

MAKE IT **WOOD**

Do your world some good

PLANET ARK

CASE STUDY



Martin Davis

Waratah Bay, Victoria, 3959

Martin Davis (Martin Davis Furniture Design) from Waratah Bay in Victoria designs and makes one-off commission pieces of handmade contemporary furniture for private and business clients. He believes that in making successful contemporary furniture one must address craft and design with an equal level of respect and skill. His furniture is handmade and built to last for generations, displaying traditional joinery techniques in contemporary ways. It is intended to evoke a response in the viewer, to tell a story. The primary materials used are Australian hardwoods. Timber is always hand selected and a great deal of time is spent ensuring the qualities of the specific pieces of wood are incorporated into the design of the piece. Martin Davis's furniture appears in collections in Australia, Japan and the USA. www.martindavisfurniture.com

What have you made with your pallets?

A coffee table titled 'Pallet Table'.

Where did you get your inspiration?

My inspiration came from the original form of the pallet. 'Pallet Table' was designed as a contemporary piece that utilised the entire contents of the pallet. The only waste was sawdust and a handful of offcuts. The anatomy of the table displays strong references to the original form of



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the pallet, thus giving the viewer an insight into its original function. The spirit of the pallet has been retained, even though it has morphed into a superior entity, more refined and beautiful than before.

How many pallets did you use and where did you source the wood pallets?

I only used one pallet to craft the table. The wood for the table came from the Waste Converters depot in South Dandenong, Victoria.

What species of wood is in the pallets that you have used?

The pallet I used was made up of a combination of American Oak, pine and unidentified hardwood.

Tell us about your experience in working with the pallets

This was the first time I had used a pallet to make a piece of furniture. I found it challenging in a positive way, and was forced to think about how I might utilise all of the materials. I was interested in highlighting the nail and bolt holes in the timber in an interesting way with the use of colour, referencing the original form of the pallet and providing the viewer with a clue as to where the timber came from.

Did you come across any difficulties in reusing wood pallets?

It took a long time to fill in all of the holes and splits with coloured epoxy.

Why do you think it's important to reuse materials such as pallets?

Hardwood timber is a scarce and valuable resource. Large chunks of hardwood, like those from a pallet, are very easily reused. To throw away or chip such timber is wasteful and bad for the environment. There is also added value in recycled timber as many people are interested in the history of the timber.

