

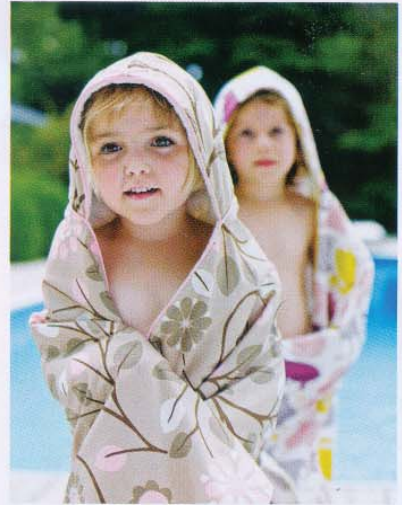
Budget decorator

Seriously stylish needn't mean outrageously expensive – we've found some gorgeous products to give your home the million-dollar look without the hefty price tag.

COMPILED BY SUNNY DE BRUYN



REST AWHILE KAS sure knows how to do cushions and the delicate embroidery on this one is just superb, \$50.



LET'S GO OUTSIDE! We think this is just the prettiest pattern we've seen in a long time. Garden hooded towel, \$79.50 from DwellStudio, available at Top 3 by Design.

IRISH TASTE

Shamrock Explosion is the funky name for this even funkier mug from Zandra Rhodes by Royal Albert. \$29.95.



BEAUTIFUL BOTANICALS

Flower prints might make you think country, but we've found some great products that will get you looking at botanicals in a whole new way.



BUDGET
BUY

MAKE MINE BLACK

Cool, sophisticated, modern – what more could you want in a chair? The Lillberg sofa from IKEA is \$269 for the two-seater and \$399 for the three-seater.



EURO STYLING

Get back to nature, literally, with this fab range of organic Scandinavian napery from SunnyLIFE. Napkins \$6.95 each and placemats \$9.95 each.

IN THE BAG

Beach bag, shopping bag, baby bag, handbag – this fabulous Waratah tote is so gorgeous you'll want to use it for everything. \$34.95 from Mozi.



LIVING GREEN

Bamboo: Hero or villain?

Been wondering what all the buzz is about? Read on to find out what the smart environmental choice really is.

STORY BY TESS KERBEL

It's not surprising that a lot of us are confused about bamboo. Up until very recently, most Australians considered it a royal pain in the backside. It grew too fast and spread too rapidly, so much so that it was actually banned by some councils. But these days, it's being hailed as an environmental superstar – for exactly the same reasons!

Because bamboo grows so enthusiastically, it's an excellent way to green large areas of land quickly – even hilly spots where pretty much nothing else will grow. In fact, it's one of the fastest-growing plants on the planet, shooting up to its full height in as little as three months. All that speedy growth does wonderful things for our atmosphere and oxygen levels, and studies show it improves the soil too. Plus, because bamboo is cut, not uprooted, the harvesting process is a lot gentler on the earth, which helps to keep things nice and stable.

Bamboo also thrives naturally. There's no need to pour pesticides, fertilisers and other chemical nasties into the soil. On top of that, it requires very little water and is usually happy with nothing more than a little rain. And, after they've lived a long and useful life, most bamboo products are 100 per cent degradable. It's no surprise this wonder plant is winning friends and fans wherever it goes!

So, next time you go shopping, make the right choice. There's a wide range of products on the market which utilise bamboo, and we hope to see many more in the not-too-distant future. Remember, the more popular these products become, the more bamboo will be planted, and the greener the world will be!



Grand Maître Bamboo Knife Block from Wenger



Bamboo tray-table from SunnyLIFE



Bamboo platter from SunnyLIFE



Clearly Herbal Natural Baby Wipes from Nordic Nappies