

BEYOND THE BULB > THE BEST IDEAS IN GREEN DESIGN
 THE ULTIMATE HOME RENOVATOR'S GUIDE p.67
PLENTY

THE WORLD IN GREEN
 AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2008



KRISTIN GORE KILLS HER LAWN | SAILING GREECE | GOSSIP GIRL'S ECO STAR

spectrum

Visitors walk through *The Jungle* (right). Robson constructs *The Great Indoors* for Houston's Rice Gallery (below).



> ART
Message in a Bottle

Some might call Aurora Robson a "garbage picker," but on closer inspection, a "recycling Rauschenberg" may be a more accurate description. Although Robson's sculptures elicit descriptions like "breathtaking" and "otherworldly," the pieces start as trash. Some of her main media include plastic bottles and junk mail. "My goal is to take something negative and turn it into something positive," she says.

That dirt-to-diamond goal also explains Robson's unusual inspiration: She designs her eco-friendly sculptures, collages, and paintings based on images from childhood nightmares.

Robson's latest sculpture, *The Great Indoors*, is composed of 10,000 discarded bottles cut into various shapes and airbrushed with a water-based polycrylic spray. At the Rice Gallery in Houston, visitors can walk through the 40-foot-by-40-foot installation, immersing themselves in the guts of a strange organism. Smaller, glowing shapes lit by solar-powered LED lights line the inside of the sculpture. "You end up being consumed by that which you consume," Robson explains. The show runs from September 18 through October 26.

—Steven K Lee

> For information on upcoming shows, visit aurorarobson.com



> ACT OUT
OIL-LA-LA Crusty bread dipped in olive oil sure makes for a tasty snack—but it's better if you know where that oil comes from. Large-scale olive production can cause soil erosion and is often chemical intensive. Enter Nudo: The artisanal

olive grove in Le Marche, Italy, uses no pesticides and will soon be certified organic. The farm also allows customers to adopt an olive tree for a year. About \$130 gets you two liters of oil in the autumn, three flavored oils in the spring, plus an adoption certificate and booklet with information about your tree. "We want to move away from mass-produced, untraceable produce to very traceable produce," says co-owner Jason Gibbs. Added bonus: The farm welcomes customers to visit their trees at any time, providing a built-in vacation destination.

—Nicole Scarmeas

> To adopt, visit nudo-italia.com



> MISS ECO ETIQUETTE
CUT THE CO

Q To save energy, I unplug electronics when I'm not using them. Is it OK to do the same at a friend's house?

A It's just not cool to tip around your buddy's home, ripping cords out the wall like some kind of conservation fairy. It's a rather rude to bombard your pal with accusations. ("It's because of people like you that this planet is going in a handbasket," won't be well-received.) Here are a few tactics that'll make your friend think twice—about wasting energy, not about your friendship:

BOASTING Casually mention how much money you've saved. "About 75 percent of home electronics' energy consumption occurs when products are shut off but still plugged in. I've saved big bucks on my electric bill: unplugging."

MELODRAMATIC HUMOR Make a show of running to the toaster and yanking the cord out of the socket. "I know you know that every time you forget to unplug your toaster, a polar bear dies!"

SELF-DEPRECATING HUMOR "I know I'm totally anal, but I'm really into unplugging stuff when I'm using it. Mind if I unplug your TV before we go out?"

—Kiera E

> To improve your green manners, read Miss Eco Etiquette's plenty.com/blogs