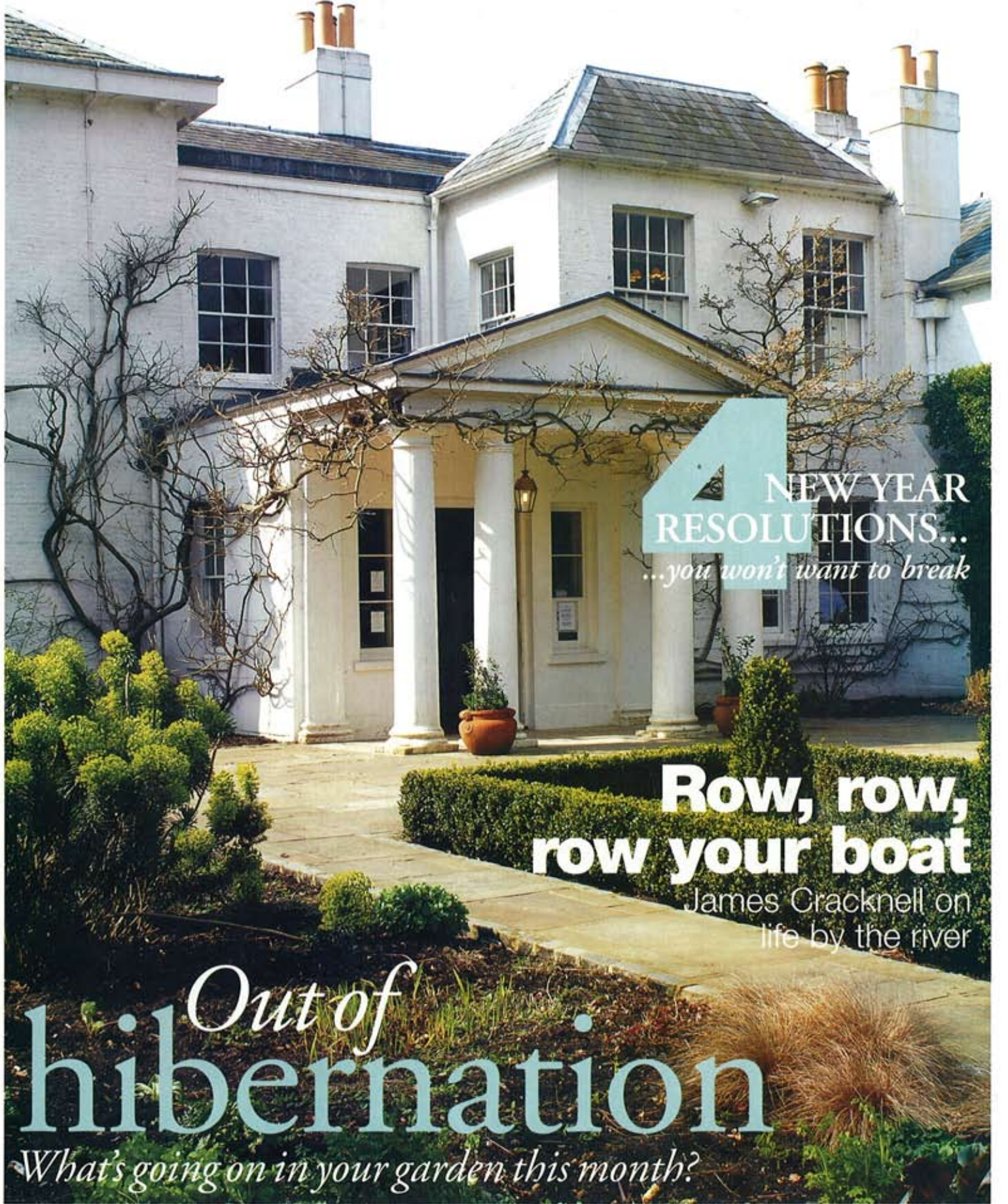


THE GREEN

www.thegreenmag.co.uk
January 08
Issue 128



4 NEW YEAR
RESOLUTIONS...
...you won't want to break

**Row, row,
row your boat**

James Cracknell on
life by the river

Out of
hibernation

What's going on in your garden this month?

