



Lizzie Soufleris

Designer Takes

Sustainable Home Goods: 15 Never-Fail Places Designers Shop

Avoid greenwashing by sourcing from these earth-first businesses

By Katherine McLaughlin

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If there's one thing that never goes out of style, it's [sustainability](#). While trends come and go in the interiors and architecture world, incorporating sustainable home goods and ethically made products is here to stay—on Earth Day or not.

Of course, not every eco-friendly brand or product is created equal. Some are so good that designers find themselves going back to them time and time again, for project after project. If you're looking to incorporate more sustainable products into your next commission, consider these 15 businesses that have gotten the stamp of approval from designers across the world.

Vintage and Local Dealers

For many designers, shopping vintage and secondhand is one of the best ways to keep products out of landfills and take advantage of the plethora of materials that have already been extracted from the earth. “Sourcing vintage is a win-win,” says Lauren Sullivan, founder of [Well by Design](#). “We get to add character and patina to a space that's hard to replicate with newer products, and these older pieces receive new life and remain out of landfills.” She's had a lot of luck finding vintage table lamps, accent chairs, and mirrors on [1stDibs](#). She also loves [Chairish](#) and [VintageArtRoom on Etsy](#) for sourcing unique artwork. (As AD PRO [has reported](#) in the past, Facebook Marketplace too can be a veritable trove of furniture finds.)

“I do an almost weekly run by some of our local thrift stores and antique spots to look for lighting, furniture, and decorative accessories,” designer [Shannon Eddings](#) says, noting [vintage and antique pieces](#) are used in almost all projects she's hired for. “They add some really unique character to each project as well,” she mentions.

Upcycling is another way some designers choose to incorporate more sustainable solutions into their clients' spaces. “Depending on the value, we're not afraid to reinvent a piece with new finishes—think lacquer, new upholstery, and even new purposes,” says [Benjamin Johnston](#), a Houston-based designer. In addition to vintage, finding local

artisans who can create custom pieces is another helpful practice for many in the field. “This allows us to avoid fast furniture, eliminate emissions from shipping, and cut down on mass manufacturing overseas,” designer [Ashton Taylor](#) says.

Chasing Paper



Crossing Lines wallpaper from Chasing Paper. Photo: David Szymanski

Anna Franklin’s clients tend to request wallpaper in their spaces, and she’ll often come back with options from [Chasing Paper](#). “The wallpaper and flooring are sold in printed-to-order panels—instead of a standard roll size—to minimize waste and excess,” the interior designer and founder of [Stone House Collective](#) says. Additionally, the brand’s traditional pasted wallpaper is printed on high-quality FSC-certified wallpaper with latex ink, so there won’t be any fumes. Chasing Paper also sells peel-and-stick wallpaper, which Franklin will often use for kids’ spaces that may transition over time. “I love their product so much that I have incorporated it into my own home,” Franklin says.

Anna’s Recommendations: [Pacific Northwest](#), [Crossing Lines](#), [Puppy Pile](#)





Crypton fabric. Courtesy of Crypton

Crypton

Headquartered in Detroit, [Crypton](#) is a fabric company started in 1993 by Craig and Randy Rubin. “The company focuses on sustainability, without compromising durability and beauty,” says [Elisa Baran](#), a New York City-based commercial and residential interior designer. As part of her commitment to sustainability, Baran often designs furniture for her clients to avoid mass-produced pieces, and Crypton has become a go-to for the fabric. “I went to Kravet to take a look at their samples and instantly fell in love with the material,” Baran says of when she first discovered Crypton. “I actually poured my water bottle on the sample to test out the microfiber effect on it, and it blew my mind.” Crypton is a member of the [Sustainable Furnishings Council](#), and all fabric is Greenguard Gold-certified, free of halogenated flame retardants, and EPA-certified disinfectable.

