



● **Eco-Chic**

The designs of el: Environmental Language's founder and chief designer Jill Salisbury deliver a tailored aesthetic that is both high-style and eco-friendly. The Pyxis dining chair features upholstered seating made from natural latex foam and organic wool batting. The legs and frame are fabricated either with FSC-certified or domestic wood from sustainably-managed forests using a natural finish derived from tree sap. el: Environmental Language, www.el-furniture.com; \$3,366



● **Papyrus Placemats**

These placemats and table runners are meticulously hand-woven from papyrus reed and colored using natural dyes. The table runner measures 13 inches by 34 inches and the six matching placemats are 13 inches by 16 inches. Papyrus reed is eco-friendly and safe for foods, making these placemats decorative, functional and durable. Rangi Mingi Gallery, www.rangimingigallery.com; \$45

● **A Woman's Work**

The not-for-profit organization Arzu provides sustainable income to impoverished Afghan women by selling their hand-woven rugs. Individually hand-knotted, the rugs are made from unused wool of other rugs that are 100 percent naturally-dyed. From the Modern Collection, the Imagination rug features designs that have been woven for centuries by tribes in the mountains of central Afghanistan. Sizes available vary from 3 feet by 5 feet to 12 feet by 18 feet. Arzu, www.arzurugs.org; \$1,000-\$18,000



● **White Light**

Verde Home's Cylinder Lamp is made by a woman's work cooperative in Haiti, and crafted from cement bags that are collected from construction sites and recycled into paper mache. The final creation is then hand-painted with low-VOC paints. Available in thirteen stunning colors from pink to lime green. Verde Home in Atlanta, www.verdehomeinc.com, (678) 927-9113; \$430

● **Benched**

Reed LaPlant's Sprout Bench is made of reclaimed Douglas Fir (milled from barn timbers) and new U.S.-made steel. The designer uses only reclaimed, recycled, U.S.-grown or U.S.-made materials in his furniture to cut down on shipping, a great contributor of pollution. Reed LaPlant in Atlanta, (404) 683-3559, www.reedlaplant.com; price available upon request



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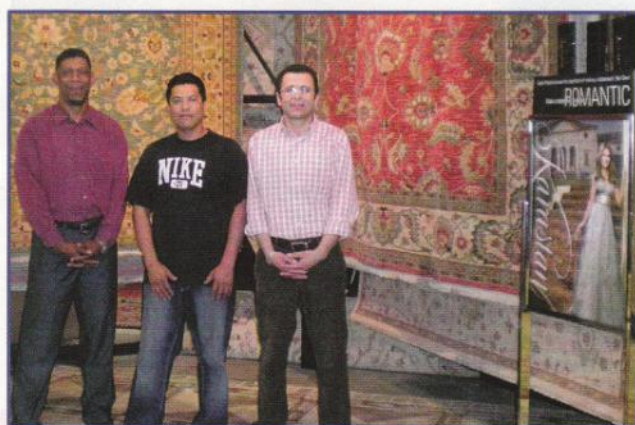
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see the latest innovations in hearth products, pools and spas, casual furniture, barbeques and more. Participants included specialty retailers, installing distributors, HVAC contractors and LP and hardware dealers, among many others. Exhibitors from around the country converged on the Expo for the tradeshow portion of the event, bringing with them an array of products and accessories in a range of categories. The Expo also included an educational component, during which attendees had the opportunity to attend courses, seminars and workshops, many of which offered CEU credits. For more information, visit www.hpbaexpo.org or www.sehpba.org.



Designer Rug Warehouse Inc. (DRW), formerly Rug & Home Warehouse, a major rug importer and retailer based in Atlanta, GA, has promoted **Thomas Johnson** (at left) to store manager. Johnson joined DRW in September 2007 as a sales executive and spent most of his time building the company's interior designer business. Recently, he added major interior designer firms to DRW's clientele list. In this new position, he will also be responsible for merchandising and overseeing all strategic marketing and sales. Before joining DRW, Johnson was involved in the wholesale and retail rug business for over 20 years, working for several major companies, including Atlanta-based Horizon Pacific, Caspian Rugs and Jaunty. Johnson will report to DRW Founder **Ali Inal** (at right). For more information, visit www.rugandhomewarehouse.com.



On March 19, **Verde Home**, a Midtown-based fine home furnishings showroom that focuses on style and sustainability, unveiled a new line of furniture from renowned Atlanta designer **Reed LaPlant**. The shop's owners, **Laura Walker, Paul Baird** and **Kent Schneider**, commissioned



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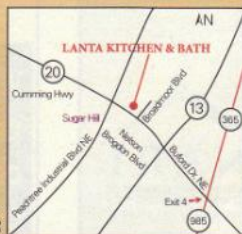


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the artist to create unique, heirloom-quality pieces that they could sell exclusively in their shop, located at 1000 Marietta St. It was a perfect fit because LaPlant only uses sustainable, local and reclaimed materials for his furnishings. And the result of the partnership is the Reed LaPlant for Verde collection, which includes beautiful benches, dressers, credenzas, coffee tables and more—all of which feature a modern aesthetic combined with traditional craftsmanship. For more information or to request a quote for the pieces in the collection, visit www.verdehomeinc.com. To learn more about Reed LaPlant, visit www.reedlaplant.com.



Wood-Mode Fine Custom Cabinetry has introduced new features to four of its most popular styles for 2008. The Southampton Concept has been refined with pronounced details like a new inset, recessed door style that emboldens an already elegant look. The European Country Concept now includes a distressed heirlooms finish package. The Provence Concept, with its old world Tuscan or Mediterranean flavor, has added a one-piece furniture unit with a Sub-Zero refrigerator and freezer, complete with curved doors and a curved bonnet, to its offerings. The Connoisseur Concept also now features a Euro-framed one-piece unit for the fridge and freezer, which is designed to bring together a very dramatic composition. All of these options are available at **Living Spaces Design Studio** in Atlanta. For more information, call (404) 841-2347 or visit www.lspaces.com.

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