PLUS: HEALTH & BEAUTY | GREENER HOMES | PARTY FASHION | EATING OUT

Greener LIVING

Charity begins at home
so embrace a more
eco-friendly home with
**JACQUELINE
WILLERS**

No day goes by without the media reminding us all of our choking emissions and carbon footprint and how this is affecting the planet. Whether green issues are important to you or not, when refurbishing your home there are great benefits to considering more 'green' or eco-friendly products - the benefits can be financially rewarding or offer a more individual style to your property.

If being green doesn't come naturally to you, then it can be difficult to know where to begin but of course, the internet is chock-full of resources to help you and there are many businesses able to offer you beautiful but responsible products.

Gone are the days when going green meant dressing your home as a tribute to your worldly travels.

I would like to introduce you to a few smart designer-lead companies and products that may inspire you to go green in 2008. Financially speaking, installing solar panels is a good investment – the panels can be fitted at any time to a property not necessarily when undertaking work. As we are all aware, gas and electricity prices soared in 2007 as they historically do every year. Installing solar panels could reduce your



energy bills by 35%. Solar panels heat your hot water and can provide an everlasting free energy source, you can also use this power to fuel your underfloor heating. For the environment and your pocket I recommend installing these panels as unlike a Sky dish they are discreet and tasteful.

We are all aware of the depleting forests and 8,000 years ago the earth was covered by 14.8 billion acres of forest, today this is reduced to 8.6 billion, with the alarming statistic that most of this loss has occurred in the last 50 years. We all love wood in our homes, from modern loft-style living to the



particular. Bamboo has so many uses, it is one of the hardest natural materials available for flooring and it is also an elegant alternative to walnut in a kitchen design. Because bamboo is a rapid growing grass and not wood, it can be harvested every 3-5 years, unlike 15-25 years for most wood. This makes bamboo a very environmentally friendly product for flooring and furniture. It is calming and serene and will complement most existing woods you may have in your home, so no need to automatically replace everything. It is also the perfect foil for high gloss and modern finishes.

As I mentioned before when thinking about eco-furniture, one's mind conjures images of brutal chunky furniture.

There is help here, Lombok is a fast growing company offering a great percentage of environmentally friendly furniture and accessories for the home. The style is chic and refined and although no legal certification is currently required in the UK to show the source of wood products, they are constantly in touch with manufacturers to ensure that the wood with which they work is ecologically sound.

In contrast to wood based furniture there are funky recycling furniture companies who turn everyday waste objects into cheeky furniture. Reestore have refined a look that is fresh, polished and funky. Their aim is to avoid the traditional eco-materials in favour of contemporary finishes and style.

And to finish with, even your fabric selection can be green – the new collection from Emily Todhunter consists of a range of organic textiles made by O eco textiles.

So, in summary there is a large array of eco-friendly alternative products available and by making a few changes in your home you may feel less guilty about the international holidays and the gas guzzler parked outside. ●

Jacqueline Willers is *The Green's* interior design expert. Please contact Jacqueline for any interior design advice at Jacqueline Willers Design 07967 608671; jacqueline@jacquelinewillersdesign.com



O Eco Textiles, Jakob Blockstrom



Lombok



Lombok

period family home. When selecting your wood supplier, consider their source and how sustainable the trees are that they use.

Good practice in forestry could help reduce this massive cull of our green spaces. Personally I find the prospect of using non-conventional woods exciting, bamboo in

STOCKISTS

◆ **LOMBOK** 418/422 Chiswick High Road W4; 270/274 Upper Richmond Road West SW14; www.lombok.co.uk

◆ **REESTORE** www.reestore.com

◆ **O ECO TEXTILES** oecotextiles.com