



IN THE GREEN ROOM

How the interiors industry is designing a more sustainable future, from lighting to textiles



Green is far more than just the paint colour *du jour*. Increasingly, it's a key principle at the heart of progressive designers, meaning that beautiful homes don't have to come at the cost of sustainability.

One brand pushing this ethos forward is Skinflint, a lighting company that restores and resells high-quality salvaged pieces dating from the 1920s to the 1970s. Buying vintage over new is, of course, a big tick on the sustainability checklist, but Skinflint is taking things a step further with the launch of its Full Circle initiative. Focused on the idea of a 'circular economy' – reusing and regenerating products rather than further depleting the world's finite resources – this product buy-back scheme allows customers to exchange their lights at any point after a year of ownership for 50 per cent credit towards a future purchase. Whether wall, table, floor or pendant lights, these items will

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be repaired and recertified so they can be resold globally; a much more eco-friendly option than simply being thrown out in the midst of an interiors overhaul.

Yesterday Today is also challenging overconsumption by adapting vintage textiles into contemporary pieces, giving craftsmanship a new lease of life and avoiding waste. The environmentally conscious small business, created by Bella Dunne, was born out of a love for one-of-a-kind features, with everything from upholstered lampshades and embroidered cushions on offer. Each object is made using second-hand and deadstock fabrics, many with a historic heritage.

Devon-based textiles brand Weaver Green has taken the fight against plastic to the next level, creating blankets, rugs and cushions from plastic bottles that would otherwise end up polluting the world's oceans. These bottles are sourced from developing countries, where plastic recycling infrastructure is lacking, and made into yarn. The result? Textiles that are remarkably soft, but durable enough for both indoor and outdoor use. Crucially, these products are also recyclable at the end of their lives.

In the face of an environmental crisis, it can feel hard to make a difference as a consumer. However, by supporting forward-thinking companies that champion sustainability, we can all help to shape a greener world – and have a chic vintage lamp to show for it, too. *To discover more about Skinflint and its eco-friendly Full Circle initiative, visit skinflintdesign.com*

From top Retro Czech pendant lights, from £180; 1950s Eastern Bloc industrial pendants, £330, and EDL machinists work lights, £930; munitions store pendant light, £600, all Skinflint (skinflintdesign.com). vintage floor cushion, £45, Yesterday Today (yesterdaytodaydesign.co.uk). 'Andalucia Paloma' rug, from £130, Weaver Green (weavergreen.com)