

TRANSFORMING RECLAIMED MATERIALS INTO DESIGN CONCEPTS

SALVAGE SECRETS



JOANNE PALMISANO

photographs by SUSAN TEARE





Author Joanne Palmisano working at her kitchen island—her favorite spot in her home. This island top was made from salvaged Douglas fir railroad trusses from an 1880s building that was torn down in a neighboring town. The vintage soapstone sink, backsplash, refrigerator, and clock were also salvaged.

DEFINING THE TERMS

- Salvaged** The general, overarching term referring to all materials that are reused, reclaimed, or repurposed from another home or building.
- Recycled** Items that are made from salvaged materials whose basic structure has been changed, such as metal scraps melted down and made in to fixtures or glass pieces melted down and made into tile.
- Repurposed** Items that are reused in a different area of the original home or are used in a different way, such as a patio stone reused for a staircase.
- Reclaimed** Often used with wood, reclaimed materials have been brought back to life from something else, such as sunken logs made into flooring.
- Reused** Often used interchangeably with recycled and reclaimed, this term basically refers to something that is the same material but used for a different purpose or location.

constantly changing and no two shops are ever the same, making it important to visit more than one on a regular basis. If you're considering products that are made with recycled materials, such as glass tiles, There is more consistency in the products.

The American Society of Interior Designers Foundation (ASID) and the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) have put together guidelines for green remodeling—called the REGREEN program—which touch on the use of salvaged material and give examples of homes that incorporate it. If you are looking to get LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) points, refer to the “resource reuse” section in the MR Credit 3.

LET'S TALK COST

Does using salvaged material cost more than buying new materials? This frequently asked question doesn't have a simple yes or no answer. Although it is true that salvaged material is often less expensive than buying brand new,

◀ Using salvaged pieces of soapstone, these homeowners saved thousands of dollars and got the same clean look of a full-piece counter.

The living-room fireplace of this dramatic coastal home pays homage to a breathtaking view of the ocean and the famous Haystack Rock which can be seen through a wall of windows to the right of the fireplace. The boulders were salvaged from the property itself and from a friend who had just completed a landscaping project. This new home was built to be structurally prepared for the weight of the fireplace. The floors are salvaged Douglas fir and the beams are also from salvaged wood.





Stone, Concrete, Brick and Ceramics

From boulders the size of small cars to fine grains of sand, stone is a natural material that is not so easy to salvage, but results in an extensive array of product choices, from natural stone, to brick, concrete, and ceramics. These salvaged variations are most commonly used in fireplace surrounds, countertops, and floors. Think of salvaged ceramic tiles framing a bathtub, an entryway floor made of vintage bricks, or a contemporary fireplace surround using salvaged aggregate concrete—all are creative designs accomplished by knowing the variety of materials available.



EVERY LITTLE BIT COUNTS!

Many homeowners have small piles of stone, tile, or similar material sitting in their basement or garage that they can't use but believe are too small to give to a recycle or salvage shop. Not so! If everyone contributed by bringing these excess materials to a local recycle center or salvage shop, a larger, more varied supply of salvaged goods would be available for homeowners to choose from, and the need for mining new stone would be reduced.

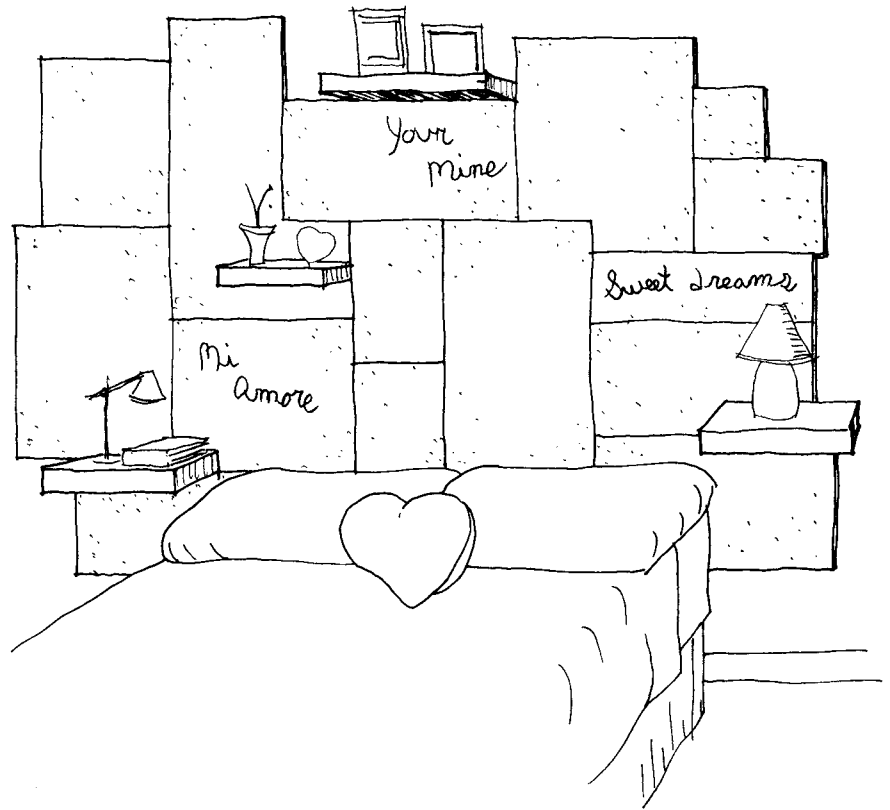
when mineral oil is applied to it. The oil is used not only to give the stone that almost-black semi-gloss color but also to seal it, as soapstone is porous material and will stain without the sealer. Old laundry soapstone basins make for great, unique sinks, and soapstone pieces work well for counters and backsplashes because they are easy to cut. Soapstone has great minimalist look and feels like butter under your touch.

CULTURED STONE

For homeowners and designers who want the look of natural stone but need to save money, cultured stone is a good option. A mix of aggregates, dyes, and lightweight cement, it looks a lot like natural stone but is usually

◀ Using salvaged pieces of soapstone, the homeowners of this home saved thousands of dollars and got the same clean look that full-piece counters provide.

▼ A bedroom can get cluttered with lots of things—bureaus, end tables, and everyday items. Large master closets help to store these needed items and keep bedroom simple and uncluttered. This illustration shows a way to keep it not only simple but also fun. Salvaged pieces of chalkboard (or another similar material) with some built-in salvaged-wood shelving is just enough for a reading light and book and maybe a message or two. Illustration by Cliff Deetjen.



A STRIKING HOW-TO GUIDE AND FOUR-COLOR VISUAL TOUR PRESENTING DESIGN POSSIBILITIES USING A RANGE OF SALVAGED MATERIALS.

Sustainability and conservation are buzzwords in the construction and renovation of homes today. It's therefore no surprise that "salvage design"—reusing old building materials and other types of recycled goods—is becoming a popular practice, both for its environmentally friendly functionality and for its unique design aesthetic. Here is an inspiring, practical guide that is also a striking visual tour of the full range of interior design possibilities incorporating salvaged materials. From using recycled wood as vintage flooring or accent beams to reclaiming stone as a kitchen island or fitting salvaged tiles into a bathroom backsplash, the book covers a range of materials and design concepts for different rooms. Technical information is supplied about what to keep in mind (size, shape, color, structural needs, etc.), how to use the salvaged materials most effectively, and where to go to find them.

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MARKETING AND PUBLICITY

- ❖ Print features
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