

RACKING TRENDS: TWO HOMES THAT INSPIRE

# AT HOME

StLouis

GREAT  
GARDEN  
Tips, Tools  
& Tricks



MAR/APR 2012 \$4.99  
DISPLAY UNTIL APR 30, 2012  
039  
0 73361 97669 1

ASID *Inspired* DESIGN

## Sustainability

Green design provides an environmentally healthier home for you and your family, while being cost-effective, as well.



PHOTO BY ANNE MATHES

Interior designer Diane Rosen, Allied Member ASID, remembers the days when she would play games with her children on the carpet. It never occurred to her that the flooring could be releasing formaldehyde and toxins now shown to contribute to asthma and other health problems.

Years later, Rosen now specializes in green design, selecting products for her clients that not only reduce the carbon footprint but also create a healthier indoor environment.

"I developed an interest in sustainable design several years back when I started doing renovations of older, urban homes," says Rosen. "To bring these homes up to code, it was necessary to get rid of lead paint and properly dispose of asbestos. The more I read about it, the more I found that we were putting our health in danger with the chemicals in our homes."

Paint, carpet, fabric, glues, and finishes are the top culprits Rosen sees in homes—both old and new.

"You can actually create your own ozone level in your home" she says. "In some specific cases where the sun continually hits the carpet in the same space daily, and the conditions are right, you can actually see a small vapor cloud rising just above the carpet; that is a miniscule version of what we are doing to our planet."

The good news is that there are many eco-friendly options available throughout the St. Louis area, including the big-box stores. Rosen encourages clients to select paint with low or no volatile organic compounds (VOCs); recycled carpet with the Green Label logo; and furnishings and fabrics recommended by the Sustainable Furnishings Council. For more information and local resources, go online to [dianeroseninteriors.com](http://dianeroseninteriors.com).