

Practicing Sustainable Design

UC Davis students in the Sustainable Design studio course repurpose campus post-consumer waste and create saleable products.

Client:

UC Davis Facilities Management
Director Sal Genito

Background:

UC Davis Facilities Management already has created a successful Campus Grown Program that turns its olives into olive oil, its tomatoes into tomato sauce, and its wood into hand-crafted bowls.

Challenge:

Collect UC Davis campus waste and use to create unique and attractive new products.

Results:

UC Davis Design majors collected campus post-consumer waste and used it to create unique and attractive new products. These products will be sold in the new campus bookstore. The students proved that ‘waste’ materials can be upcycled into new products that raise money for the campus.



What happens when talented students design products using campus waste? That was the challenge given to Professor Ann Savageau’s Sustainable Design class. Students were asked to find new uses for discarded post consumer waste, and their efforts turned “trash” into “treasures”. The students proved that there is no such thing as “waste”, and that virtually everything can and should be designed for reuse.



Christina Johnson and Aman Khangura made their planter entirely from campus waste: bed slats, plastic lab dishes, and pipettes. They wrote, “This project has taught us that you can transform “trash” into products that look new. This concept is important to us as designers because appearance makes a big impact.”



Karly Plarisan created an entryway wall organizer from a wooden library box. Karly wrote. “This has taught me to be more creative to find new uses for objects. Materials can have uses besides their original purpose, so it is up to me as a designer to figure out other purposes.”



Victoria Wong and Arleen Fung made their table entirely from campus waste: wood, Plexiglas and CD’s, which they cut into rectangles. Victoria and Arleen wrote that “there are a lot of abandoned materials that could be harvested and used to make great products. The final product was more beautiful than we had imagined.”

CREDITS:

Barbara Molloy, Photography
Roque Montez, Design consultant

CONTACT:

Ann Savageau, M.F.A.
aesavageau@ucdavis.edu
(530) 752-4817
design.ucdavis.edu