



strong constitution

Renewable softwood fibers and water are fused through intense heat to form Maplex—a tough, yet flexible, wall and surfacing material from EHV-Weidmann. The chemical-, formaldehyde-, bleach-, and petroleum-free product can be recycled with garden waste or with heavy paper products. Both medium- and high-density versions are pliable, allowing for creative stand-alone partitions or curved wall applications that can be punched, drilled, laminated, stained, or coated. EHV-Weidmann Industries, 800.242.6748; www.maplcmaterial.com.

growing up green

Kids can breathe easy in rooms covered in zero-VOC paints from YOLO. The company's Sprout Collection comes in six gender-neutral colors inspired by spring flora. The paints' mildew-resistant and scrubbable finishes retain a fresh look, even when play-time gets messy. Best of all, YOLO's innovative sample system reduces waste with poster-sized swatches that can be reused, recycled, or converted into gift wrap. YOLO Colorhouse, 503.493.8275; www.yolocolorhouse.com.



cool demeanor

Tex-Cote Cool Wall coating systems are said to incorporate the same technology used in stealth bombers and other military vehicles. According to their manufacturer, the heat-reflective pigments that hide airplanes can keep the outer walls of a house up to 40 degrees cooler than competing exterior paints or coatings, leading, in turn, to lower electric bills. The U.S. Department of Energy backs the claim, reporting in a recent study that Cool Wall can reduce energy costs by as much as 21.9 percent. Fade-resistant properties also help keep maintenance to a minimum. Choose from numerous colors in textured or smooth applications. Textured Coatings of America, 800.454.0340; www.texcotehomes.com.

—shelley d. hutchins