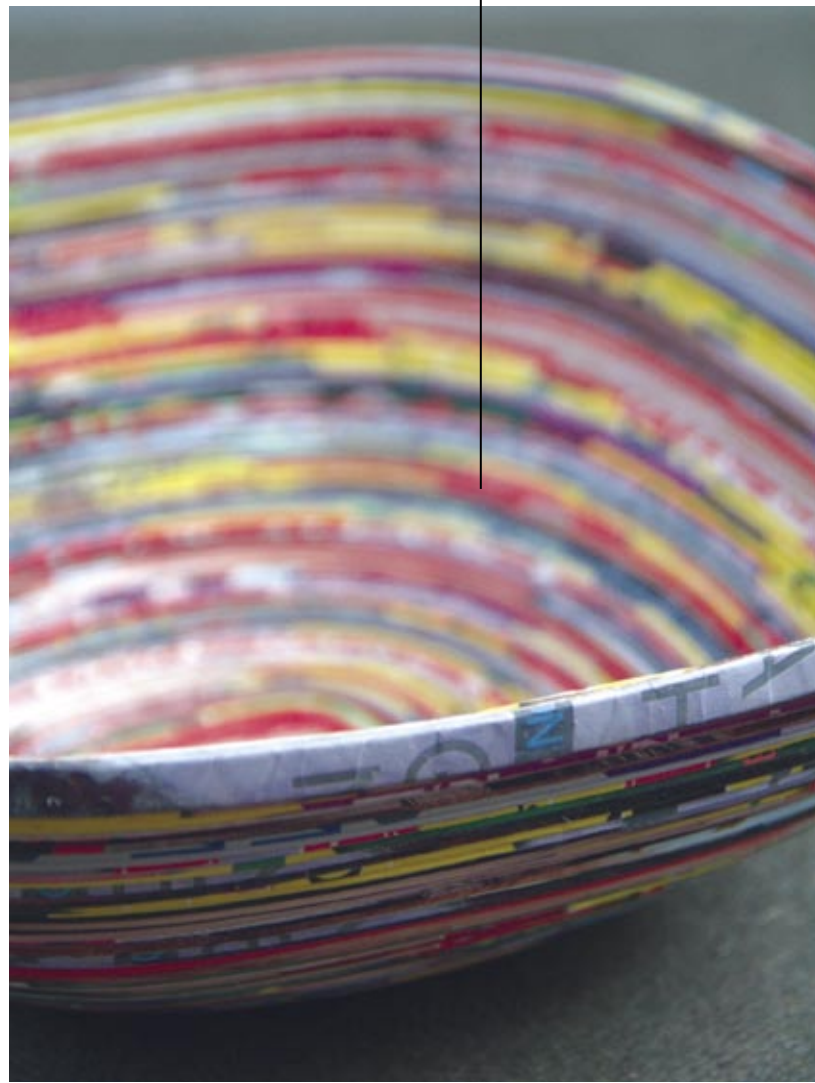


Yesterday's News

Fashioned from rolled-up magazine and newspaper pages, the bowl was made by Mai handicrafts, Ho Chi Min City, a collective set up by Vietnamese social workers for children of families who could not afford to send them to school.

The placemat is by Aphid Island Weavers in the Philippines, who have turned their pandan-weaving skills into a business that helps to support their communities.

Both are available at Oxfam shops, where all the products are selected for their fair trade practices, and socially responsible agendas. For Oxfam Shop locations visit www.oxfamshop.org.au/retail/



Ethical Wool

A recent winner of a mouthful of an award given for The United Nations World Environment Day, the "Business Sustainability Award for Environmental Best Practice Program", Instyle fabrics have recently made an agreement they say is Australia's "first-ever ethical wool supply agreement for the soft furnishings industry".

Fabric made using wool from a breed of merino sheep that don't require mulesing will soon be available in Australia. This traditional method of dealing with flystrike in wool-producing sheep has met such strong opposition internationally that many companies refuse to buy wool from producers that employ it.



Clean, Green Joinery

An alternative to conventional joinery is the vision of Melbourne company Cantilever.

Most jobs are built at the workshop and then transported to site.



Plywood and laminate form bookshelves, which also double as a balustrade for a stairway on the other side **(this page)**. Cantilever partners Peter Daly, Travis Dean and Charlie Wilde **(opposite page top)**. Stacks of timber sit ready to be re-used **(bottom)**.

up front

An offshoot of a collective of furniture makers, ceramicists and builders, Cantilever has secured a reputation for sleek interiors using recycled and low impact materials and manufacturing techniques. As public demand for alternatives to conventional joinery has increased, they are enjoying being able to offer more choice to their clients as more responsible, environmentally safe products and materials are available.

