



recycled home

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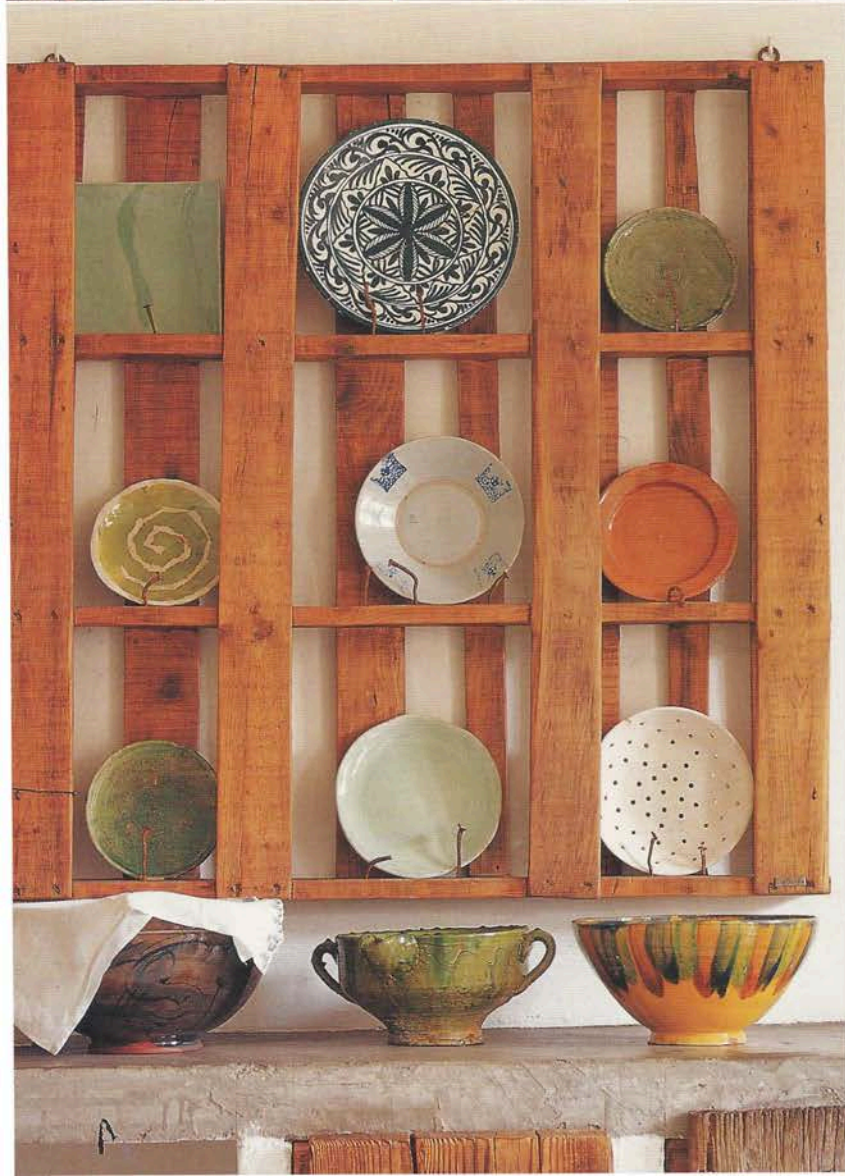
with photography by debi treloar



Books always seem to spiral out of control, piles of them requiring more and more precious shelf space. *Be creative with your library* – plain ladder-like bookshelves made using rescued wooden boards for both the frame and shelves look good, and can easily be tailored to your collection's needs. They are also reminiscent of old-fashioned libraries, where ladders were required to get to the dusty volumes on the top shelf. While books multiply, so do music and film collections. Soften their plastic boxes by lining them up on wooden shelves with imperfect rough edges, or house them in a more industrial-chic style in old trunks or deed boxes, which can be piled on top of each other in size order. Alternatively, perch them on spindly metal legs made from scrap metal. Old metal drawers that have lost their filing cabinets or wooden ones missing their chests make handy storage too, and housed on top of a simple wooden table are much more flexible since becoming homeless!

If you have a spare bit of wall in an awkward corner or hallway, put up some hooks, but don't opt for the obvious; creative hooks include small pieces of driftwood, old shoe lasts or rescued old curly hooks. If you have a bag-collecting habit, make use of it by storing things in them at the same time.

Larger storage solutions come in the form of abandoned shop fittings, medical cabinets or lockers rescued from schools and universities. They can be used anywhere in the house and their generously appointed space makes them extremely useful. An extra-large old wardrobe, while useful in the bedroom, can also be used in the kitchen as a larder. Still in the kitchen, a shop counter makes an excellent work surface. Roomy old cupboards or refitted wardrobes also make excellent spaces to



opposite above left Past their sell-by date, these scaffolding boards with untrimmed ends have the appearance of driftwood, and work well as simple matching bookcases in this light and airy room.

opposite below left Who would have thought it – a rescued wooden pallet makes a perfect plate rack. Its rusty nails were left intact, and simply bent to keep the collection of plates in place. Its unassuming nature ensures the plates remain the focus of attention.

this page Salvaged wooden boards were used to make these deceptively simple, ladderlike bookshelves. Attention to detail is the key to this storage system – thin sheets of steel were carefully inserted to hold the books in place and the boards are held together at top and bottom with steel bands.