Elisa’s Recommendations: [Kravet Smart 35121-111](#), [Kravet Smart 33832-88](#), [Kravet Smart 35405-16](#)



The Alba line of surfacing from Smile Plastics graces the counters of an apartment designed by Bazar.Studio and QSA.
Photo: Florian Bérenguer

Smile Plastics

[Hilary Matt](#), an NYC-based interior designer, says [Smile Plastics](#) is her new favorite brand to shop for sustainable materials. “They pride themselves on the fact that their product helps us work towards a ‘closed-loop material cycle,’” Matt says. That means the products, which are made from would-be waste such as cosmetic bottles and yogurt containers, are designed to be easily refinished or repurposed for new projects. Not only are the materials sold by Smile a planet-friendly choice, but they’ll also please tastemakers, with terrazzo-

like surfaces and custom options on offer. “They will even buy back the panels from you and rework them into new panels, so someone else can enjoy them after,” Matt says. She recently purchased from the company to make a custom tabletop for a client. “Their added sustainable elements are a great addition to how pretty and fun they are to use,” she says.

Hilary’s recommendations: [Alba](#), [Charcoal](#)



A brushed-cotton duvet set from Parachute. Photo: Jessica Schramm

Parachute

Though [the Turett Collaborative’s](#) director of interior design Jessica Shaw says [Parachute](#) is a relative “newbie” to the home linens scene, “It has been making its way onto the beds of our clients.” The brand is committed to becoming certified carbon neutral this year and is in the process of launching its first circular program, the Recycled Down Pillow. Many Parachute products have received or are in the process of receiving certifications including Global Organic Textile Standard certified and Oeko-Tex certified. The company also

purchases down materials from Responsible Down Standard–certified suppliers, and a selection of furniture pieces are made from Forest Stewardship Council–certified wood. “I love the textures and colors they offer, and their commitment to using responsible materials has us feeling good,” Shaw says.

Jessica’s Recommendations: [Brushed Cotton Sheet Set in Dusk](#), [Cozy Cashmere Duvet Cover Set in Dusk](#)

CaraGreen

Tim Button of [Stedila Design](#) designed [The Visionaire](#), the first-ever LEED® platinum-certified condo building on the East Coast, and used healthy-material supplier [CaraGreen](#) for all the public spaces in the building. “Their approach is truly holistic,” Button says. “They look to source and carry building products that will contribute to the occupants’ mental, physical, and emotional well-being and will be good for the environment too.” He says all of this is done while still achieving sensuality and aesthetics. “It allows us as designers to be responsible without compromising our vision.”

Tim’s recommendation: [Kirei Board](#)

Wesley Hall

Designer Shawna Percival, founder of [Styleberry Interiors](#), says investing in a sofa is something to take seriously, but she also recognizes that responsibly made sofas are not always the easiest to find. “We look for toxin-free wood frames that are kiln-dried and sourced from sustainable forestry,” she says. She also pays attention to carcinogenic chemicals, finishing processes, and humane down suppliers. “One of our favorite vendors, and, easily, the place we source most for our custom upholstery, is Wesley Hall,” she offers. The company checks all of these boxes and more, also offering springs made from recycled material and 100% recyclable packaging.

Shawna’s Recommendation: [Signature Elements](#)





Fireclay Tile forms a kitchen backsplash and countertop surround at Lake Placid Whistler. Design by Autumn Hachey. Photo: Michelle Johnson / Courtesy of Fireclay Tile

