



greener pastures

Cheryl Terrace is making green design the new chic.

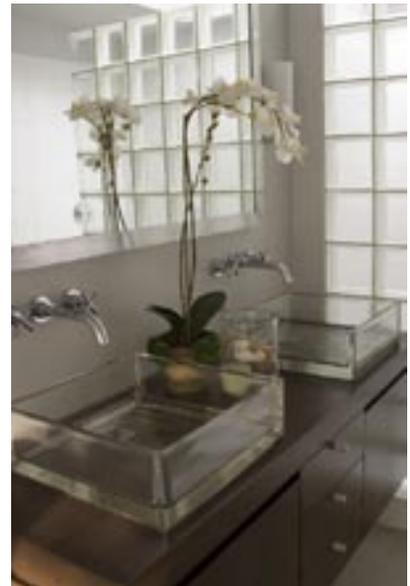
For some designers, luxury means gilded faucets and Egyptian cotton sheets with exorbitant thread counts. For Cheryl Terrace, it means designing homes that do little if any harm to you or the earth. “Being considerate of the planet is the new etiquette,” says Cheryl, a designer and environmentalist from Louisiana who graduated top in her class from the New York School of Interior Design. When it comes to earth-friendly design, her philosophy is simple. “You don’t have to sacrifice and you can do any genre—just do it thoughtfully.” After seven years in the industry, Cheryl left her cushy job as design director for star designer Larry Laslo and founded Vital Design Ltd., a green design firm in New York that devises sustainable and stylish interiors with such items as bamboo flooring, organic bedding, and silk wall hangings colored with vegetable dyes (just to name a few).

A recent project in East Hampton inspired the design for a unique dining table (*above right*), which was created in collaboration with GreenRidge Specialties Inc. The table (\$1,500), made from reclaimed solid oak lumber bonded with non-toxic glue, is available online in a variety of woods and finishes (greenridgespecialties.com).

It’s not all just surface chic, however. Cheryl offers tips on installing air and water purification systems and other health-related technology. Vital Design also provides green consulting for renovation projects and new construction, working only with LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certified building contractors. What’s important, Cheryl says, is for homeowners to be aware of their daily impact on the environment, taking steps, even baby ones, to make a difference. “Any shade of green is fine. It’s all a step in the right direction.” (See vitaldesignltd.com.) —A.H. ►



Designer Cheryl Terrace transformed this East Hampton home into an eco-retreat with sustainably harvested wood veneer, all sliced from one tree. An abstract painting created by the homeowner and artist, Anne Raymond-Olson, hangs above the dining table, adding a serene interplay of color.



PHOTOGRAPHS: INTERIOR AND PORTRAIT COURTESY OF DONOVAN ROBERTS WITMAN

For more information, see sources on page 244.

Cheryl's favorite green picks from fabric, furniture, & accessories

I love ABC Carpet & Home, New York. The president, Paulette Cole, is a trendsetter and my all-around hero. I shop here for funky, cool, one-of-a-kind antiques, sensuous bedding, and gifts from Mission Market. I once gave a friend who "has everything" a goat, which helped to feed a family in Africa (abchome.com).



Tucker Robbins, a former monk turned furniture designer, sells organic pieces that feel good, look good, and make a statement in any setting. "Rattan Sideboard," is made from mountain pine; \$2,700 (tuckerrobins.com).



I prefer worn, salvaged wood mixed with earth-tone Tibetan rugs from Odegard. Since I don't wear shoes in the house, it feels good to be on natural flooring. This way you really connect with your home (odegardinc.com).



Dr. Hauschka Skin Care products are made with all-natural herbal ingredients. The company adheres to eco-conscious business practices (drhauschka.com).

AFM Safecoat paint is a favorite of mine, available in a range of colors. It has an easy application, low odor, and is formulated without using formaldehyde or other toxins. AFM Safecoat, \$32/gallon (afmsafecoat.com).



Cool fabrics. I've been shopping at Holly Hunt for years, and now I am glad to see that the Great Plains fabric line has Tencel (made from eucalyptus trees) and that all the material used to create the fibers is recycled. Available to the trade (hollyhunt.com).



Mrs. Meyer's makes the best all-purpose cleaner—it has this wonderful geranium scent that lingers throughout your home. Mrs. Meyer's cleaning supplies from \$4.99 (mrsmeyers.com).



Elegant style. Made from certified harvested wood and upholstered in wool satin, the "Abigail Settee" from Q Collection is beautifully designed and environmentally sound, available to the trade (qcollection.com).

marketplace tech

feel the music

A tub that soaks bathers in sound is the latest feature in the luxury bath market. Acoustic transducers attached to the underside of the tub transmit sound waves through its walls. There are no separate speakers, rather the bathtub shell acts as a giant speaker. Water also enhances and amplifies the sound so bathers feel as well as hear the sound. The system connects with multimedia devices, including televisions and DVD and CD players. The Sound Immersion System is one of the spa features in the Home Spa Collection from Jason International. Tubs retail for about \$12,800 (jasoninternational.com; 800/255-5766). The Neptuneur by Neptune comes in a choice of styles and as a soaking, air-jet, or whirlpool tub (neptuneb.com; 888/366-7058).



Music is transmitted through the tub walls of a Saphyr Neptuneur bath from Neptune. (Soaking tub with Neptuneur audio option is \$3,730.)

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