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FROM MOTHER EARTH

Tucson-based Clay Mine Adobe Inc. is creating eco-friendly adobe building bricks and also specialty wall finishes out of clay mined on 100 acres of Bureau of Land Management land. Respecting the landscape by not scarring it is one part of the firm's green equation, according to company owner Eric Johnson. Unlike other mining operations, he says, "We dig only 4 feet deep, and what you see when we finish digging gets overgrown as we go."



Photography by Daniel Snyder

Derived from natural clay—a sustainable source—the products are made without toxic materials that can harm people or the environment, Johnson says. Interior and exterior walls built of the cement-stabilized adobe bricks are energy-efficient and erosion-resistant, he adds.

Available in 17 standard colors and custom hues, the clay plaster finishes likewise are used for both interior and exterior applications. Highly durable and textural-looking, these finishes can be applied to multiple surfaces, including adobe bricks, drywall, concrete, regular bricks and foam blocks, Johnson notes. For details, call (520) 578-2222, or visit claymineadobe.com.

DIDJA KNOW?

Electronic waste such as old computer-related equipment and cell phones can be recycled. For details, visit earth911.com. —U.S. Environmental Protection Agency



GREEN TO THE MAX

Go doubly green with this luxuriously tufted leather-covered sofa. The cushy piece was crafted by Cisco Brothers, a Los Angeles furniture manufacturer known for its eco-conscious processes. The company builds its sofa frames with Forest Stewardship Council-certified wood and uses only water-based glues and eco-friendly fabrics. The sofa pictured is covered in EcoHides™ leather from Danfield Inc. This firm, also in the L.A. area, uses nontoxic natural extract from farm-grown mimosa trees in its tanning process, and natural vegetable dyes and waxes to create the leather's soft-to-the-touch hand. For information on showrooms and other details, contact Cisco Brothers at (323) 778-8612, or ciscobrothers.com; and Danfield Inc.

at (323) 722-5500, or danfieldinc.com.

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