

turn, turn, turn

Handcrafted from salvaged scraps, wood-turned home items are revered for their beauty and utility

BY CHRISTINA SYMONS

From the smooth finish to its beautiful texture, a piece of wood that has been “turned” into a work of art and utility is a unique treasure for the home.

Wood turners from throughout B.C. salvage scrap wood and use lathes and other equipment to turn it into beautiful bowls and accessories. Here’s how to select, use and care for these woosy treasures.

If you’re looking for a piece of artwork or décor, the options are nearly endless. Many wood bowls or vessels are primarily decorative in nature, their finishes too fragile for rough everyday handling. From vases to treasure boxes, these items are meant to be enjoyed and displayed simply for their beauty.

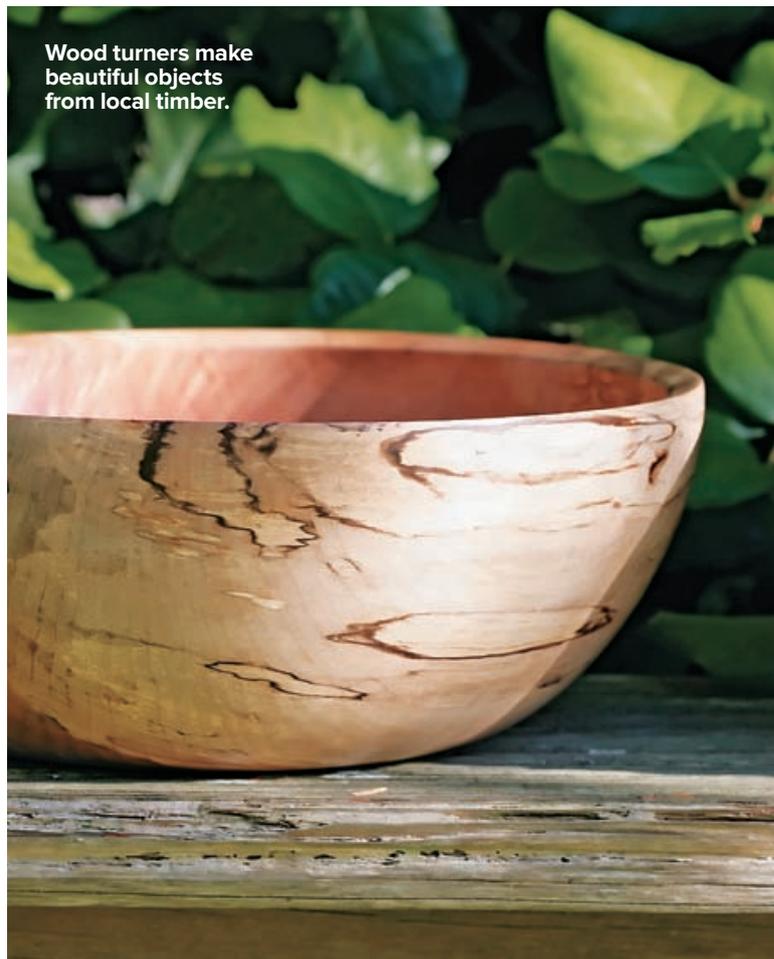
However, the tradition of wood-turning is practical by nature and other products

are valued as much for their utility as for aesthetics. When selecting a functional item such as a fruit or salad bowl, and cooking or serving spoons, be sure that the craftsperson has designed and finished the piece with culinary intentions in mind. To maintain, surfaces should be buffed occasionally with a light, non-toxic mineral oil.

If you’re interested in learning how to turn wood yourself, look for a local workshop. A great source of links and information can be found at the Greater Vancouver Woodturners Guild website at gvwg.ca

Or, to purchase handcrafted wood-turning items, drop by the B.C. Wood Co-op in the Net Loft on Granville Island. You can browse their many kitchen and décor items and also peruse the wood artisans’ bios on their website at thewoodco-op.com ■

Wood turners make beautiful objects from local timber.



GARDEN IN A BOX



Can you dig it? Vancouver’s Aloe Designs has recently launched *Design in a Box*, a new way for homeowners to get down and dirty in the garden.

This customized garden-design toolbox offers clients a detailed site analysis and professional concept plan then provides instructions on how and where to install the design, including a shopping list for plants and hardscape materials, along with sustainable design and organic growing tips.

Behind the concept of the box is garden designer **Caitlin Black** who discovered that many of her landscape clients actually wanted to get their hands dirty, while saving a bit of green in their wallet as compared to more expensive design and installation packages.

There are three kits to choose from: small space or patio, designated garden (front or back yard) and overall landscape. For more info, call 604-568-7324 or visit aloedesigns.com