My Country

by Sarah Richardson - Design Live at IDS08

When the design teams (Brian Gluckstein, The Designer Guys, Lynda Reeves and I) first started brainstorming about the concept for the **Design Live** feature spaces we developed a list of 10 elements which would represent the collective values of our installations and reflect both backwards on the 10 years since this show was started, and also forward to the next 10 years. These "elements for the future" are: Culture * Aspiration * Collaboration * Entertainment * Environment * Technology * Flexibility * Sustainability * Timelessness * Retreat. When I look to the future and think about the fast pace of our lives I see the importance of retreat space (a place to get away from the hectic daily demands, soak in the beauty of our natural countryside and enjoy the restorative qualities of a calm, and quiet environment). I am very fortunate and spend my summers living off the grid at a solar powered cottage on an island and know just how beneficial it is to unplug and connect with the simpler side of life. As I started to conceptual my space I immediately zoned in on sustainability. A tremendous investment of time, effort, creativity and resources is needed to pull together a wonderful show like IDS. After watching so many beautiful spaces come together over a period of four long days I couldn't bear the thought that so much of the show will find it's final resting place at landfill sites when the show closes, so I committed myself to creating a "zero footprint" installation which will leave no garbage when the show closes. Every aspect of my installation has been designed to be reused and repurposed, and has been built in a modular fashion that allows flexibility for the future. In order to achieve my goal I also wanted to celebrate some of the wonderful resources we have here in Canada and tried to ensure that the vast majority of the contents of the booth are designed and made in Canada. Here is a sampling of the proudly Canadian products which are the cornerstone of my installation:

- The tents are made by the Inuit 200km North of the Arctic Circle in the Northwest Territories. They are 100% cotton, water-resistant, mildew-resistant, fire retardant and capable of sustaining the Canadian Climate
- The timbers and flooring (Eastern White Cedar) are horse-drawn lumber from a small family-run sawmill near Peterborough
- The Pacific Energy woodstoves are EPA approved and come from Duncan, BC
- The windows and doors are solid pine manufactured in Quebec
- The beautiful soaker tub may look European in influence but it too is made by our neighbours in La Belle Province, Quebeec
- The toilet is a composting toilet with the lowest water consumption in the world (as little as 0.2 litres per flush
- The outdoor shower and bathroom faucets are proudly made right here in Toronto, as is all
 of my upholstered furniture
- The thirsty towels in the bathroom come from the only remaining Canadian towel manufacturer
- The bright and happy works of art, including the moose head, are the works of talented local artists

As you tour the show and see all that the wonderful world of design has to offer I hope you feel inspired with ideas for your own home, and proud of the design community we have created in

Canada. Thank you for visiting My Country.

Sarah

Please visit **sarahrichardsondesign.com** for more information on my indoor and outdoor furniture collections Watch for a new season of **Sarah's House** Fall 2008 on HGTV!

SOURCES:

All areas

FIELDSTONE WINDOWS – windows and doors

FORT MCPHERSON TENTS - tents

PACIFIC ENERGY – woodstoves

BILBROUGH AND CO. - all fabrics

INDIGO – all books

EARTHWORK – floral design

DREAMS – all bedding, sheets, pillow inserts

SARAH RICHARDSON DESIGN – all upholstered furniture and outdoor seating

DUFFY AND ASSOCIATES – construction and installation

Living room

EUROLITE – pendants + tricolour floor lamp

DECORUM - tri-circle side table, pine dining table,

ABSOLUTELY – throw, chrome floor lamp, magnifying glass, art glass vase, CANVAS GALLERY – paintings by Sharon Barr, Rory O'Kelly and Meredith

Bingham

MIKE ADAMSON – painting on end wall

CONSTANTINE – green side table and green throw

PACIFIC ENERGY - woodstove

RITCHIE'S – semi-antique carpet purchased at auction

L'ATELIER – nesting tables, orange lacquer boxes, lotus flower votives, root table

INDIGO - all books

KLAUS BY NIENKAMPER – tractor stool, square log accent cubes/tables QUUEN WEST ANTIQUES – vintage Mies Brno chairs

Bathroom

CAESARSTONE/CIOT – green counter and shower panel

ADANAC GLASS – back painted glass wall panels

RUBINET - outdoor shower, "Ice" tub filler, faucet + accessories

CAML-TOMLIN – "Passion" bathtub

ENVIROLET – Nano flush toilet

ABRAHAM'S ANTIQUES - carved mirror frame

CAMBRIDGE TOWEL – bath towels

MIKE ADAMSON - painting

L'ATELIER – carved white stool

ABSOLUTELY – pendant lights

Bedroom

KLAUS BY NIENKAMPER - moose head, red chair

L'ATELIER – horn stool, Asian stool

ABSOLUTELY - bedside tables (both levels), all table lamps, blanket,

chandelier

CONSTANTINE – hammered silver table

DECORUM – zodiac globe, coat tree

CANVAS GALLERY – artwork

CHAIR, TABLE, LAMP - pine dresser