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Plus: Tough Timber - converting a century-old barn

Seven Seeds Breathe

Another beauty from Breathe Architects. A city warehouse that's been converted to a coffee roastery and cafe, Seven Seeds, won the Victorian Institute of Architects award for sustainable design. Fulfilling the client's brief "to provide a stimulating environment that showcases a transparent relationship from farm to cup", the place seems to embody the idea of transparency. Exposed, revealed and raw, the materials used have been re-used and left unembellished to enhance the feeling of open, honest methods. The open plan kitchen, see-through rainwater tanks, laboratory and hydroponic garden full of coffee bean plants, inform and educate, "prompting us to rethink our relationship to both food and the environment". How many people know what a coffee bean

plant looks like? The covert, or additional, side to these exposed aspects is the inbuilt effect they have on the building's function. Plants and walls of water benefit the internal climate, opening and closing windows can sneakily cool everything down or keep everything snug without your even noticing. The design incorporates a bike rack – putting their space where their mouth is – by accommodating and supporting the use of alternative transport. This ripper of a hidden-away cafe was chosen for the award as a perfect model of how sustainability issues are best considered as complex interconnected systems, which have cultural technological, economic and educational implications.

www.breathe.com.au
www.sevenseeds.com.au



Oak Finishes

Using imported French oak, the former Mildara Winery in Mildura built vats on site to age their wines in. The vats were decommissioned several years ago, and David and Tamara Gorrie, from The Brown Dog Furniture Company got their hands on them. Their range of tables not only highlight the lovely oak grain, but the red wine that has been absorbed over time.

www.browndogfurniture.com



Negative

This chair is made from wood (plantation radiata pine and ply), but it's not hard or rigid. That's why it's called the NEGATIVE. It's not what it looks like. Designer Elliot Bastianon has connected each slat to the frame by Formica and nylon thread, so it is flexible, and follows the shape of you.

www.n-s-d.com.au

