

idfx

INSPIRATION FOR INTERIOR DESIGN PROFESSIONALS

www.idfxmagazine.com



SEATS OF POWER

Clashing colours and crazy contours bring new life to upholstery

BATHROOM FOCUS

Products, projects and trends

Branching Out

Italian furniture designer and maker Andrea Felice combines metallic minimalism with spiky organic forms

NOVEMBER 2010 / £5.50



PIONEER SPIRIT

Words REBECCA HOH Photography MATTHEW COATES, ROGER TURK

The creators of this eco home in Seattle have combined the highest levels of sustainable design with luxury aesthetics to set a new benchmark for green buildings in Washington State



This eco home, created by Seattle-based architect Coates Design, which specialises in sustainable design and green building techniques, is the first in Washington State to achieve a Platinum rating under the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification system.

'The clients wanted to create a property that instilled the highest levels of sustainable design while achieving a high level of aesthetics,' says company founder Matthew Coates. 'The design team met the clients, Joanne and Ed Ellis, and began envisioning a home that would relate to the site through its context in materials and form. The home would incorporate vegetative roofs, solar panels, geothermal heating and thermal massing to become one of the greenest homes in the state.'

The Ellises and Coates Design strived to achieve LEED Platinum and set a standard for sustainable homes. They did not just focus on how the house functions but placed an emphasis on luxury and high-quality finishes. The team realised that, in order to achieve their aims, they would have to demolish the existing house, built in 1935, and start from scratch. 'The building was carefully deconstructed, board by board, in 2009 by a Seattle-based company called ReStore,' says Coates. ReStore diverted 95 per cent of the building waste from landfill and ensured that the surrounding vegetation was not damaged during deconstruction.

Creative ways were found to include materials and design elements to achieve the clients' LEED Platinum goal without sacrificing aesthetics. These materials and finishes include local Forest Stewardship Council-certified

woods as well as other durable, recyclable and biodegradable materials. The ceilings are made from FSC-certified douglas fir and a CMU (concrete masonry unit) thermal mass wall divides the house into what Coates describes as the 'public' and 'private' areas. The public domain comprises the living, dining and media rooms plus an exterior patio. The private areas are the bedroom and bathroom suites, which are turned 'off-axis' from the rest of the house to point towards the Space Needle, Seattle's famous landmark.

Green sensibilities apply throughout, particularly when it comes to the use of wood, which is an important feature in all the rooms. Local company Mountain View Cabinets custom made all the cabinetry in bamboo and douglas fir, which was supplied by another local business, Disdero Lumber. The coffee table in the main living area is fashioned from a myrtle tree found in Western Oregon. It was created by

Cecil Ross, a designer who takes the sourcing of wood very seriously, using only sustainably harvested local lumber to give his furniture a sense of place as well as history. The natural walnut dining table in the open-plan kitchen is from sustainable solid-wood specialist Team 7. Suspended above it is a chandelier from Bocci.

The media room, dubbed the 'man cave', doubles up as a study. Hidden behind sliding doors, it also offers a retreat from the rest of the house with an additional bedroom.

In the private zone, the master ensuite bathroom houses an ofuro (Japanese soaking tub), which was cast in place from concrete. There is feature flooring in cork, a renewable material supplied by Ecohaus, and Turkish rugs woven from recycled grain bags from Driscoll Robbins Fine Carpets.

This Seattle eco home is a success on all fronts, achieving LEED Platinum status while epitomising contemporary luxury design. **idf**



BRIGHT IDEA
Far left: the master bathroom has mid-century Corona lighting from Rejuvenation, which specialises in architectural salvage

TAKE A SEAT
Main pic: the living area has a Barbara Barry caned sofa and slipper chairs, which are made from 75 per cent recycled bamboo

GOOD WOOD
Below left: the master suite's bespoke cabinetry is made from reclaimed planks of douglas fir

ROCK OF AGES
Below right: the open-plan kitchen boasts quartz surfaces from CaesarStone that will last a lifetime

Contacts » **Barbara Barry** www.barbarabarry.com » **Bocci** www.bocci.ca » **CaesarStone** www.caesarstone.com » **Cecil Ross** www.cecilross.com
 » **Coates Design** www.coatesdesign.com » **Disdero Lumber Company** www.disdero.com » **Driscoll Robbins Fine Carpets** www.driscollrobbins.com
 » **Ecohaus** www.ecohaus.com » **Rejuvenation** www.rejuvenation.com

