

# GREEN SPACE

## Rooms with a view to the future

Sustainability is the focus of an industry design exhibition, writes **Chris Maher**.

THIS week, designers from all over Australia are coming to Darling Harbour for the Decoration + Design exhibition. This year's focus is Sustainable Style – and while the event isn't open to public, the ideas on show will influence how we live in the future.

Sustainable Style is a showcase of six "rooms" set up to highlight ways in which designers, architects, builders and home owners can incorporate green ideas into homes and furnishings.

The chic, eco-friendly installations have been created by leading environistas of the Australian design scene using at least 75 per cent sustainable, recycled or recyclable products.

Veterans of environmental design Jan O'Connor and Tone Wheeler of Environa Studio have created a space that considers the home's place in future urban environments.

"We're working with what we call the Third Wave of sustainability," says O'Connor. "That is, compacting your life. People are already thinking about electricity and water and the next step of sustainability – the Third Wave – is to see how the changes you make affect the environment and how the changes in the environment can affect you."

O'Connor's and Wheeler's installation, the Micro Maisonette, is a prototype of future flexible living. O'Connor says the apartment is a response to the trend of ever-increasing home sizes in Australia and other western economies.

"Houses are getting bigger with all these rooms that people have to make up names for," she says. "The Micro Maisonette is a reaction to that."

Mackenzie Pronk Architects collaborated with Steensen Varming Australia (the

engineering consultancy that designed the Sydney Opera House with Jorn Utzon) to come up with an installation called Nest (above). Heidi Pronk sees it as a window into a sustainable future where the re-use of resources will become the norm when creating homes and furnishings.

It is a contemplative space, an Australian-style Japanese courtyard framed by a recycled oregon timber window seat and wall frame. It features a variety

of recycled materials readily available to Sydneysiders.

For example, the pebble used in the karesansui-inspired Japanese dry garden is actually recycled concrete from the St Peters site of Dial A Dump, where they are conserving landfill space while making a profit by turning building waste into useable material.

The recycled oregon is sourced locally from Ironwood in Rozelle, treated with Livos, an organic linseed, non-toxic

transparent wood stain from the Natural Paint Place in Newtown, where they also bought Bio citrus wall paints that are safe for children and pregnant women because they don't give off fumes.

The plywood is Eco-ply from Mr Plywood, and is free from volatile organic compounds such as formaldehyde.

Other designers at the show include Hub Furniture, Hannah Tribe, Arthur Koutoulas and Marcus Trimble.

