragren.com) ensures from harvest to final-product shipment that everything is done with the highest of environmental standards.

Even retailers and showrooms that aren't

classified as green dealers are carrying high-end items that fulfill the growing demand.

Terris Draheim (terrisdraheim.com) has several green product lines, including Q Collection, which designs a selection of luxurious fabrics made from 100 percent natural materials and custom colored with nontoxic, zero-impact dyes. Wall-covering manufacturers such as Innovations and Maya Romanoff are not only raising the bar on green design but also in beautifully sophisticated wall coverings in general. Find Innovations at **Kelly Forslund** (kellyforslund.com) and Maya Romanoff at **Jane Piper Reid & Company** (jprco.com). For an ultramodern option in sustainable wall décor, check out Inhabit's embossed Wall Flats: Made of 100 percent bamboo pulp, they are available in three superchic patterns that can be painted any color to match your décor (inhabit.com).

But your options don't stop there: Plenty of local companies are hitting the mark when it comes to carrying classy-conscientious designs, further adding breadth and depth to your choices for smart décor.

Bamboo Hardwoods (bamboohardwoods.com) carries bamboo flooring and furniture, and **Velocity Art & Design** (velocityartanddesign.com) has a great selection of accessories by two companies, Roost and Perch, that create fun and uniquely stunning products while keeping the environment in mind. And for an extensive selection of everything from organic bed linens to sustainable kitchenware (as well as a green-focused interior design service), **1 Earth 1 Design** (1earth1design.com) has you covered.

“Because we have so many amazing options now from a style point of view, it's easy to go green while still being stylish,” Luke says. “So the question is, why wouldn't you?” ■

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