Fireclay Tile

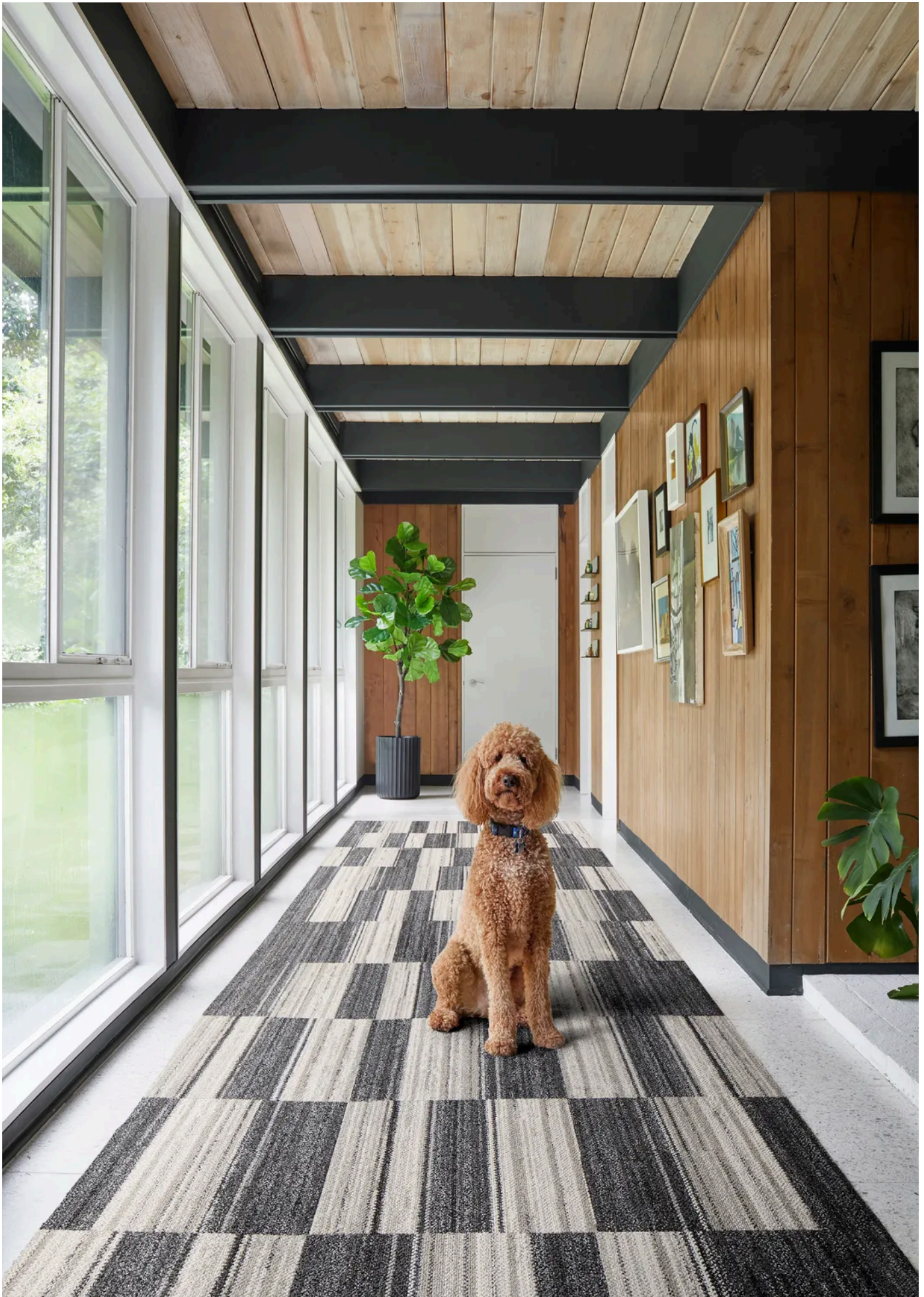
Designer [Lucy Penfield](#) first discovered [Fireclay Tile](#), a California-based tile company, in San Francisco about 10 years ago. “I was struck by the artisan quality, glorious glazes, and rich colors,” she says. “Each tile looked handmade.” Since then, she’s used Fireclay time and time again in various projects. While she loves the product itself, she’s also very impressed with the company’s CEO, Eric Edelson, who established the company as a [B Corp](#). “That took hard work and years to do,” Penfield says. The brand also offsets 100% of carbon emissions from its factory and is on a journey to become fully zero-waste.

Lucy’s Recommendation: [Amalfi Coast](#)

Norman

“[Norman](#) is my go-to for safe, sustainable, and quality window treatments,” says Lisa Galano, interior designer and principal of [Lisa Galano Design Consultancy](#). While she feels Norman’s products are affordable, durable, and made with long-lasting high-quality materials, she’s an especially big fan of the brand’s commitment to child safety. “They’re on a mission to raise awareness about the hazards of corded window treatments,” Galano says, adding that the brand is an active participant in the Window Covering Manufacturers Association’s “[Best for Kids](#)” certification program. Many Norman shutters are made with sustainably farmed woods while also offering many energy-efficient window treatments.

