

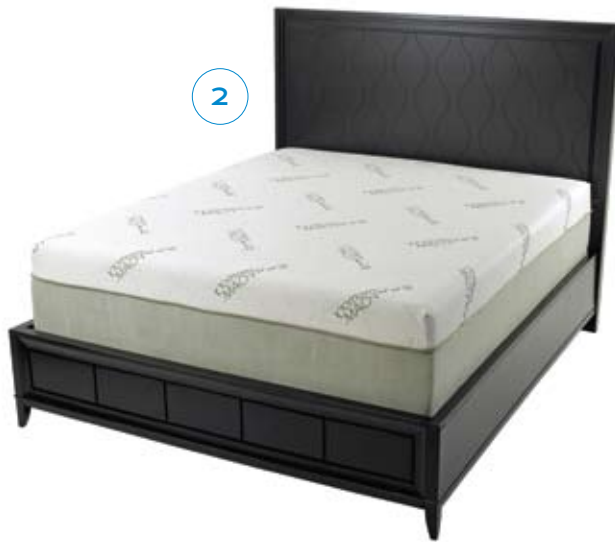
Think Green

Eco news for the modern world

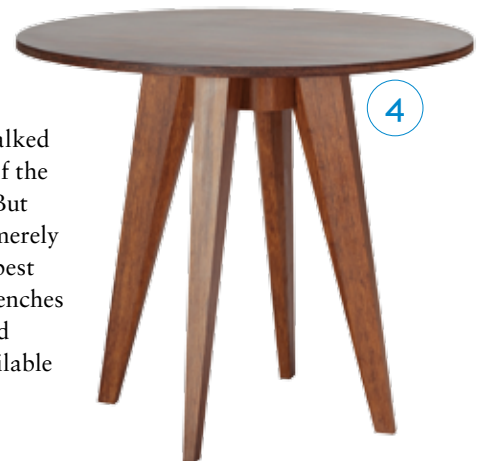
1 SHAKE IT UP The Republic of Tequila has just introduced all-natural, preservative-free fruit blends that will put good taste back in your favorite cocktails. Spirit Blend mixes are made from fresh fruit and organic agave nectar and make it oh-so-easy for you to dream up your own signature margarita that's good for you, too. Yummy flavors such as prickly pear, lime, jalapeño lime and pineapple basil hit the spot also when mixed with rum, bourbon, wine, champagne—or just plain water. \$9.95, at Avery Fine Wine & Spirits, Cedar Valley Spirits, Davenport Wine & Spirits, Lake Travis Liquor, Spec's, Wiggy's and Twin Liquors; republictequila.com.



2 SLEEP TIGHT In case you had forgotten, memory foam is the hottest thing in mattresses right now. In fact, that can be too much of a good thing. One of the big complaints about this product is that it sleeps “hot.” That means that the products (usually petroleum-based) used to make memory foam don't let your body breathe. Nest is now carrying Anatomic Global's EComfort mattress, which dissipates heat nine times faster than other memory-foam mattresses, thanks to an open-cell surface that resists heat retention. The eco-friendly mattress is covered by a bamboo and spandex fabric cover that is hypoallergenic and antimicrobial, a big relief to those of us who stay awake worrying about germs. Prices start at \$1,399 for queen size. Nest, 1009 West 6th St., 637-0600; nest-modern.com.



3 FILL IN THE DOTS Where most people resort to using pebbles to anchor their flowers in vases, Amy Mosier saw a way to embellish on the mundane and to do it with recycled plastic. Deco-Dots are her solution, and they are versatile. In a vase, these tiny colored dots provide a stable and bright medium to anchor flowers. Coordinate with the flowers' color for an eye-popping arrangement. Or use dry as a base for a centerpiece. The dots range in color from Chocolate Chip (they kind of look like them, too) to Lemon Drop to Very Violet. You can reuse, too: Each can comes with a filter bag so that you can rinse off the dots, let dry and use again. Deco-Dots are made from 100 percent recycled plastic bags and other items. Prices start at \$12.95. deco-dots.com.



4 STEP ON IT Fast-growing bamboo gets a bad rap as an ineradicable nuisance in the garden, but hardness is what has made this member of the grass family the darling of environmentalists. Even so, bamboo still gets walked all over—it is the perfect flooring, thanks to its strength and the fact that it is one of the world's fastest growing plants. Forests can be replenished in fewer than five years. But what's good has also been a negative, because bamboo furniture has often looked merely functional. Now there's a company offering stylish bamboo pieces, made with the best quality natural bamboo available. Greenington offers a full line of tables, chairs, benches and bedroom sets, including beds, nightstands, and dressers, plus wine cabinets and stools. Besides being super durable, these pieces are stylishly designed and now available at Wildflower Organics, 908 N. Lamar, 320-0449; wildflowerorganics.com.