



weekly brunch

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This week I took a day out of the office to visit Clerkenwell Design Festival in London. It was an opportunity for inspiration, inspiring conversations, and a rare opportunity to meet up with my wider working network. As if it couldn't get any better the sun was shining & the day was topped off with a sunset networking event hosted by Houzz at the beautiful Old Sessions House where I collected my Houzz Best in Service award for the third consecutive year.

The focus of the Festival was that sustainable design is revolutionising the world of interior design, emphasising the importance of eco-conscious choices. Designers are showcasing their ability to create stunning spaces while minimizing the impact on the planet. Bioo Lux's innovative lighting concept, powered by human contact with a living plant, is a prime example of this trend.

Parkside Tiles is leading the way in sustainable tile production by repurposing unwanted materials from the ceramic and glass industry. Their Sequel Principle tiles, made with over 91% recycled content sourced locally in Spain, divert 8kg of waste per square meter from landfill.



Mater Design has relaunched the Conscious Chair 3162, incorporating sustainable materials such as coffee bean shells, sawdust, and plastic waste. By using wood from responsibly managed forests, Mater Design promotes biodiversity and ensures a sustainable supply chain.

Recork, a Kent-based company, creates flooring and rugs from cork harvested from trees in Portugal. The unique quality of cork trees allows for multiple harvests without damage, making it an ideal sustainable material. In addition, the harvested cork oaks retain three to five times more CO₂, contributing to carbon sequestration.



Sebastian Cox, a renowned furniture designer, aims to make a positive environmental impact through his British-grown wood lounge chair. Upholstered in natural, non-toxic materials, Cox's design not only stores 100 tons of CO2 annually but also supports the expansion of wild land and woodland in the UK by 2040.



As an interior designer, one of my core principles is to encourage clients to think beyond conventional design practices and consider re-purposing and upcycling items within their new design schemes. By embracing these sustainable approaches, we not only reduce waste but also add unique character and personal touches to the spaces we create.

In my upcoming online interior design course, set to launch at the end of July, I will delve into the details of these practices, highlighting their benefits and providing practical guidance for incorporating them into design projects.

During the course, I will emphasize the importance of assessing the existing items in a client's space and identifying opportunities for re-purposing. It could be as simple as refinishing and reupholstering an old armchair or repainting and repurposing a vintage dresser as a bathroom vanity. These small changes can breathe new life into objects that hold sentimental value or have unique design elements worth preserving.



Moreover, upcycling offers a fantastic opportunity to tap into one's creativity and resourcefulness. By repurposing materials, such as reclaimed wood or salvaged doors, we can create one-of-a-kind pieces that add character and charm to a space. Upcycled items often become conversation starters and focal points within a design, showcasing the client's commitment to sustainability and their own personal style.

By incorporating re-purposed and upcycled elements, clients not only contribute to environmental conservation but also save money in the process. Rather than investing in brand-new items, we explore ways to reuse and reimagine existing resources. This sustainable mindset aligns with the growing desire for conscious consumerism and responsible design practices.

Andrea xx