

greenspace

BY AMY ELBERT
PHOTOGRAPHY BY GORDON BEALL
PRODUCED BY EILEEN A. DEYMIER

suite comfort

LAYERS OF FABRIC AND A SOOTHING YELLOW-AND-GRAY PALETTE NURTURE **REST IN AN ECO-CHIC GUEST BEDROOM**

A vaulted ceiling bisected with a rustic wood truss sparked the first decision by interior designer Charlotte Palmer Lekakos. "I called Mark Neeley, who refurbishes old fans, and told him about the project," says Charlotte, who decorated a guest bedroom at the CharityWorks GreenHouse in McLean, Virginia. "After just five minutes, he agreed to lend me a working 1916 Westinghouse fan. That was the starting point for my design."

More than a charming accent, however, the fan—and every other furnishing in the room—had to be environmentally responsible. That >

1 an old lamp is recycled and updated with a new shade. Faux roses bloom indefinitely (dianejameshome.com).

3

ceiling is papered with a micro-square patterned wall covering printed with water-based paints (farrow-ball.com).

2

paint with no VOCs is used to create a panel look for the room. Shadowy gray inside the panels is surrounded by off-white walls (farrow-ball.com).

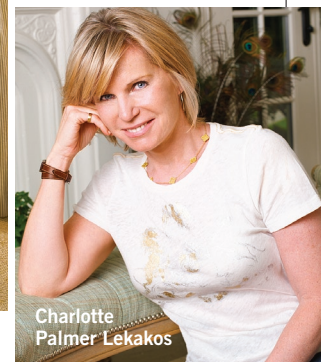


4

bed covers and canopies are a cotton-and-linen seersucker processed without chlorine bleach (Rogers & Goffigon Ltd., 212/888-3242).

5

an antique rug is layered over a room-size sisal rug from the Floor Gallery. Sisal comes from agave leaves, a renewable resource (301/770-3366).



Charlotte Palmer Lekakos



SLEEP WELL

Cuddle up with Green Earth bed and bath linens from The Company Store. Cotton blankets, pillowcases, and other linens are made with safe dyes in a textile facility that adheres to strict environmental standards (thecompanystore.com).

was the challenge for Charlotte, who is based in Chevy Chase, Maryland, and the 17 other Washington, D.C.-area designers who were selected to decorate the showhouse.

Ceiling fans made before the 1960s were engineered to run efficiently and last for decades, Neeley says, making them eco friendly. Then there's the charm, adds Charlotte. "The fan introduces a sense of mystery and romance like nothing else could. Antiques impart that to a room."

Charlotte further enhanced the peaked ceiling with a Farrow & Ball

polka-dot wall covering. The dots (actually small squares) are printed with a metallic gold water-based paint, giving the room a soft glow.

Half-round bamboo strips, a rapidly renewable material, were nailed to the walls to create decorative panels. Charlotte used bamboo that was slightly burned to create a mottled, tortoiseshell effect, she explains.

The interiors of the bamboo panels were painted gray, and a buttercream hue was used for the remaining walls. Charlotte chose low- to no-VOC ▶

6 drapery fabric is a classic matelassé woven of certified organic cotton from the Terra collection (fischmacher.com).

7 deer antlers that were naturally shed and found outdoors are used as drapery tiebacks (301/215-4140).



8 bamboo trim adds texture and creates a paneled wall effect. Bamboo is a rapidly renewable plant material (bambooandrattan.com).

9 three-drawer dresser, made with sustainable wood, features a carved figure-eight motif on pullout-drawer fronts (hickorychair.com).



10 chair is constructed with sustainable woods and soy-based cushions (leeindustries.com).

(volatile organic compounds) paints that don't emit toxic fumes into the room. "There are many products like Farrow & Ball paints that make it easy for designers to make green choices without sacrificing style," she points out. "It's so gratifying that our industry doesn't have to suffer because of a green direction."

A pair of twin beds are dressed with matching skirted coverlets and canopies topped with swagged cornices, all fashioned from a sand-toned pinstriped seersucker fabric.

Tassels adorning the cornices were finds at a New Hampshire estate sale, Charlotte notes. They were handmade in the 1940s for roller-style window shades. "Fortunately, the family had snipped them off before throwing out the shades," she says.

The seersucker from Rogers & Goffigon is processed without using toxic chlorine bleach. Seersucker, a cotton fabric woven with alternately bunched and smooth threads, was popular when introduced at the turn of the 20th century, in part because it required no ironing, Charlotte explains, making it eco from its very beginning.

"Seersucker is very nostalgic yet classic, and I have found men love it," she says. "I like to design rooms that appeal to men and women."

Charlotte designed peaked headboards and upholstered them in a yellow-and-gray trellis-patterned fabric, drawing on the diamond design of the fabric for the headboard shape.

A dresser made with wood from sustainable sources is from Hickory ▶



11

well-worn quilts are displayed in a vintage basket. Arranging the quilts “file style” shows off the patterns and colors while hiding damaged sections.

Chair, a company recognized for its green manufacturing practices.

Next to one bed is a tufted slipper chair from Lee Industries, also a leader in eco manufacturing, which uses sustainable woods, soy-based foam padding, and water-based finishes in its eco collection of furnishings.

Rounding out the room are antiques, including light sconces flanking the beds, a Turkish Oushak rug, and creamware plates—green because no new resources were consumed making them. “I’ve always relied heavily on antiques and old things in my designs,” Charlotte says.

“My vision for the room was that it have a point of view and not look like an anonymous guest room,” the designer explains. To inject personality

and a sense of humor, Charlotte turned plain closet doors into faux bookshelves. She scoured garage sales for non-valuable books and had a commercial printer trim them to a few inches in depth, leaving the bindings intact. The books were hot-glued to “shelves,” along with accessories such as ceramic vases, sliced in half by a tile installer.

Other fun accents include antlers, which were shed naturally by deer, used as drapery tiebacks, and framed butterfly specimens.

“When people think of green design, they often think spare and ascetic,” Charlotte says. “I felt I could contradict that notion and do green with a richer, more eclectic, and unapologetically traditional inspiration.”

For more information, see sources on page 148

RECIRCULATING VINTAGE FANS

Passions for history and old machinery merged into a business for Mark Neeley, who refurbishes ceiling and desk fans made in the United States in the first half of the 20th century. Neeley has a warehouse of salvaged fans he restores on a custom basis. He also services customer-provided fans. A refurbished ceiling fan, such as the one at the CharityWorks GreenHouse, costs about \$4,000 (vintagefans.com).



Win this restored 1916 ceiling fan.
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