

HOME FASHION



TV DESIGN DUO Steven Sabados and Chris Hyndman have launched a new home decor line called S & C, to be available at retailers across the country at the end of this month.

Metro Vancouver News Services



THE S & C COLLECTION will include upholstered sofas, loveseats, chairs, ottomans and headboards, and area rugs and decorative accessories. Visit www.stevenandchris.com.

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Puzzling out the essence of enduring design

Since I quit my office job and plunged into the world of design two years ago I've learned one important lesson: The more I know, the more I don't know.

For example, I'm fairly sure I won't be creating the next Bauhaus or Eames chair, but I'm starting to understand why I've always loved those elegant, enduring designs.

Style, comfort and efficiency are the major factors, but there's something else in those pieces that's just beyond my mental grasp. The Japanese word "funkt" comes to mind — the soul or vibe of a space — but that doesn't work for objects.

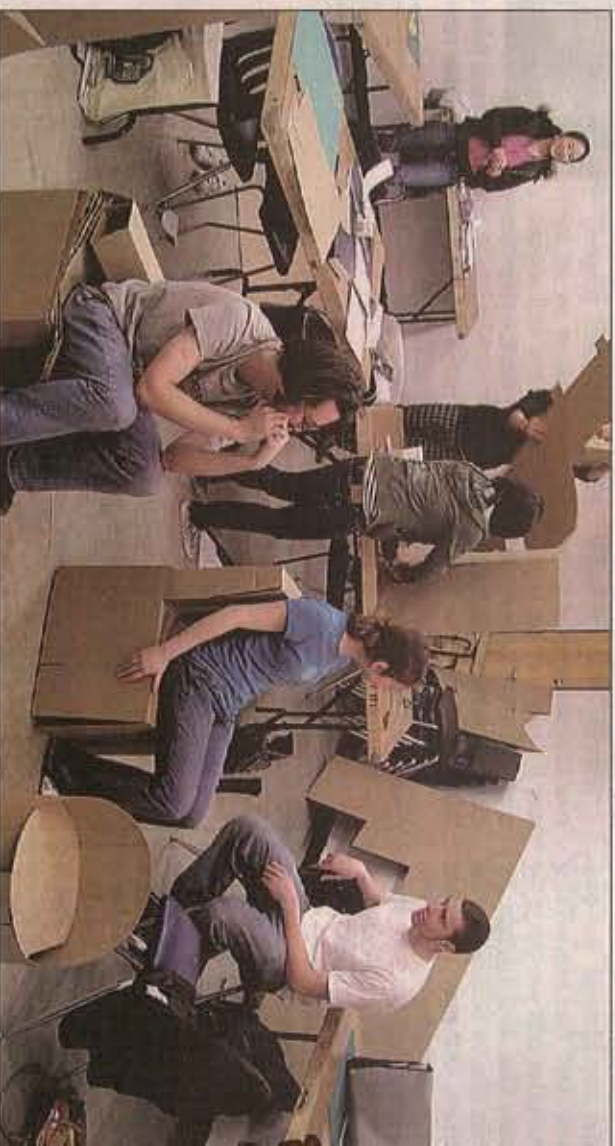
When I was a staff writer for a tourist magazine in Kyoto, I was asked to translate the following piece of Japanese for an advertiser: "Feel the soul of the poet of this wood." Best I could come up with was, "We use high-quality wood."

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"Visual language" is a big theme in art and design. Instructors in this

field compel students to consider the visual language in everything from Renaissance paintings to contemporary sculpture, from film to furniture. It's not necessarily a secret to decode but a logical starting point. What is being communicated in the choice of that material, shape, colour or context? At least, this was the train of thought shunning through my grey matter at the end of my Foundations In 3-D Design course at Emily Carr Institute Of Art And Design, at Granville Is-



Emily Carr Institute's 3D design students face the challenge of creating a one-piece cardboard chair during class.

land. I've learned there's a language I can barely grasp. Going back to school is a sure-fire way to shrink the ego.

This may be why an assignment that had us communicating a verb in a simple material like cardstock wasn't the class favourite, admits design instructor Duane Elverum. (I was a ball of confusion as I tried to make a disposable aluminum roasting pan communicate the verb "buckle.")

"It was the most challenging assignment because you have to dwell inside your head instead of just the material," he told the

class of 15 or so on the last day. "It forces the mind to go deep." I'll mull that point over curled up on my mid-century modern armchair with a glass of pinot gr.

Carlyn Yandle is a Vancouver journalist with her own room-planning business, Home Networks (www.homenetworks.com). She dwells on urban-bonanza issues every Thursday in Metro.



"It's made a world of difference"

Thanks to the Rental Assistance Program, Cathy doesn't worry about having enough money to cover household expenses. The Province has recently raised the maximum household income ceiling for the Rental Assistance Program, meaning more working families with a combined gross income of less than \$28,000 are eligible.

B.C. families, like Cathy's, who rent in the private market, may be eligible to receive direct cash assistance for their monthly rent payments. Families must have at least one child under the age of 19, have lived in B.C. for the past 12 months and have been employed at some point during the past year.

For more information on the Rental Assistance Program, contact BC Housing at 604-433-2218 in the Lower Mainland or 1-800-257-7756 elsewhere in B.C.

www.bchousing.org



HOUSING MATTERS



Bamboo's modern bonanza

ARRESTING DESIGN case files

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they can be gorgeously patterned with horizontal lines or rectangular shapes.

Colour Your World stores carry Hunter Douglas' "woven wood" shades, made of bamboo and grasses, which can be customized in colour and opacity. See www.hunterdouglas.com.

If you're considering new flooring, bamboo floors are gaining in popularity. And why not? It's strong, lasts forever, and looks beautiful with its distinctive nodes. (It is sustainable because it comes from a plant in the grass family that can be harvested every three to five years, rather than the several decades needed by hardwood trees.)

Bamboo's natural colour is blond, but you can purchase "carbonized" or smoked bamboo, which is naturally darker in tone. Colours are also possible, but keep in mind that adding colour to the bamboo makes it a little softer.



Kwikfit Trimmable Bamboo Blind, by Versailles Home Fashions, at Home Depot.

In price, it is comparable to the price of good-quality hardwood flooring, and is laid and maintained much in the same way as hardwood. Many flooring retailers now carry bamboo flooring, but check out www.bamblidirect.com out of Vancouver for prices — they carry bamboo flooring from \$1.73 up to \$3.08 per square foot.