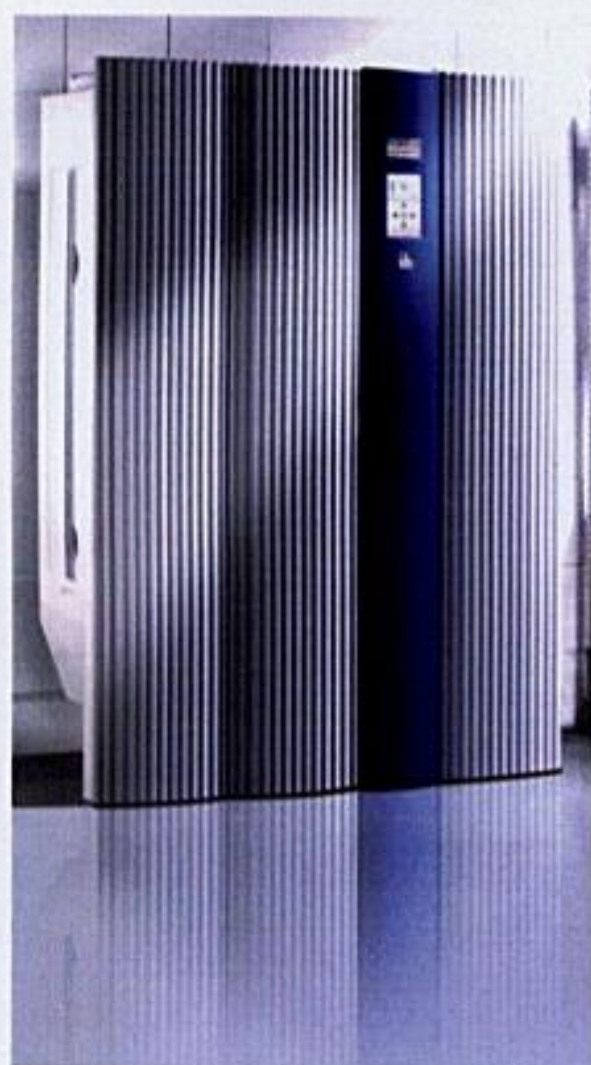


## know-how

# Greenhouse

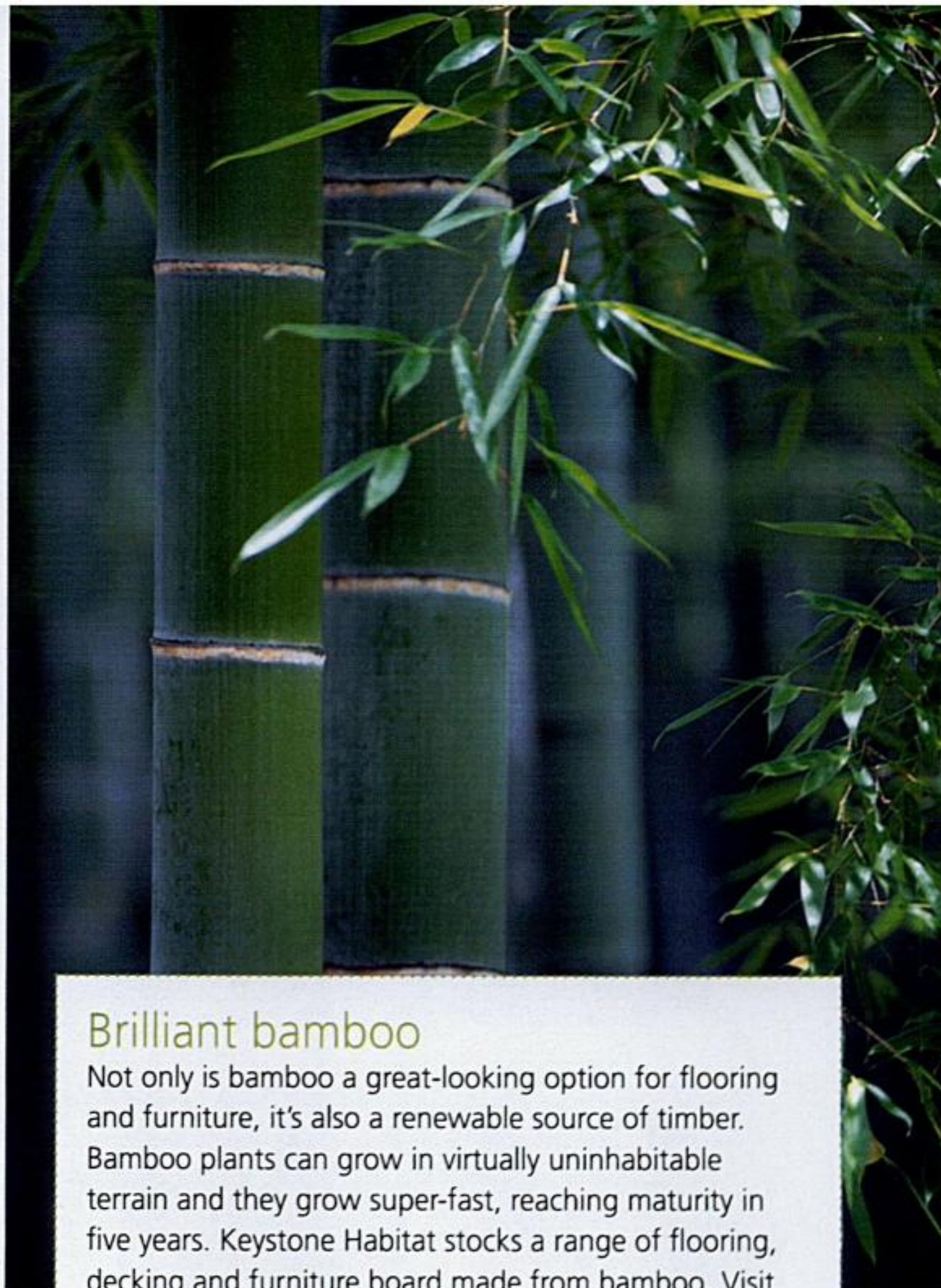
Where better to start your eco-journey than right in your own home?

