



# greenspace

BY AMY ELBERT PHOTOGRAPHY BY GORDON BEALL PRODUCED BY ELLEN A. BEYMER

**1** taupe pillows are linen, a sustainable fabric (bellastudiohome.com). Twin mattress is made with natural latex, chemical-free California wool, plant-based batting, and organic cotton fabric (organicmattressfactory.com).

**2** beadboard certified as sustainable by the Forest Stewardship Council has a crackle finish created with zero-VOC paint (farrow-ball.com) and a milk-protein-based top coat (milkpaint.com).

## COZY quarters

**A CHARMING GUEST ROOM PROVES GOOD THINGS CAN COME IN SMALL PACKAGES**  
Small trumps big nearly every time for Virginia designer Annette Hannon. "I don't like overly huge homes. There is so much wasted space and wasted energy," she says. Intimate rooms foster comfort and invite a bit of magic as well, she adds. "Since I was very young, the idea of built-in alcoves and train sleeping berths and other cozy spaces intrigued me. I guess some of us never grow up."  
Naturally, when the Washington, D.C.-area designer was asked to create a room in the CharityWorks ▶

**3** wood floors are softened with a handwoven wool rug from Tufenkian, which donates more than \$1 million each year to social justice programs in Nepal and Armenia (tufenkiancarpets.com).

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Annette Hanson



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**cotton pillows**  
and bed coverlet are hand-embroidered (ankusa.com).  
Curtains and tiebacks (pollackassociates.com) and the Roman shade (cowtan.com) are linen, which is a rapidly renewable resource.



5

**braid trim** conceals the staples securing Elizabeth Eakins handwoven cotton fabric (elizabetheakins.com) to the upper half of the wall. The trim is from Samuel & Sons (samuelandsons.com).

GreenHouse in McLean, Virginia, she chose the smallest living area in the house, a second-floor bedroom that was only 115 square feet in size.

Drawing on her childhood fantasies, Annette designed a charming alcove for a twin bed. Shelves on either side of the bed and drawers underneath it maximize storage space and provide a pleasing symmetry.

In keeping with the environmentally responsible mission of the house, the alcove was built with birch certified as sustainable by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC). Annette designed the FSC-certified beadboard wainscoting and upholstered the upper portion of the walls with a handwoven, hand-printed cotton fabric. The fabric's neutral background color and large-scale pattern visually enlarge the room, Annette >

WORTH REPEATING

Samarkand-inspired rugs made entirely with recycled wool salvaged from early Central Asian kilims are available in a variety of colors and designs from the Doris Leslie Blau Gallery in New York City. The wool is woven onto new foundations; rugs start at \$5,500 (dorisleslieblau.com).



A PLASTIC BAG TAKES 1,000 YEARS TO DECOMPOSE. SO SHOP WITH REUSABLE BAGS



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**6** an antique secretary provides work and storage space in the small guest room. Using antiques is eco-responsible because no new resources are consumed to produce the furniture.

says. "The design ebbs and flows. It creates a cozy space without being overwhelming." A decorative painter created crackle finishes on the wainscoting and wood trim with a low-VOC Farrow & Ball base coat topped with a traditionally produced milk paint.

The mattress was manufactured in nearby Norfolk, Virginia, using organic cotton damask, plant-based fiber batting, and rubber-based foam. Bedding and window treatments are cotton; linen fabrics are colored with natural vegetable dyes.

An antique Swedish secretary with a drop-down writing surface provides a convenient work area and additional drawer space.

In the nearby guest bath, Annette chose a vanity made of formaldehyde-free FSC-certified wood finished with a low-VOC paint. The CaesarStone quartz countertop is non-porous to prevent ▶



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HOLIDAY 2010 / MELISSA TABLE

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Right: The white-and-ivory master bedroom—which looks as if it's been covered with a blanket of fresh snow—is injected with moments of red to suggest the festive season. A Styrofoam ball covered in red carnations rests on a white-painted bedside table. To reinforce the holiday theme, a wrapped package rests between the legs of the side chair. Tess, a Yorkshire terrier, enhances the home's Christmas cheer with a jaunty red ribbon. Top left: Architectural paper lanterns lit by votives illuminate and decorate the stair risers. "I use them all year," explains Gregory. "They make great centerpieces on tables or garden lanterns in the summer."

Left: Even the marble bust gets a holiday crown. Above: Greenery and red bows at Beacon Hill windows are just enough decoration to transform the area into a neighborhood that's charmingly in the Christmas spirit.

designer cleverly eliminated the need for chairs on one side of the table, instead installing a chic banquette upholstered in putty-colored linen. Across the table and at each end are white-painted dining chairs. Their design, inspired by antiques Gregory spotted during a trip to Paris, was executed by a Boston-area cabinetmaker. Gregory then introduced a playful touch—hand-painted numbers on the top of each chair—and upholstered their seats and backs in white silk.

By the time he finishes his holiday decorating, the home is ready for the 12th year of his and David's annual open house and Christmas party.

"People who attend our party love it, because they never decorate to the extent that I do," explains Gregory. "There's something magical about their joyous attitudes and sparkle." ■

For more information, see sources on page 110