

# future home

News, products and ideas from the green frontline

WORDS ANNA TURNS

## PROJECT PALLET

Nikkita Palmer and Billy Barker's debut book showcases some clever ideas to upcycle wooden pallets, of which more than 10 billion are in use at any one time globally, according to the authors. The duo specialise in making accessories and furniture from reclaimed materials, and share their inspiration so that anyone can craft shelving, tables, or perhaps a simple food tray.

○ *Pallet Style* by Nikkita Palmer is published by Kyle Books, £20



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## FORAGE IN STYLE

Inspired by her love for the natural world, Anna Sjöström Walton launched her online company Chalk & Moss 18 months ago, as the UK's prime source for nature-connected design advice and products for wellbeing. Anna is fascinated by how nature and food affects our bodies. 'It's all about connecting the outdoors to interior design,' she says. 'Whether that's

through striking botanical prints, improved lighting or the non-toxic, natural materials used to floor a room.' In addition to copper water bottles with antibacterial properties and bright coral textiles, the latest collection includes Bric's durable cotton-canvas foraging bags, ideal for collecting mushrooms, wild garlic, elderflowers or blackberries.

○ Bric foraging bag with belt loop and sash £28; chalkandmoss.com

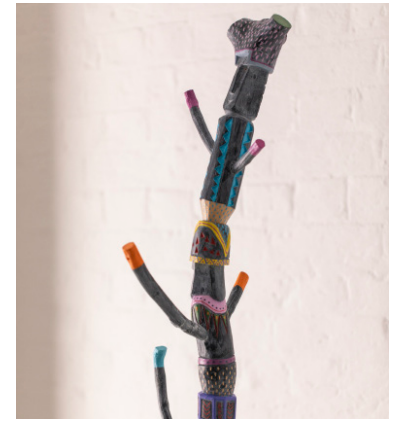


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## HANG UPS

This striking totem pole sculpture by Lazo Studios has been handcrafted from the broken branches of a fallen oak tree found in one of London's parks after stormy weather. Doubling up as a colourful coat stand, each one is made to order and carved out of a single branch by an Afghan master carver. Influenced by the tribal arts of Afghanistan and First Nations totem poles in Vancouver, the wood is then hand-painted by Hedieh Wojgani. 'The curvature, idiosyncrasies, and imperfections of the raw timber dictate the design and the final form, literally connecting different parts of the world in one single piece,' explains Hedieh. 'The carved timber is then French polished before it is hand-painted with accents of bright colour.'

○ lazostudios.co.uk



## WOODLAND WONDERS

Helen and Christopher Neave have made it their mission to increase the tree cover in North Yorkshire, and recently planted their 25,000th tree. Eight years ago, the couple bought 26 acres of rough grazing land near Kirk Hammerton and started planting trees, digging ponds and sowing wildflower meadows. Almost immediately insects arrived, attracted by the new habitat and food source, and birds and mammals soon followed, inspiring them to acquire another 110 acres in Nidderdale to dedicate to nature. 'What was once quiet and almost barren grassland is now buzzing with life,' says Helen.

As well as the benefits of habitat creation, and increasing biodiversity, they are convinced that tree cover is a vital part of addressing climate change. As a result, they have set up Make it Wild, an enterprise that manages the land, and offers a range of eco-friendly and plastic-free products and online tree dedications that help to support their work.

○ makeitwild.co.uk



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## BORED WITH BOARD GAMES?

Disillusioned with the board games on the market, product designers Annie Murdock and Herman Castaneda created Circle Tales, a collaborative and ecologically conscious tabletop storytelling game. Annie explains what drove them to create this new board game, suitable for ages nine and over: 'As parents of a preteen daughter, we were all too aware that many board games feature roles for girls that are based on appearance or are openly demeaning and competitive. We found very few empowering games and so set about designing one of our own.'

Made of bamboo and printed with soy inks, the aim of Circle Tales is to create a collective story based on one-word responses from insightful questions, combined with word prompts selected by the roll of the dice.

○ [circletales.com](http://circletales.com)



## WHAT A CORKER

Cork is becoming increasingly popular with environmentally minded architects such as Nimitim Architects, the London firm who recently added a cork-clad rear extension to Cork House in London.

Used internally and externally to complement the existing brickwork, this material will weather to a silvery-grey over time and can be fully composted when the product reaches its end of life.

Often harvested from the bark of cork oak trees grown in the cork forests of Portugal, this lightweight, sound-absorbent, water-resistant, heat-retaining and chemical-free material is carbon-neutral to process. In addition, it's cheap to make, fast-growing, and the trees are only harvested once every nine years throughout their 200-year lifetime.

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