**If compost heaps and organic gardens sound a bit too much like hard work, take a look at these ideas for simple, no-fuss items you can use in your home to get maximum green-cred with minimal effort.**



### Pontos AquaCycle

In countries where the tap water is not potable, it's ludicrous to think that we would use quality drinking water to wash our clothes and water our gardens. The AquaCycle recycles and cleans grey water (water from your baths, showers and basins) so that it can be used again for watering the garden, flushing toilets and laundry. The Pontos device uses a four-stage filtration process which brings the water up to EU Recreational Standards so it's safe and clean enough to have in your home. The storage tank is also linked to the water mains, so if the level of recycled water drops too low, you revert to using municipal water automatically. Visit [www.akwadoc.co.za](http://www.akwadoc.co.za) for details.



### Brilliant bamboo

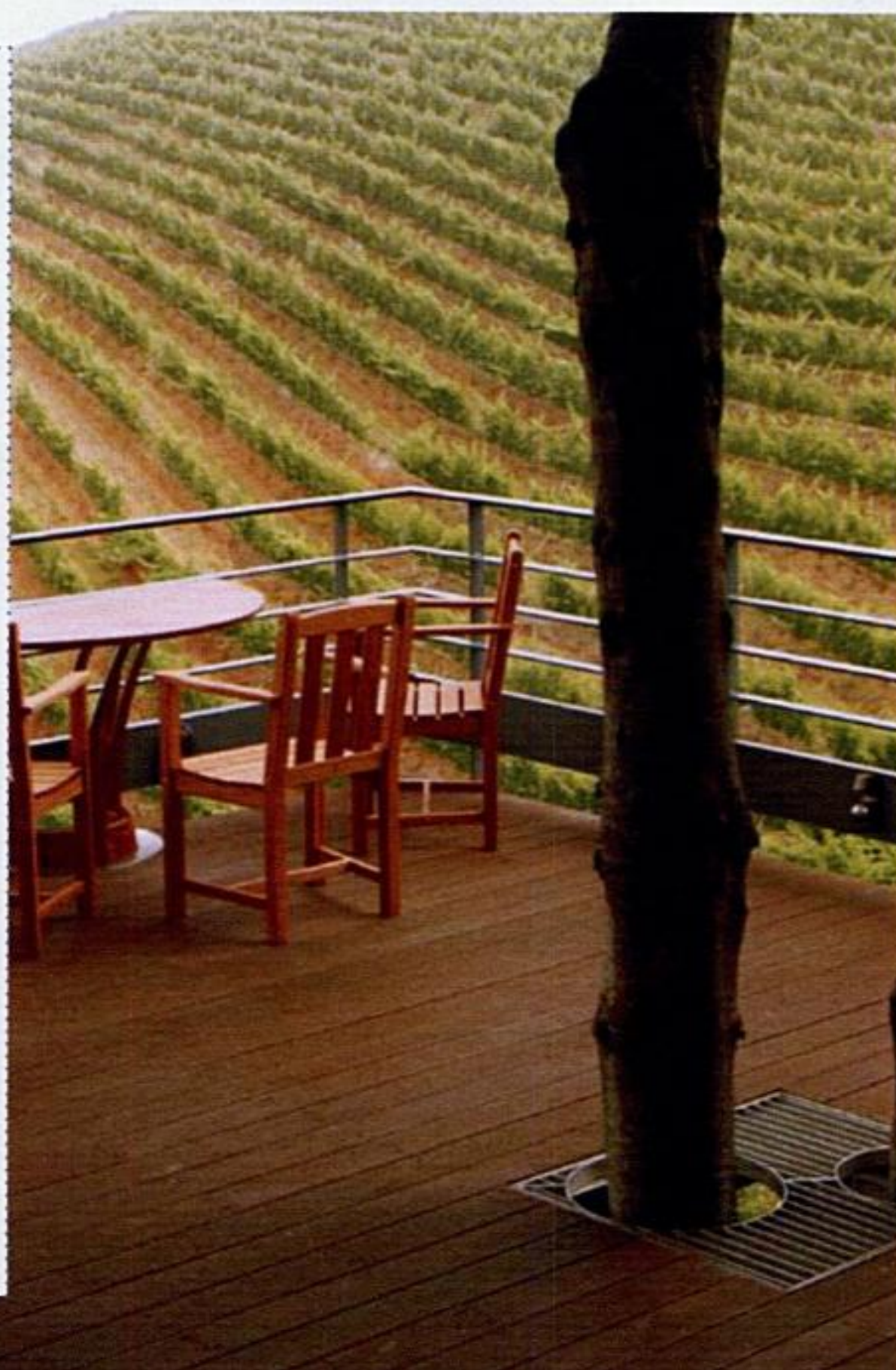
Not only is bamboo a great-looking option for flooring and furniture, it's also a renewable source of timber. Bamboo plants can grow in virtually uninhabitable terrain and they grow super-fast, reaching maturity in five years. Keystone Habitat stocks a range of flooring, decking and furniture board made from bamboo. Visit [www.keystonehabitat.com](http://www.keystonehabitat.com)

Fashion designer Craig Jacobs uses bamboo and other organic materials in his Fundudzi Free collection. Visit [www.fundudzi.com](http://www.fundudzi.com) to see his stylish, planet-saving threads.

A great website to help you get started on your green journey is [www.urbansprout.co.za](http://www.urbansprout.co.za)

