

MATERIALS RECYCLING WEEK

Friday August 31 2001
£1.95

16 August 31 2001

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Ming's interior surfaces made from recycled plastics, paper and board

tomers is sending 35,000 clients a re-useable, recycled tube containing recycled pencils, a ruler and pen.

"This along with a string of new and repeat orders has meant a very hectic summer for Remarkable," says Lewis. "The success of the Eden project in Cornwall has helped as it sells our mouse mats, pencil cases, pencils and pads."

The company's range include pens made from old plastic milk cartons and plastic bottles, pencil cases and mouse mats from recycled tyres, pads from recycled paper, and rulers and pencils from plastic cups.

From May this year Remarkable products have been exhibited in Oslo as part of a British design showcase.

Organic Interiors

Products from eco-interiors company Ming, in Dalston, were selected for the 1999-2000 global exhibition of Ecological Furniture for the 21st Century in Asia and Europe.

But furniture designer Clare Lennard, who says she "is Ming", admits her outfit is still too small to afford any exhibition stand. "There's lots of interest and small orders, but I'm waiting for the one big one," she says.



Ming can provide stylish interior products, from a fruit bowl to a self assembly kitchen, all made exclusively from organic and recycled materials such as waste plastics, paper and carton board.

Lennard lived in China for a while, where the translation of her first name is Ming, meaning "clear and enlightened". Ming is helping develop a range of interior products from plant polymers and oils, including coffee waste and hemp. Growing hemp is prohibited in this country so there's opposition, says Lennard. A body called the Hemp Union is fighting to promote hemp recycling in the UK, she says.

Alternative to stone

Ttura has won this year's International Design Resource Award in Seattle for furniture made from a recycled alternative

to natural stone. Launched by London interiors and furniture design company Eight Inch last month, Ttura is also used for flooring, worktops and bars.

Jointly developed by Sheffield Hallam University and Resin Building Products, Ttura's a composite material made from 85% glass, including previously difficult waste from the building and automotive industries, mixed with resin.

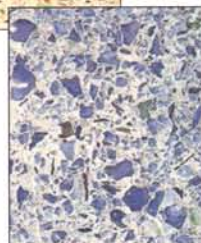
It can be formed into most shapes and, once polished, the glass component gives it good resilience. Independent testing has shown it to be more than 250 times more wear-resistant than standard concrete.

For flooring, Ttura is applied as a wet screed, then ground and polished to create a terrazzo style surface with the advantage of "an infinite pallet" of glass mixes and base resin colour. Paving has been developed in conjunction with a company called Crystal Paving, with the Ttura providing a decorative and durable surface.

Eight Inch is also developing into a range of Ttura furniture which so far includes the award-winning dining table and bar stools.

"We could sell it simply as a beautiful material, but the environmental and physical properties are just the icing on the cake," says Gary Nicholson, chief executive of Eight Inch.

Sheffield waste management consultancy Excelar set up Crystal Paving in April this year to make paving, cladding, tiles and blocks using a mixture of concrete, resins and recycled glass from packaging, end-of-life vehicles and waste electrical and electronic equipment. "Since we started, enquiries and orders have come in from far and wide - from green courtyards in Switzerland to blue pavements in Sheffield," says Jane Myatt, client service director for Excelar. ■



Kitchen surfaces and paving made from mixes of cullet and resin