

# Chicago Tribune Magazine

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## RENOVATE!

**The  
best medicine  
for your  
ailing home**



**Bathrooms: a new, thin look**

**Fixit guru Eric Stromer's  
12 favorite things**

**Diary of a landmark renovation**







Designer Jessica LaGrange created a "green" kitchen for the Merchandise Mart's DreamHome showhouse.

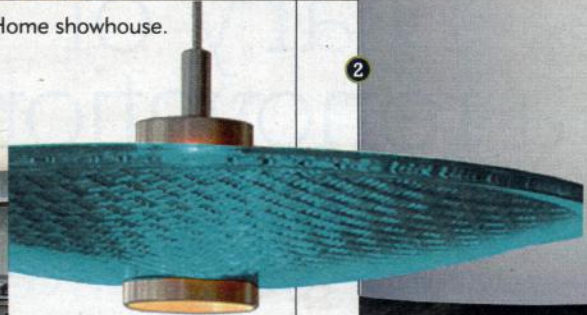
# Cooking green

THE BUILDING BLOCKS OF A SUSTAINABLE KITCHEN

**Designer Jessica LaGrange** wasn't up on environmentally friendly "green" design before she met Jill Salisbury, founder and chief designer of el: Environmental Language furniture in Chicago. Once informed, she planned a "glamorous green look" for the Mart's DreamHome showhouse kitchen, choosing el's locally sourced, sustainable walnut cabinetry. Salisbury suggested a horizontal inlay of tagua nut (an inedible nut from Ecuador that looks like ivory) for the shelf faces. LaGrange suggested a walnut slab for the island top, prompting Salisbury to tap Bruce Horigan of Horigan Urban Forest Products. He sourced the richly grained black walnut slab from an old Washington Park tree felled in a recent storm. Next, a toxin-free finish was applied to the wood, a resin countertop of recycled material was installed, and a PVC-free wallcovering of Thai abaca, a fast-growing hemp, was applied to the walls. — *Lisa Cregan*



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## Good bets for the eco-chic

- 1) **Habitus** cork mosaic tiles, made of the remnants of bottle stoppers, are waterproof and install like ceramic tile.
- 2) **Bosch** Evolution dishwasher reduces energy usage up to 25 percent.
- 3) **Greenlight Concepts** pendant lamp is made from old traffic lights that were being thrown into landfills.
- 4) Place aluminum cans and plastic bottles into the top of the **Ecopod** and step on the foot pedal to store 50 or more containers at once.
- 5) **Durat** makes sustainable sinks from 50 percent recycled material.
- 6) The **Viking Professional Series** Induction/Radiant Rangetop harnesses magnetic energy to heat the pots while the stovetop actually stays cool. It's twice as energy efficient as an electric stove.

—For Resources, see page 34.