



Architect Leo J. Blackman's *Waste Not rocker* and *Want Not side table* are made from a new recycled plastic material.

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WITH ITS PEPPY, CONFETTI-LIKE INGREDIENTS, the new recycled plastic material developed by Yemm & Hart Green Materials of Marquand, Missouri, promises to do for furniture, interior, and industrial designers what those tiny flecks of fiber in recycled papers did for their colleagues in graphic design: assuage the collective conscience of an environmentally correct generation in a visually appealing way.

Made up of ground and melted postconsumer high-density polyethylene—commonly used for milk jugs and plastic soda bottles—the material is available from Yemm & Hart in half-inch-thick panels four feet by eight feet long and has myriad indoor and outdoor applications. For the traveling student design exhibition *"Mondo Materialis: An Invitation to the Future,"* for example—developed by The Steelcase Design Partnership for Metro (and scheduled to open at New York City's Parsons School of Design in January)—the recycled material was used to construct a batch of some 50 pedestal tables showcasing the entries.

New York City-based architect Leo J. Blackman has employed the material in a number of projects, most recently for the reception-area countertop in the new offices of the People With AIDS Health Group in New York. Similar to synthetic marbles—such as Du Pont's Corian—the panels can be cut with conventional woodworking equipment. Because of its strength and durability, Blackman has also used it for his *Waste Not rocker* and *Want Not side table*, components in the designer's Eco-Logic line of furnishings.

From a distance, the material looks like an unusually colorful slab of granite. Since the addition of dyes raises the melting point of plastic, the clear components break down the fastest, forming a matrix in which the still-cohesive neon-bright chips—as well as the occasional bit of packaging—are encased. Up close, the material more resembles a swirling tornado of paint drops frozen in ice—with part of a bar code or sometimes even words like "non-carbonated" visible.

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