

Modern Green Living + Spa Wisdom

organic spa

MAGAZINE

create a calming home

50 Green Design Solutions

Best Fall Makeup Lines

Olive Oil Beauty Round-up

The Good Side of Stress

Your Pet & Supplements

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THE PERFECT WHITE TOWEL

Wrap yourself in one of these enormous, super-absorbent organic bath towels from Gayle Warwick, and you may just never want to get dressed again. These 100-percent organic cotton towels are bleached without the use of chlorine; bath sheets measure 39 inches by 70 inches. The full set includes face cloth, hand towels, and bath sheets, as well as a bath mat. \$26 to \$295, www.gaylewarwick.com

VINTAGE WASHBASIN & STAND

I couldn't resist this elegant and classic design from Stone Forest. Hand-crafted from a single block of cararra marble (offered with or without a backsplash), this old-world beauty is paired with a Watermark stand in polished nickel; \$3,730, www.stoneforest.com. Washbasin alone without backsplash is \$1,800.



A SERENE SOAK

This is one heavy tub—both in weight (1,800 pounds without water, it can hold up to 500 pounds of water) and in price (\$20,500). The stunning Old World Bathtub, inspired by ancient Roman baths, was carved from a solid block of cararra marble. It features soothing sculptural lines that embrace you, thanks to its expert craftsmanship. The tub was hand carved with a hammer and chisel, ensuring earth-friendly manufacturing, while the lack of lamination after carving further protects the environment from harmful chemicals. www.stoneforest.com

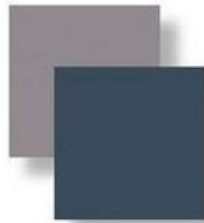
HEAVENLY MILK PAINTS

There are more than 500 colors to choose from in 14 collections, but these two called out to me—Elephants of Victory and Stone Lingham (the latter draws upon the charcoal-gray color of the stone linghams found in India); both are found within the Ancient Asia collection of Anna Sova's Healthy Milk Paint. The incredibly eco-friendly paint contains 94 percent food ingredients and water (conventional paints are 100 percent petrochemicals and water) and smells like a milkshake. \$12 to \$327, www.annasova.com



CHARCOAL STAIN

Try something different on your bamboo floors with Teragren's Signature Colors solid strip in stain in Charcoal. The environmentally friendly finish is water-based and solvent-free, and according to the company, the manufacturing adhesives emit less formaldehyde than is present in ambient air. Other color choices include Cherry, Espresso, and Walnut. www.teragren.com



Mary Bemis is the editor in chief of *Organic Spa Magazine*.



BUYING BAMBOO FLOORING

We asked the pros at Teragren, pioneers in the bamboo flooring industry who've worked with the U.S. Green Building Council to promote their LEED Green Building Rating System, some common questions about buying bamboo flooring. Here are their helpful tips.

How truly environmentally-friendly is the flooring?

Environmental friendliness is a big draw for many consumers—but not all bamboo is truly kind to the environment. Bamboo should not only be sustainably harvested (and manufactured in an ISO-9001 and 14001 certified factory) but also feature components such as water-based, solvent-free, low VOC finishes and a manufacturing adhesive that meets or surpasses stringent European (E0) standards for off-gassing formaldehyde. Teragren's proprietary manufacturing adhesive emits less formaldehyde than allowed by U.S. OSHA, European E0, CARB Phase 1 and Phase 2, and Japanese JIS/JAS emissions standards. Only a true manufacturer can provide this documentation. Teragren's products also originate from factories with Chain of Custody (COC) certification from the Forest Stewardship Council.

Is the bamboo flooring coming from a reputable manufacturer, or from an importer or trading house purchasing from any factory or multiple factories based primarily on the lowest price?

Much of the bamboo sold in North America is grown in China. However, quality control standards in China, where most bamboo flooring is also produced, are inconsistent. There is little industry oversight, and neither China nor the U.S. has created an independent grading system. Consumers should ask retailers or other suppliers if the manufacturer uses a system of quality control and grading standards.

Will the product offer lasting value?

Bamboo products that are properly harvested and manufactured can add a beautiful new dimension to green home furnishings. However, it's important for consumers to consider a products' long-term value before making a purchase. While some bamboo flooring may be less expensive, it's also more likely to have been harvested prematurely, making it susceptible to denting or warping. A shorter product life-span negates the eco-friendly aspects—and results in higher costs in the long run.

LANDSCAPING

Impact Minimalism

By **Ellen Swandiak**

Environmental Artist Topher Delaney epitomizes the Zen aesthetic, mixing rigid lines with nature's free forms along with a healthy dose of philosophy and spirituality. Her heartfelt projects span the globe, each one fitting vision, from healing gardens in hospitals to cozy backyard sanctuaries. Spa styling has crept into her latest work featuring stones hung vertically, creating poems in Braille. She is an amazing talent and pure soul. I adore her rock-star looks and focused strength. www.tdelaney.com