Lisa’s Recommendation: [Portrait Honeycomb Shades](#)





Flor's new carbon-negative rug collection in Stratosphere. Courtesy of Flor

Flor

[Flor](#), a rug brand based in Georgia, is one of Christine Ho's go-to suppliers for sustainable and planet-friendly rugs. The principal designer of [Breathe Design Studio](#), Ho loves Flor because of the brand's commitment to environmentally sustainable manufacturing and business practices. "All of their rugs are carbon-neutral, and they just released a new line of carbon-negative rugs and rug backings, which draw more carbon from the air than they release," she says. The company had a goal to reach "zero negative impact" by 2020 and ended up accomplishing it a year ahead of schedule. Flor also has a return and recycling program, which helps keep millions of pounds of carpets out of landfills every year. "Their rug tiles are also really versatile for creating a custom-style rug," Ho says.

Christine's Recommendations: [Lunair](#), [Mod Cafe](#), [Haywood](#), [Heavy Metal](#)

Ikon Windows

Sarah Jefferys, the founder of [Sarah Jefferys Design](#), says she often uses [Ikon Windows](#) in her projects. "They're custom-made, high-quality, and designed for passive house construction with triple-pane windows and doors that are highly energy-efficient," she explains. Of course, she likes the design of the windows too, which she describes as elegant, with thin profiles and sleek hardware. "Their sliding doors also come in very large sizes, perfect for expansive exterior openings, while remaining reasonably priced."

Sarah's Recommendations: [Lift-and-Slide Doors](#), [Thin-Profile Tilt-Turn Windows](#)



For a project in the Hudson Valley, Toshiko Mori specified a Miele cooktop, oven, and dishwasher. Photo: Thomas Loof

Beko, Dacor, and Miele

Going climate-positive in the kitchen can be a tricky affair, says Sara Mosele, founder of [Sara Mosele Interiors](#). “You can have beautiful repurposed countertops but then have very expensive appliances that consume a lot of energy,” she explains, “so you need to look at sustainability as a broader spectrum.” With that in mind, Mosele is always looking for appliances that benefit the environment as much as they do people. Combining both aesthetics and energy efficiency, Mosele’s favorite refrigerators often come from [Beko](#) or [Dacor](#). The former is a more midlevel price point, and the latter is higher end.

According to the [University of Birmingham](#), the cooling industry is estimated to produce around 10% of the world’s CO₂ emissions. Luckily, the energy consumption of major appliances has recently halved, thanks in part to energy-efficiency policies. Beko’s refrigerators have Energy Star certification, which identifies products that “protect the environment through the adoption of energy-efficient products and practices.” The company was also named as one of the Real Leaders Top 200 Impact Companies of 2022. For its part, Dacor uses a refrigerant known as R600a, which is up to 40% more efficient than its traditional counterpart, R134a. The cooling technology embedded in the appliances also means food stays fresher for longer, limiting waste. When it comes to dishwashers, Mosele’s go-to is “for sure, [Miele](#),” she says. The company holds the German Sustainability Award and is a member of the UN Global Compact sustainability initiative.

Sara’s Recommendations: [Beko Built-In Freezer-Bottom Refrigerator](#), [Dacor French-Door Refrigerator](#), [Miele Dishwasher](#)

Ten and Co.

For home accessories, Rebecca Hay of [Rebecca Hay Designs](#) says [Ten and Co.](#) is a favorite destination. When thinking about sustainability, she says it’s important to think about the items you or your clients will be using every day, like cleaning supplies and towels. Ten and Co. is an eco-conscious emporium offering products for every part of the home—and yes, that includes the kitchen sink. “We were initially drawn to the sponge cloths, as they fit in perfectly as part of a client gift basket for a kitchen project,” Hay mentions. The brand offers a collection of sponges with various prints and styles, which Hay describes as “functional and beautiful.” She also loves that the brand is female-owned and local to Ontario, where she is based. “That was a big factor that won us over,” she says.

Rebecca’s Recommendations: [Modern Floral Black-on-White Sponge Cloth](#)
