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-KAREN KALMEK,
GREEN HOME CHICAGO



< enlightened design

As a student in the 1980s, Mark Miller was fascinated by the conservation techniques that were just beginning to surface in the architectural realm. “Learning about such breakthrough methods as passive solar design led me to pursue a career in this field,” says Miller, founder of Chicago’s Zen Plus Architecture. Specializing in ecologically conscious design, Miller maintains a distinct connection with nature. For the featured Beecher home, which Miller classifies as “über-contemporary,” the architect enlisted materials like aluminum and bamboo, as well as an energy-saving geothermal heating and cooling system. zenplusarchitecture.com

^ GOING GREEN

When Karen Kalmek launched Green Home Chicago in 2008, she had an ardent vision derived from her passion for the environment. “I like to support local artisans, small businesses and companies that cleverly implement salvaged materials,” notes Kalmek. “Buying local and sustainable products promotes our economy while keeping waste out of landfills and waterways.” Host to an expansive register of eco-chic products like recycled countertops from Gilasi and organic fabrics by O Ecotextiles, Green Home Chicago truly embraces responsible design. ghcdesigncenter.com

MATERIAL MINDED >

Established on the utilization of discarded materials that remained from mass furniture production in Indonesia, Selamat Designs continues to fabricate eco-friendly furnishings that are made to last. The Soren sideboard, shown here in teak with a gray finish, pairs classic mitered joinery with midcentury-style boomerang legs and is just one component of the San Francisco company’s latest collection. Other pieces include a complementary dining set, lounge chair and occasional tables—both coffee and side—that are also available in white. selamatdesigns.com



ZEN PLUS ARCHITECTURE PHOTO: SCOTT SHIGLEY. SELAMAT DESIGNS PHOTO: COURTESY SELAMAT DESIGNS.