

# Working together TO GO GREEN

An eco lifestyle can still be fashionable



Elissa Scott

Not only is it enthusiastic to be Gung Ho about green, but I've learned in my Chinese mandarin class that the term Gung Ho actually means 'to work together'.

It is a great approach to green living, as working together for environmentally sound practices

benefits us as a global whole. I caught up with a few businesses in the design world that are living and breathing this eco lifestyle.

### Cold and creative

The first one is the ultra-funky Pulse Furniture out of Winnipeg, the unofficial furniture capital of Canada.

Since the weather gets awfully chilly in Winnipeg, folks seem to take refuge hibernating indoors, re-emerging enormously creative. This sophisticated city and arts mecca, produces a great deal of Canada's talent when it comes to artists, dancers, actors, musicians and designers. I met with founder and president Jeff

Golfman, who filled me in on Pulse's eco-policy.

"We manufacture in Winnipeg, which is geographically the centre of North America and we use as many local suppliers and Canadian made components as possible.

### Working on being greener

"This calls for less packaging, reduced transportation, and fewer fossil fuels, thereby lowering Green House Gas emissions. This makes Mother Nature happy," said Golfman.

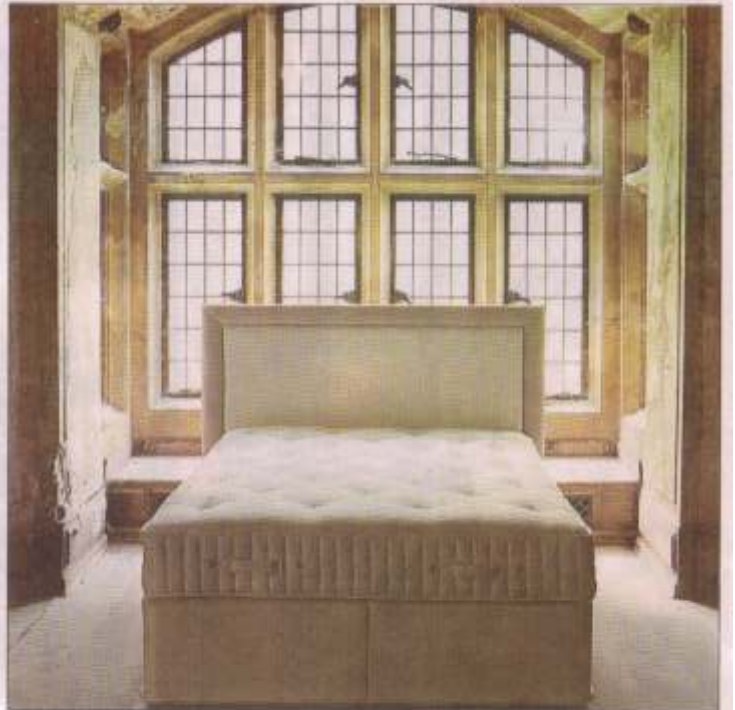
"Our frames are made one mile from our assembly plant which is good for our economy, our neighbours and for our planet."

In saying that, dollars stay in the community, boosting Canadian economy, rather than spending it overseas.

My favourite green piece from Pulse is a furniture fabric made from recycled leather. Many other furniture manufacturers around the world use the main body of a hide, but a cow also has four legs, a head and a tail.

These scraps from the leather industry are mixed with PVCs to make a durable, wipeable leather-looking surface for a third of the price.

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Hypnos all natural beds are great for people with allergies and are also friendly to the environment.

Live Like a King

## Green living from a design point of view

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It works great with kids and pets and is available in 30 colours to fit any decor scheme.

Which is the lesser of two evils, animal or petrol products? "Leather lasts the longest," Golfman believes. "If it stays out of the landfill and lasts a lifetime, it is more enviro-friendly."

If a couch lasts twenty years, it will have seven times less impact on the planet than a couch that lasts three years.

This decreases the amount of fabric, wood, glue, shipping and landfill use, plus saving time on shopping. Think of the money saved to spend on more useful things like education and health.

Pulse's other environmental practices include furniture frames made from local birch hardwood, commercial grade foam, recycled fabrics, and a lifetime warranty.

The low-tech factory employs skilled

artisans, where furniture is handmade, rather than by an assembly line.

As for furniture trends, multi-functional, bench seating, sectionals and back to basics seem to be the movement.

"Most popular colours are the solids in browns, blacks and neutrals, with white leather being super hot right now," said Golfman. Pulse's client list includes the Mirage Hotel and Treasure Island in Las Vegas, and is available at F2 in South Common.

My other enviro treasure discovery is the healthy, eco-friendly mattresses, hand manufactured locally in Edmonton. I even toured the factory!

Hypnos all natural

beds are made from cotton, wool, silk, cashmere and white hair. ('White hair' is an age-old furniture product that is nature's memory foam, made from cow tail and oxtail spun hairs.)

What makes these mattresses environmentally sound? The natural materials are biodegradable, the beds don't contain harmful glues and there is no off-gassing as would petrol products.

This is a great bed for anyone with

allergies, sensitivities or wanting to make greener choices... even the queen sleeps on one!

Hypnos' new line boasts a mattress covered in a bamboo fiber fabric. Hypnos is available at Rogers Sleep Shop and Straightline Furniture in Spruce Grove.

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