



MADE OF WASTE

Design: Fuel

MADE OF WASTE
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MADE OF WASTE Agency for recycled materials

WASTE AS A RESOURCE

In today's world there is a growing awareness of the urgent problem of waste. For example, in Europe there is an average of over 300kg of domestic rubbish generated per person every year. Much of this waste is packaging material - metal, paper, glass and plastic. After use it is thrown into our dustbins and transported, often at great expense, to increasingly scarce landfill sites or incinerated. But a growing proportion is sorted and recycled. As a result, new materials are being devised and fabricated.

MADE OF WASTE is committed to sourcing and developing innovative ideas and markets for recycled materials.

Reprocessing waste will positively contribute to protecting our environment and help reduce the exhaustion of the earth's limited resources. Architects, designers and manufacturers have a vital part to play in devising uses for these new recycled materials.

NEW LIFE FOR PLASTIC BOTTLES

MADE OF WASTE's first product range is a multi-coloured sheet material made from discarded plastic bottles in a factory near London. Originally containing shampoo, detergent or milk, they have been collected, sorted, flaked and thoroughly washed to remove any remaining contaminants. By a process of heat and pressure, the flakes are compressed into sheets which retain the colours of the original bottles and fragments of printing can be seen. Though only accounting for 3% of domestic solid waste, hundreds of millions of bottles of high density polyethylene are collected in Europe via community recycling schemes every year.

The recycled plastics combine a strong environmental message with an evocative and distinct aesthetic, linked to the processing of post-consumer plastic waste.

The range is diverse, varying from completely opaque with a characteristic blended or spotted effect to a translucent marble appearance with swirls or streaks of colour. New effects and colours are being researched. The possibility of sorting the bottles into separate colours before processing is currently being considered. This will enable sheets of specific and customised colours to be made on large orders.

A VERSATILE AND EASILY-WORKED MATERIAL

Sheets measure 3050 x 1220mm (10' x 4') and are available in a variety of random colours and thicknesses up to 10cm.

Manufacture is to a high dimensional accuracy. The solid multi-coloured core requires no edging and surface finishing is not needed.

The recycled plastic is tough without being brittle, resilient, resistant to water and decay, warm to the touch and insulating.

Conventional woodworking techniques can be used, including sawing, drilling, routing and planing using power or hand tools.

Most types of fastenings are possible, from nails and screws to clips and rivets. The flexibility of the material can be exploited using snap fit fastenings.

Sheets can be edge welded using plastic welding methods. Heat forming is possible, not only two dimensionally, but also into a wide range of three dimensional shapes.

Technical data and prices on request.
Design consultancy services available.