

SPECIAL GREEN ISSUE

Town & Country

ESTABLISHED IN 1846

**BE
NATURAL!**

**PURE LUXURY
RESORTS**

**ECO-CHIC
STYLE**

**FARM-TO-
TABLE FOOD**

**PLUS: 75 TOP
BEAUTY
PRODUCTS**

APRIL 2007
U.S. \$4.50 CANADA \$5.50
FOREIGN \$5.50





Woven abaca, closely related to the banana plant, tops an acacia-wood frame in **ERIC BRAND**'s Talker chair (\$956). At Thomas Lavin, L.A., 310-278-2456.

What's old is new: **ICESTONE**'s countertops are made of recycled glass and cement (\$90-\$145 per square foot). icestone.biz.



MOD GREEN POD's vinyl-free Grand Jubilee wallpaper is hand screened in New England (\$90 per roll in five colors). modgreenpod.com.



Update your linen closet with towels made from organic fibers. From top: **LOOP** cotton washcloths (\$8 each), looporganic.com; **COYUCHI** cotton bath towel (\$28), coyuchi.com; **VIVATERRA** cotton-and-bamboo-blend towel (\$69 for two), woven in a wind-mill-powered factory in Japan, vivaterra.com.

Avoid the toxic gases released by the stains and glues in most furniture with **CHRISTOPHE DELCOURT**'s oak Legend Console—which is dressed simply in a water-based varnish (edition of 250, \$6,635). rochebobois.com.



Surprisingly, the silky look and feel of **SFERRA**'s new bedding comes from Micro-Modal, a fabric woven from sustainably harvested beechwood fibers (queen flat sheet, \$280). sferralinens.com for locations.



Edited by *Sarah Medford*

GREEN LEAVES

Open up the latest titles on sustainable design. *EcoDesign*, by Alastair Fuad-Luke (Chronicle Books; \$35), serves as a snappy sourcebook of new eco-sensitive products, from blue jeans to porcelain to cars. Alan Berman's *Healthy Home Handbook* (Frances Lincoln; \$24.95) enumerates the toxins found in most older homes, which just might make you ambitious enough to build new. Consider starting with a simple renovation: *Good Green Kitchens*, by Jennifer Roberts (Gibbs Smith; \$29.95), highlights projects that would make Mother Nature feel right at home. Then check out *Unbuilding*, by Bob Falk and Brad Guy (Taunton; \$30), on



salvaging the old; *Prefabulous*, by Sheri Koonen (Taunton; \$25), on factory-made building systems; and *Green Building Products*, edited by Alex Wilson and Mark Piepkorn (New Society Publishers; \$34.95), on the latest eco-friendly materials. James Grayson Trulove's *New Sustainable Homes* (Collins Design; \$35) proves your house needn't scream

green. Dominique Gauzin-Müller's *Sustainable Living* (Birkhäuser; \$65) is an eye-opening survey of twenty-five houses on five continents. Finally, Phyllis Richardson's awe-inspiring *XS: Small Structures, Green Architecture* (Universe; \$29.95) shows just how limitless the results of eco-design can be in the hands of inspired architects. ZOE G. SETTLE

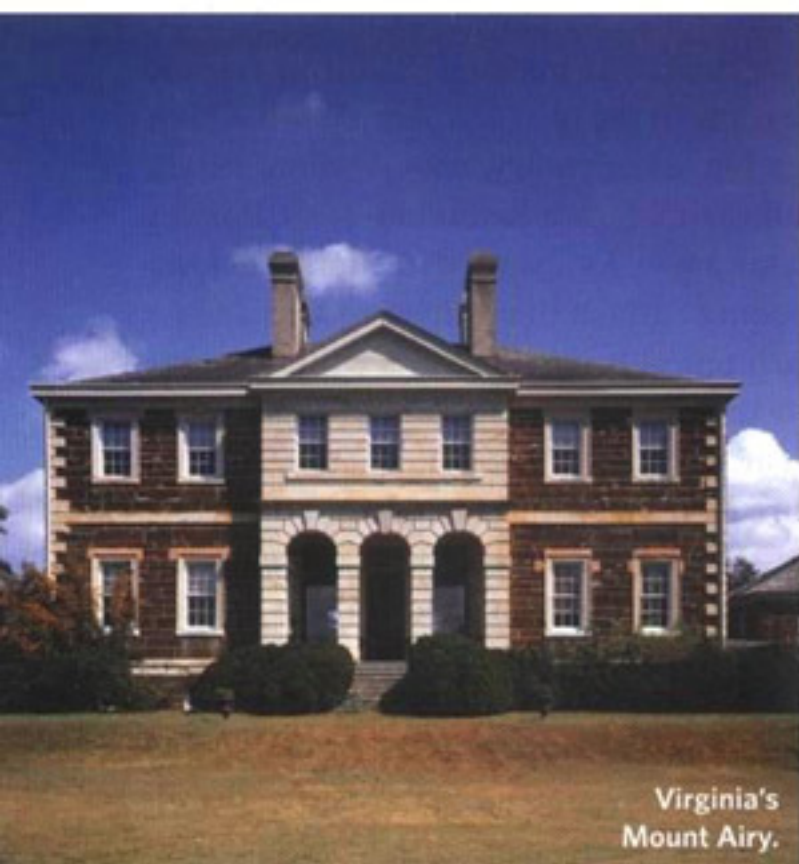
OLD BUILDINGS MATTER TOO

Contemporary looks and high-tech products have dominated the red-hot green trend so far, but traditionalist designers in an eloquent and increasingly vocal camp are now pointing out that their favorite buildings have been eco-sensitive for millennia.

"Traditional architecture is rooted in commonsense principles of environmental sustainability—it's always been green," says Victor Deupi, the director of education at the New York-based Institute of Classical Architecture & Classical America. The ICA&CA's ten chapters nationwide offer lectures and courses on many subjects, including how premodern buildings and their venerable architectural styles use the planet's resources wisely.

Traditional structures, Deupi explains, are inherently attuned to their various climates. Steeply pitched roofs shed snow; stucco and masonry keep out heat; roofline cornices, like those of Mount Airy, in Virginia, protect facades from storms. What's more, when these buildings are demolished, their materials are easily recyclable. Not that such teardowns are common, however; owners tend to expand rather than raze architecture built in time-tested modes, notes Steve Mouzon, a Miami Beach-based architect and firebrand ICA&CA instructor. "Traditional architecture engages the public at large, not just a coterie of fashionable architects," he contends. "So it isn't liable to be carted off to landfill at just twenty or thirty years of age."

For more, visit Mouzon's newurbanguild.com and the ICA&CA's classicist.org. EVE M. KAHN



Virginia's
Mount Airy.