

ECO INNOVATIONS

By Natalie Peterson

Design can and does serve as a catalyst for change, and while sustainable design is about responsible manufacturing methods and materials, our worldly Australian designers are ensuring it never loses sight of functionality and visual appeal. Modern design can be both morally and ethically right, creative and inspirational and technically interesting to boot.

More often than not eco-friendly design can allow a very hands-on approach to assembly - flat packed, slot together assembly means less packaging and less impactable waste. Anthony Dann (ph: 03 9419 5572) created the award-winning Mitsy stool that proves even a humble sheet of cardboard can be deemed design savvy - sturdy enough to hold 150kg and flat-packed with a tab-and-slot assembly, Mitsy won the Sustainability Award at last year's Launch Pad program in Sydney. Unadorned, it also serves as a blank canvas for creative decorators who want

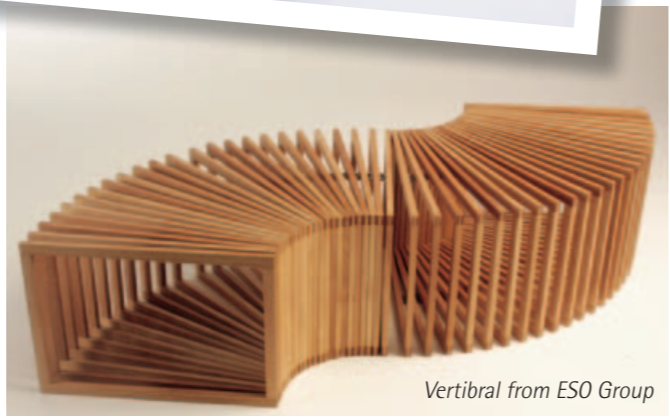
to put their own artistic touch to the surface design. This slot-together system is a similar take on the multi-functional Zaishu stool by Brisbane designer Matthew Butler which has quickly become an Australian design icon. The Zaishu stool is adorned with limited edition prints and is made from plantation-grown veneer and water-based inks and varnish and can be purchased direct from the website www.zaishu.com or from CQ Store at 381 Brunswick Street, and OBJX at Studio 3b, 9 Chester Street in Fortitude Valley, Brisbane.

Another Brisbane designer to explore locally produced sustainable design is Marc Harrison, he of the sublime range of Husque bowls and dishes that combine the organic beauty of macadamia nut shells with the principles of recycling. Created in 2003, the range continues to grow in popularity due both to its innate beauty and the ingenuity of its design - Marc exhibited his Husque collection at the prestigious Maison & Objet design fair in Paris last September, taking Australian eco design to the world stage once again to great acclaim. The Husque bowls have a unique story to their production - after the macadamia kernels are removed, the discarded shells are milled into fine particles, melded with a polymer, and the final outcome is a series of fluid, beautiful and functional objects of art. Each product is hand-finished by mirror polishing the coloured linings and hand-rubbing the exterior of the Husque with macadamia oil. Visit his website at www.husque.com to find your nearest stockist.

When it comes to high end, contemporary furniture pieces, inspiring and creative sustainability is becoming of keen interest to our designers. Australian design company Schamburg & Alvisse focus on eco design in their ever growing catalogue of furniture collections that have so far concentrated on using recycled resin Recopol to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, reduce resource wastage, and reduce landfill use, and the use of timber classified by Greenpeace as eco preferable. Their Miss Molly lounge chair was the winner of Powerhouse Museum's



Husque



Vertibral from ESO Group

Sustainability Award in 2004, and their ever growing collection has a contemporary slant on any humble notions of sustainable design. Schamburg & Alvisse designs can be sourced directly from S&A who regularly supply to Queensland. www.schamburgalvisse.com.au Ph: 02 9212 7644.

ESO Group have devoted their entire catalogue to environmentally sustainable objects and design and are proud to promote 'eco' as a way of modern living. ESO was established in 2006 with the aim to design, manufacture and market furniture using recycled and renewable materials, low toxic chemicals and a commitment to a Product Stewardship Plan, so that the most minimal imprint will be left on the environment, during the life cycle of each item. The ESO product range was then awarded the Good Environmental Choice Australia (GECA) License after rigid assessment, by independent environmental scientists. Stylecraft Australia is the exclusive stockists of the ESO range in Brisbane and can be found at 125 Commercial Road, Newstead. Ph: 07 3244 3000.



Zaishu



Pli Range from Bangdesign

The Pli furniture range by Bangdesign is an original design creation in collaboration with Formway Design using sustainable plantation-grown timber in a fluid and flowing form to show just how progressive eco design has become for the modern marketplace. Available in a great choice of colours, the Pli range includes a range of armchairs, ottomans and tables so you can group them together or use a single piece as a stand alone feature. Bangdesign is available in Queensland through Commercial Images, Ph: 07 3844 9100. www.bangdesign.com.au

So if you are like the growing number of design lovers turning their eye towards environmentally sensitive chic for the space we live in, look no further than our own shores for future-forward design that proves eco is where it's at.



Miss Molly by Schamburg & Alvisse