



Triangulo Guajuvira
engineered Brazilian
hardwood from
Divine Flooring

Walking the (green) plank

Why choosing eco-flooring is the wise choice

■ By Jackie Morra

When choosing new hardwood flooring, it is important to take into consideration how it impacts both the environment and you personally. A homeowner doesn't change flooring that often, three, maybe four times on average in a lifetime. It is a large investment that affects the continuity of all areas of your home, so make an educated decision that benefits your health, pocketbook, and your planet. Just remember that what makes flooring ecologically responsible is not just the materials used within the product itself, but the manufacturing and its installation as well.

Making eco-friendly choices are now, more than ever, affordable and on the leading edge of style and design. There are amazing new natural patterns that can be the focal point of any space while not compromising functionality. Dark woods >>



A HARO Engineered Beech Steamed Maritim from Divine Hardwood Flooring.

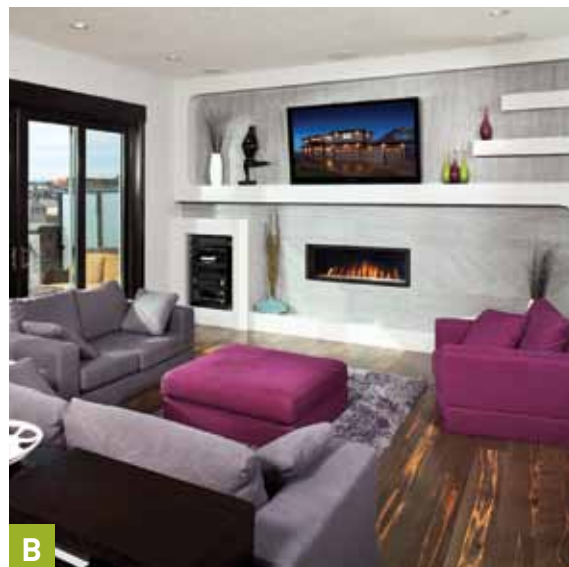
B African Mahogany Bronze Photo courtesy of Mirage Hardwood.

have been quite popular and we are now seeing a trend towards lighter and mixed wood tones that are easier to maintain.

One product that is a great example of the benefits of environmentally friendly manufacturing and style is the Beech Maritim by HARO Flooring. Like every product made by HARO, a leader in eco-production, this floor is produced with 100 per cent Forest Stewardship Council (FSC)-certified material, which guarantees the source of raw material is sustainable and produced using the best environmental practises. Its core is made of a local spruce that grows rapidly. Haro also does not use any solvent in their production. The mixed colour flooring is stunning in any space whether contemporary or traditional and is very low-maintenance.

Another hardwood that has an interesting look is African Mahogany manufactured by Mirage Hardwood in its exotic series with unique grains and striking color variations.

The bronze is a deep brown with soft tones of sand and earth that creates a Zen feel. Mirage is a manufacturer that has been committed to operating in an environmentally responsible manner in order to ensure sustainable development for current and future generations. They use glueless engineered floors with a core from 100 per cent post-industrial recycled fibre, and therefore using only a fraction of hardwood than conventional three-quarter-inch solid board to cover the same floor surface. Another benefit to these floors is that they are hypoallergenic, no dust from sanding or organic vapours, and the finish does not contain any harmful VOC gases.



Keep in mind that the installation should always be done by a professional who is knowledgeable about eco products and also prides themselves in carrying them. Look into the products that they carry and don't hesitate to ask for references. In Calgary, for example, Divine Hardwood Flooring has a history of using responsible suppliers and promoting sustainable forestry.

Ultimately, choosing the right flooring can seem like a daunting task. By selecting environment friendly products and knowledgeable suppliers you are on the way to making a decision that is very easy to live with. **NL**



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