### Paint a clean slate

The manufacturing process and chemical ingredients of paint are both harmful to the environment – but there is an alternative. ProNature paints are made with all natural ingredients such as beeswax and plant oils, they're non-toxic yet are still water-repellent and easy to apply. These paints come in a wide range of colours and shades and have a number of different wood applications for indoors and outdoors. They're also competitively priced – 5 litres of paint costs under R200. Available at selected hardware and paint stores or from their website, [www.pronature.co.za](http://www.pronature.co.za). Alternatively, call them on 0860 105 299.



### Polystyrene

Since manufacturers stopped using CFCs in polystyrene, it's become one of the most environmentally sound packaging materials. It's actually a by-product of petroleum, so it uses no dedicated resources or processes in its production. When polystyrene is recycled it can be made into a number of useful items like photo frames, coat hangers, seedling trays, cornices and skirtings. Find out about recycling polystyrene by contacting the Polystyrene Packaging Council on (011) 793 2658 or visit [www.polystyrenepackaging.co.za](http://www.polystyrenepackaging.co.za)

### Let the sunshine in

As if we needed another reason to love sunny African skies – now we can use those glorious days to keep us talking, and listening, and working, as solar-powered chargers become more easily available and affordable. Ndlovutec has a range of gadgets including radios, lighting tools and chargers. Visit [www.ndlovutec.co.za](http://www.ndlovutec.co.za) **w&h**