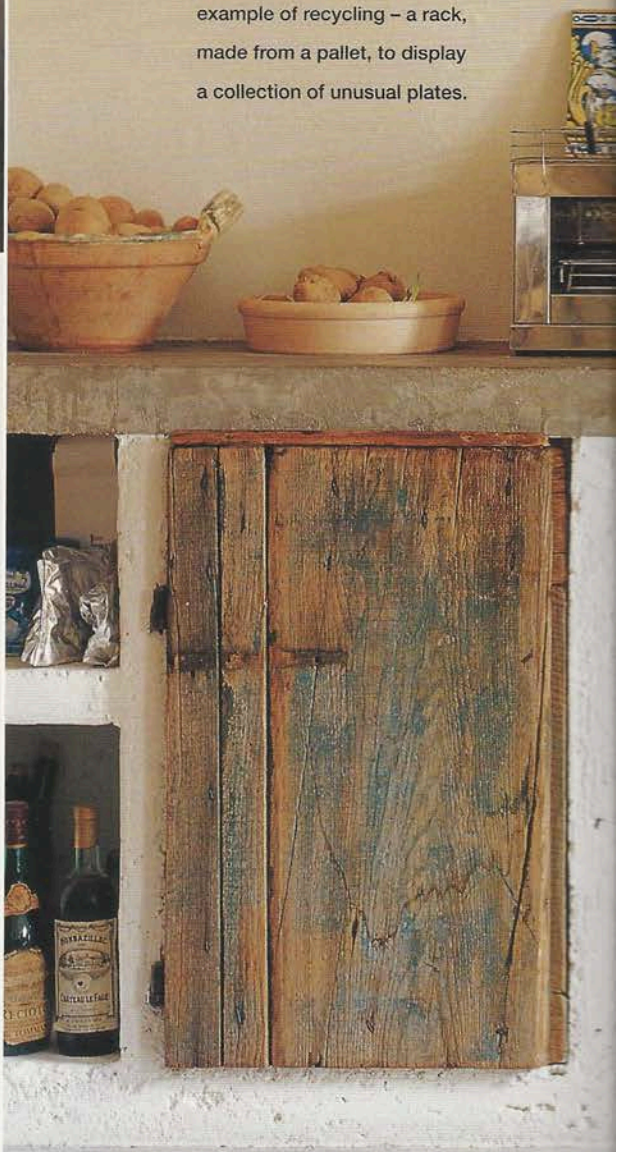




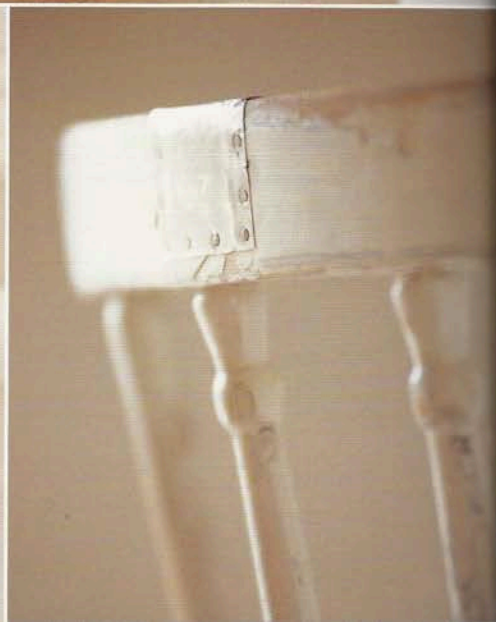
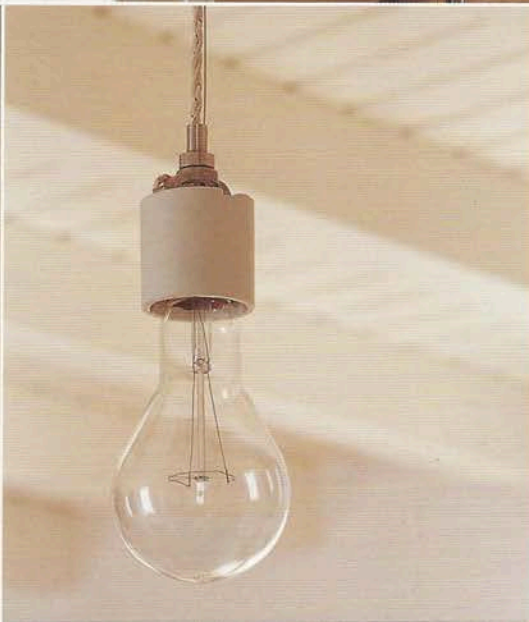
this picture Wonderfully weathered old wooden shutters have been topped and tailed to make cupboard doors, which hide some of the less attractive kitchen essentials. The solid stone work surface is ideal for showing off wobbly piles of plates and dishes.

