

# PHOENIX HOME & GARDEN

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## Glorious Desert Gardens



# Bamboo Bounty

*Eco-friendly news*

TEXT BY ROBERTA LANDMAN

Bamboo has found its way into the U.S. marketplace big-time—from mainstream home-improvement stores that now regularly showcase bamboo flooring, to shops that offer towels, sheets and even clothes made from the plant's fibers.

Aside from any economic advantages, the rise in the manufacture of bamboo products also is grounded in sound environmental thinking, say two ecologically minded Arizona business owners. They note that unlike trees that take many years to grow and are gone once cut, certain species of bamboo can grow tall quickly and replenish themselves in a short time, if harvested with care.

"As concern increases about the use of hardwoods and the depletion of forests, there has been increased attention paid to bamboo, which is rapidly renewable," Santosh Rao, owner of Natural Territory in Scottsdale, comments.

"Bamboo can renew itself in about five years," according to Glendon Good, owner of Abraxas Arts Inc. in Sedona. In addition, the furniture maker reports, "An industry test for [wood] hardness shows that bamboo is harder than oak."

The Chinese have known of bamboo's strength and versatility for more than 5,000 years, says Rao, employing it in furniture-making, construction and more. So, why has the plant's worth only recently been heralded in the West? For Good, the answer is simple. "The entire culture is waking up to the facts of life, that it is better to produce products that are sustainable."



## GREEN GRAIN ▲

Created of vertical-grain bamboo panels from Teragren® Fine Bamboo Flooring, Panels & Veneer, this master bath accent wall is as attractive as it is earth-friendly. Teragren turns sustainably harvested Chinese bamboo into solid panels, as shown, and also into veneers, both of which are used by custom woodworkers in a variety of applications, a company source notes.

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Hathor credenza: Abraxas Arts Inc., (928) 282-6550; [abraxasarts.com](http://abraxasarts.com). • Bamboo panels:

Teragren® Fine Bamboo Flooring, Panels & Veneers, (800) 929-6333; [teragren.com](http://teragren.com); Lane Stanton Vance Lumber Co., (480) 736-3999. • Bambu Lacquerware: Natural Territory, (480) 998-2700; [naturalterritory.com](http://naturalterritory.com); [bamhome.com](http://bamhome.com). • Nandina towels: Natural Territory; [nandina.info/green](http://nandina.info/green).