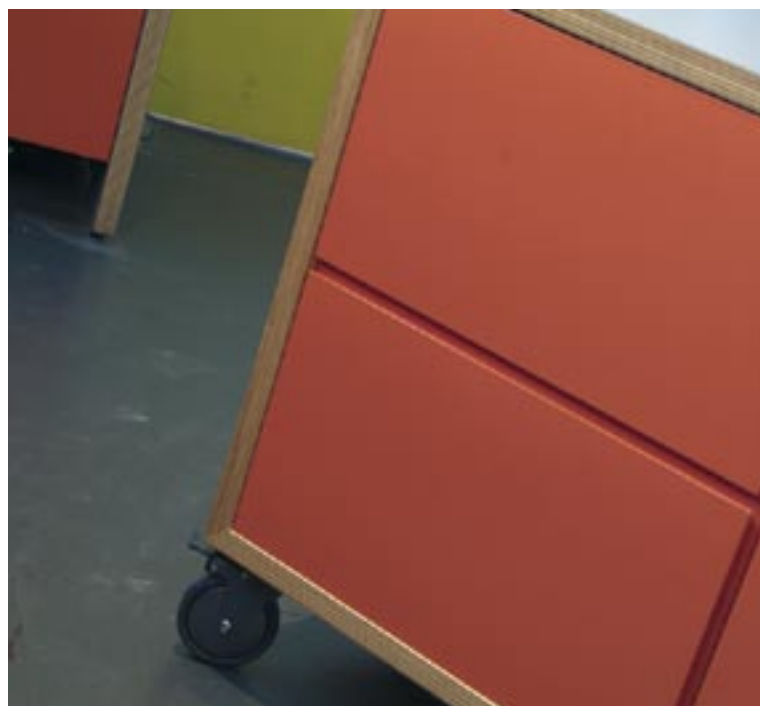
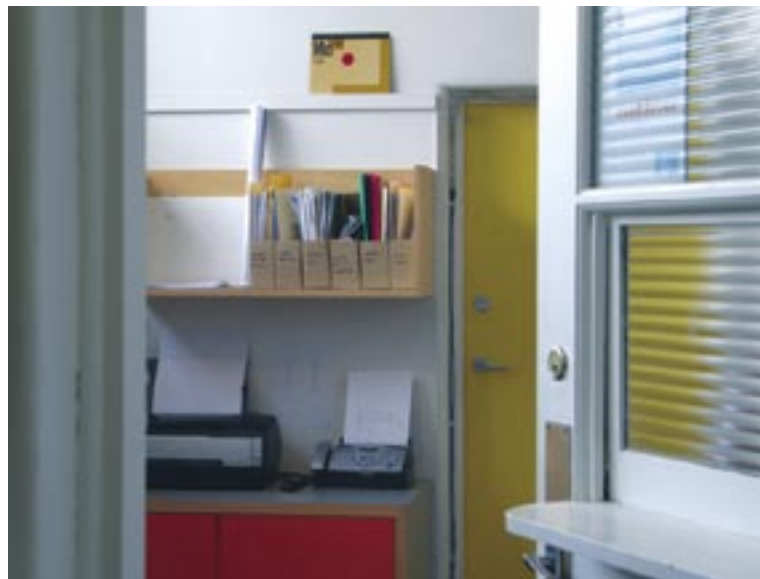
It wasn't always so easy says Peter Daly one of the 3 partners in the company, along with Travis Dean and Charlie Wilde, "We had a client about 6 years ago that was really into sustainable, clean design. We spent days researching what products were available for them to use. There really weren't that many choices, besides using (sustainable) plywood for carcasses and as much recycled timber as possible. However, in the last two years there is so much more to offer: low EO level particle-board, water-based glues and 2 Pac. As the demand grows, more manufacturers are catering for the market; almost everyone has a 'green line' in their product list."

Housed in an old factory in Brunswick, where graffiti blends their office and workshop into the streetscape, Cantilever grew from a collective called 3 Phase, established in 1998. The building was set up as a space for furniture makers, ceramicists and builders to work from. The group acquired the building, painted the interior, installed a machine room and split up the space into different studios. "We were always interested in being as responsible as we could be with our work practices, we were all using recycled timber when we could and chose materials that were as low impact as possible. We give →



"We do as much as we can, without shoving it down people's throats."
Peter Daly, Cantilever





our sawdust to the Collingwood Children's Farm and as we have evolved we are always looking to incorporate new products that come onto the market," says Peter. Working together at 3 Phase began to get complicated when three members of the group started to help each other out with jobs. "We were each working separately but employing each other to help get our orders filled, and it became a bit of a nightmare when we were billing each other for one hour here and three hours there. Our accountant suggested that we form a company and take orders together. It was great – three groups of contacts morphed into one large group of clients: it was so much easier for accounts, etc." says Peter.

The office at Cantilever is supremely well organised, calm and tucked away behind the towers of stacked joinery carcasses and mounds of sawdust. Their signature joinery holds orderly filing systems and whiteboards to prioritise jobs, keeping their business on track. "I don't know how it happened but I seemed to acquire the secretarial role; it's good though, I like it," says Peter. "We are really excited about where we are heading. It's collaborative, so we work with architects who are familiar with our processes and because of that we become specialised in these methods. We can keep our clients up to date with the least harmful choices they can make."

"Although some of our processes are more labour-intensive and therefore a bit more expensive, 80% of our clients specify our signature methods."

As the company fine-tunes the finishes they can offer clients for their joinery, Cantilever is developing its own line of furniture and products along the way. These pieces evolve as part of the process of consulting with clients and becoming aware of products that will fill a need. Their desire to offer alternatives to their clients for environmentally sound, beautiful joinery and furniture keeps the partners at Cantilever inspired and excited about what the future holds.

www.cantileverinteriors.com



The original factory office needed little more than a touch of paint and some well crafted Cantilever joinery (**top**). Cantilever made the joinery and counter for this Melbourne Bakery, designed by Studio Sam, using recycled timber. Photograph by Peter Bennetts (**middle**). A Cantilever staple – Oskar, the rolling cabinet (**bottom**).

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