

DESIGN IDEAS

Cathy Strongman suggests ways to decorate your home in an environmentally friendly way, without compromising on style



Kitchen worktops are now available in a huge array of eco-friendly materials. From top: GLASSeco sells worktops made from your choice of recycled materials. The Classic range includes 'W4/UW', comprising glass and crushed mirrors bound in white resin, and 'WS/W', which is made from crushed seashells discarded from restaurants. SCIN sells a worktop made from recycled yogurt pots, which produces a very dense and sturdy polystyrene product, randomly scattered with the remains of the foil lids. It costs £207 for a 200 x 100 x 1.8cm sheet. Bamboo is a fantastic alternative to wood as it is a fast-growing grass that can be harvested without disrupting the plant's root system. Bamboo worktops by Unicom are available from Kitchen Worktops Plus, and cost from £164 for a 240 x 62 x 2.7cm worktop.

Kitchen / Dining

Caroline McGrath's organic-cotton 'Calm Drop' lampshade makes a striking and sustainable focal point. The shade measures 60cm high x 30cm diameter, and costs £39.



Benchmark, a recipient of the Queen's Award for Enterprise in Sustainable Development, produces a range of British, handmade furniture from sustainable, certified timber. The 'Mrs B' table, designed by Russell Pinch, is a modern take on the classic turned-leg kitchen table, with a scrubbed-oak top and an oiled-oak base. It comes in two sizes: the 10-seater, 100 x 230 x 74cm, £2,145; and the 8-seater, 92 x 190 x 74cm, £1,811.



Italian carpenter Costanza Algranti used recycled wood to create this cosy and tactile kitchen, topped with a stainless-steel worktop. Bespoke kitchens can be made from all types of salvaged wood, from church pews to old doors, either found, or created by specialist companies such as Eco Friendly Furnishings. Alternatively, buy second-hand units from eBay, Salvo or Source Antiques. If they no longer open smoothly, or you want to create a different configuration of storage spaces behind the doors, employ a carpenter to retrofit the units. ▷