



SPECIAL ISSUE THE RECYCLING REVOLUTION

Environmentally friendly buildings have grown into an \$8-billion industry, a jump of more than 50% from just two years ago. For some, going green is more than a goal. It's a personal statement — and a sense of style. Meet the people whose vision relies on the reclaimed, the recovered and the reused.

The salvage kings

THE SCOUT

They stitched old work clothes into some of black history. Now the splitters of Gee's Bend are headed for California. **PAGE 2**



By Andy Bricker

DESIGN

Scratched, sanded, painted — and perfect. The hunt is on for reclaimed wood, architect's hot commodity. **PAGE 10**



By Andy Bricker

GARDEN

What will impressing nature lovers would "plant" like grass? A case for synthetic turf that's green in more ways than one. **PAGE 3**



By Andy Bricker



Photographs by David H. Johnston for Los Angeles Times

FURNITURE

It was a highland malaise tree cut down by the city of Seattle when John Wills, left, Seth Meyer and Jon Newsum of Urban Hardwoods stepped in. They turned the discarded timber into a coffee table, right. Look closely and you can catch its curve in the top of the right slab, above. For these designers and others, that's just the start. **PAGE 4**





SIT UP STRAIGHT: William Stranger works with salvaged trees as well as wood pulled from old buildings. Many of his pieces made of acacia, California black oak or cumb maintain their natural ragged edge, but his Mesquite bench (\$2,600), below, made of California walnut, has level straight lines. The pieces are available through the Gallery of Functional Art in Santa Monica, (310) 829-6990; Livingreen in Culver City, (310) 838-6442; and Thos Gallery in Solana Beach, (949) 793-6040. Stranger Furniture: (626) 465-0927, www.strangerfurniture.com.

RECYCLING: FURNITURE

Call it divine reincarnation

By Zanny Karimian
Home Staff Writer

DESIGNERS are transforming old timber into furniture that looks far more stylish than the clunky Lincoln Log chairs or butcher block tables you might expect. Some of the works are made from lumber that is reclaimed from old buildings and bridges. Others are crafted from salvaged wood — trees that have fallen or been cut down in orchards or suburban backyards, often because of disease. That's where firms such as Urban Hardwoods (Page F1, [206] 766-8199, www.urbanhardwoods.com) step in. These artisans say furniture design should be simple and flexible enough to follow nature's lead. "Adapt to the material that's available," says designer William Stranger of Pasadena-based Stranger Furniture. He says he prefers trees to tables, but because he can't make trees, he's driven to make tables. A sampling of wood saved from the bonfire or landfill and reincarnated into conversation pieces



RECONSTRUCTED: Scrap lumber and recycled glass form a tidy cube called the Leena table (\$325) from Gorilla Furniture. Designers Steve Wilson and Dan Weber stop at construction sites around Santa Barbara and load up on the leftover beams and headers used in framing — engineered lumber partially made of discarded pieces of sawed wood. The list is at Bangalow III in Santa Barbara, (805) 790-1640, and Livingreen in Santa Barbara, (805) 966-1191. It's also available through Gorilla at (800) 611-9812, www.gorillafurniture.com.



BITS OF BRAZIL: Thomas Iita, a designer with Los Angeles-based Environment Furniture, was vacationing in Brazil when he fell for parabi rose wood used in century-old houses. The company now has the Parabi Platform Bed, a combination of reclaimed parabi rose and responsibly harvested mahogany (queen size, \$2,975). The collection, including contemporary end tables and chairs, is at the Ets showroom in H.D. Buttercup in Los Angeles, (310) 945-5158. Environment Furniture: (323) 935-1130, www.environmentfurniture.com.



OLD SCHOOL: Amy Howard makes her traditional consoles and cabinets with mahogany and chestnut derived from the walls and ceilings of vacant barns and warehouses, some of it 150 years old. She used reclaimed oak to create this four-leg Asian console (\$405), above. Available in the trade at Robert Allen/Beacon Hill in West Hollywood, (310) 659-6454, and at Estate of Design in Costa Mesa, (714) 434-8080. Amy Howard: (901) 547-1448, www.amyhowardcollection.com.

Illustration: Thomas Iita