left A collection of old wooden chopping boards and different-sized pestles and mortars gathers around the sink.

below left Rusty bent nails keep the plates in position in this clever example of recycling – a rack, made from a pallet, to display a collection of unusual plates.







opposite above right and left

Wooden cupboards made from sandblasted scaffold boards are a good balance to industrial-style kitchen fittings. Offcuts became a wall-hung storage box for utensils.

opposite below left A table with turned wooden legs and spindly chairs adds a traditional twist.

opposite below right A chair has been repaired the old-fashioned way, using a small piece of tin.

this page and details opposite
A reclaimed wood table is topped with contrasting thin steel. The austerity of the table and bare bulb is balanced by a mix of ornate and weathered chairs, all reflected in an enormous distressed mirror.



this page A rustic-style cabinet was cleverly constructed from scaffolding boards held in place with a long, sculptural pole (as well as one or two hidden pins and catches). The whole thing, with its collection of glass decanters and piles of plates, reflects the serenity of the still life hung behind it.

opposite Recycled materials can be used to create meticulously planned kitchens. This simple but well configured space was built using worn bricks, perfectly positioned to house a sleek dishwasher and stove, as well as more informal baskets for storage.



this page This sofa is a recycled version of modern modular sofa units. It was constructed using wooden planks and the ends of an old iron hospital bed. The mixture of styles in this room sit well together, unified by their neutral colour schemes.

opposite above More 'modular' seating made from rescued materials is perfectly countered by a chair that looks like a work of art in itself. It has sadly lost its upholstery, leaving behind a metal frame and ornate base, and has been subtly elevated on metal stilts. A couple of cushions make it a great spot for a sleeping cat.

opposite below Attention to detail is all-important here. The wood used to construct this bench seat is also used for the skirting boards, so the clean lines of the sofa are continued, adding to the light, airy feeling of the room.







this page This neat bathroom cabinet, with inset sink, was made from wooden planks. The cabinet appears to be floating, which gives a feeling of extra space. The mismatched handles are an unexpected element, sure to make you take a second look.

opposite The same wooden planks were used slightly differently in this sister bathroom. The floor is made from slate mosaic tile and the walls are left unpainted.







bedrooms

Bedrooms are all about serene simplicity and, of course, sleeping. Make it your aim to create an environment that is conducive to a good night's rest, the importance of which should never be underestimated. All your bedroom needs is a few simple recycled finds and a spark or two of imagination to create a cosy nest where you'll be sure to want to lie in on a Sunday morning ... even if you do have the rest of the house to undecorate!

opposite Make a feature out of construction details, more often than not hidden away. The joists of the oak-board bed become an interesting feature that suits the integrity of the materials.

opposite inset The rawness of the Shaker-style bed is well matched by this slouchy armchair covered in roughly painted canvas: an unexpected mix of modern art and functional furniture.

this page A recycled take on a four-poster gives an old-fashioned classic a fresh new look. An old linen tablecloth draped across the boards makes an unfussy canopy.





left This stunning bed, made from beautifully textured wood which once had a more mundane career as flooring, creates a self-contained world of sleep. Add a couple of cushions and it also doubles as a cosy daytime seating area.

right These well-placed rescued wooden planks prove just how simple and efficient recycled design can be. Resting gently against the wall, they function *perfectly as an ergonomic headboard*, holding you in just the right position for a quick read before lights out.



CREATE A FRAME OUT OF PLANKS AND REST IT ON LARGE SAWN GREEN-OAK PLANKS. THERE IS AN HONESTY TO A BED MADE THIS WAY, SO DON'T HIDE IT. ANOTHER OPTION IS A PATCHWORK BED – THAT'S THE FRAME, NOT THE QUILT.

scaffolding poles or lengths of galvanized piping (from a friendly plumbers' merchant) stretched from one end of the room to the other make simple hanging space for your clothes, and the whole construction is a much more satisfying use of spare-room space than merely piling it up with boxes and closing the door.

If you do keep your clothes in your bedroom, you need ample storage in order to keep the room as clutter-free as possible, so you don't feel crowded by your garments. Pick a few of your favourites to keep on display and hang the rest in a rescued wardrobe, or find old garment rails to turn into a wardrobe on wheels; this will allow you to check your wardrobe easily and weed out the things you haven't worn for a while. To complement the clothes that are going to be on display, look out for old wooden coat hangers, which often have faded shop names printed on them. They turn up at flea markets and car boot sales and are an inexpensive way of introducing recycled style into your home. If your crop of rescued hangers isn't large enough, use new ones and wrap them in leftover scraps of vintage fabric. If the sight of your expanding collection keeps you awake at night hide it behind a screen, which could be assembled from abandoned doors or shutters hinged together.