



# DESIGN TIPS & TECHNIQUES

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By Sheila Doris

Hi Everyone ,

Hope you are staying warm.

The new web site is almost ready- and soon you will be able to download my **free workbook** to help you **Create Your Vision** for any project you want to tackle.

I am giving a talk for Lee Valley Tools -at the Scarboro Store- on **Planning the Perfect Kitchen** Feb 26 2009.

I will also be doing **"Ask A Designer"** Events- Ask your Questions about Bathrooms on Thursday evenings from 5:30- 8 pm - March 12, March 19, & March 26 –these are **free** mini-consultations by appointment @ **Tapworks** 3355 Kingston Rd..... **sign up** at 416-266-9111

Now Lets talk about Eco Friendly Decor....**"green"** is the direction of every-thing new...but how do you know how green a product or material really is?

Ask the following questions.

- Is the material **renewable**? How **quickly**?
- How **green** is the manufacturing process?
- Where does it come from? What is the **carbon footprint** left from **transporting** it to our market?
- How green is the **installation** process?

The material with the quickest renewal time is **bamboo** 5-8 years.... Next is **cork** –9 years. Hardwood takes much longer and granite or stone –**forever**. Some raw materials, while not renewable, are in abundant supply- i.e. clay for ceramic tiles and silica for glass production.

Time to regenerate the material is **not the only criteria**. to assess ...lets look at the **Manufacturing Process**:

- Not all companies **harvest** raw materials in a manner that ensures future re-growth, and does the least damage to the environment, in the process.
- Some plants / factories use green technology in the **production** of materials-solar energy, water recycling etc.
- Progressive manufacturers are using **low VOC** materials. Or are developing materials that have no formaldehyde or toxins in their processing at all. Because the glues, stains and finish coatings on materials can be made of toxic substances that **" off-gas"** In your home for a long time.

VOCs are Volatile Organic Compounds- air borne compounds that are most often toxic to our systems.

Materials manufactured in North America and Europe are rated / certified by agencies monitoring methods of harvest and production.

The FSC- the Forest Stewardship Council is the non-profit agency that sets standards for Forestry management for sustainable outcomes, recognized worldwide. Wood with FSC certification can be traced back to its place of origin, and the company manufacturing it is certified to be harvesting responsibly, working to sustain the forest.

To find out more about **Eco-Friendly Décor** come to my talk on March 28<sup>th</sup> 2-4pm @ Earthsong on Kingston Rd Call 416-266-2787 to register....Cost \$15.00 for advance registration- bring a friend for ½ price. \$20.00 at the door.



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