

October 15, 2007

My (green) house is your (green) house

Hi everybody,

I almost titled this "Please allow me to introduce myself," but figured that was a bit too much about me. And I also thought I might be dating myself by invoking the Rolling Stones.

I'm really excited to be "week #2" in DIY's Going Green Blog. And how cool that today is [Blog Action Day](#), when "bloggers around the web will unite to put a single important issue on everyone's mind - the environment."

Well, we're going to be doing that every day.

To start off, let me tell you a bit about who I am and why I'm here...

...You can get the boring version from the bios on this site -- that I'm an architect, a product designer (mainly lighting) and that I teach green design. What I'm really interested in here at the DIY blog and elsewhere, is making eco-design and green living more mainstream, not just for a smaller cadre of devotees. Part of that is showing people why it's important (Thank you, Al Gore!), but more importantly, it's showing why people should WANT to do this. When I meet with my clients, I usually ask them what they're interested in environmentally and explain there are three general reasons to go green: saving your health, saving your money (Willem mentioned that in his [October 8 post](#)) and saving the planet. Or maybe all three.

Another interest of mine here is showing that you don't have to sacrifice design to go green. It used to be that the only eco stuff out there was made of -- or looked like it was made of -- straw and hemp, or stuff you found sitting out by the street. Not true anymore. There's lots of cool materials and finishes and fixtures. You can make as much, or as little, of a design statement as you want.

So what do you want to hear about or talk about? There are plenty of DIY things you can do in your home, big steps and small ones, and the important thing is not let yourself feel overwhelmed by the scale of the issues. If you can build the greenest house out there, that's great (and be sure to invite me over), but if all you can tackle at the moment is some insulation or a low-flow toilet, well, don't let that stop you either.

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