

TREEHOUSE

LOCATED IN THE HEART OF CENTRAL,
LOOK-OUT FOR THIS GLOWING DESTINATION
THAT'S A NOD TO THE GREEN MOVEMENT
WITH A TASTE OF OUR FUTURE.

The logo for ST Design features three circles at the top: two dark grey and one purple. Below them is a vertical line composed of two semi-circles, one dark grey and one black.

ST
Design

HOUSE
TREE
by CGM



Eco-sustainability is not a trend but a need. People have become more concerned about the environment. We need to face it and spread through all aspects of life including design. No matter from societal and economical point of view, we shall join in hands to protect our unique planet.

EASY STEPS FOR A MORE SUSTAINABLE LIFESTYLE



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A sustainable life style is under attention of the public as people are more aware of the limit of resources on our planet. We hope to be able to continue to enjoy the resources over a long period of time. Many of the tips of a sustainable lifestyle are easy to adopt. A number of people have the false impression that sustainability means we need to have a frugal life. However, it is more important to be aware of the environment so that we make a conscious choice of our consumption. At ST Design, we are placing sustainability as a forefront to what we would like to do and be. Nowadays the need is turning to a design that needs to be both aesthetically appealing and practical, and most importantly, sustainable. This is the new direction that we are developing in our scope of service.

When we had the opportunity to expand our service into eco-sustainable design, it has greatly changed my perspective towards the industry. Being sustainable in interior design is a challenge especially in Hong Kong, where the restaurants and shops are always opening and closing. In architecture there are new certifications and work procedures that reduce the carbon footprints of the planet. Is there a way to contribute to this movement as an interior designer? Yet noting is impossible when we have the will.

Here is a few steps that I think we can adopt to enhance the environment.

Legislation on plastic use

Easiness ★★

I believe in the role of legislation to reduce the use of plastic, especially single-use plastic items and packaging. It is the joint effort of the society to achieve this target. The ban of the use of the single-use plastic items (including straws) in EU shall go into effect in 2021. New York legislature has approved a new fiscal budget that includes a state-wide ban on single-use plastic bags which will come into effect in 1 March 2020. It is the trend of developed economies to tighten the use of plastic. I hope similar steps will be taken by the Hong Kong government to take the lead and build a greener city. Consider the strong influence of the take away and packaging culture of the city, we need imperatives from the governmental level to tighten the use of plastic.

More recyclable items

Easiness ★★★★★

From the perspective of business, there are also many opportunities that we can cut down plastic use, for example, in the recently open TREEHOUSE restaurant we replaced plastic straws by straws made from rice. You can find on the

market straws made of paper or even pasta re-adapted (Italians!) Packaging is available in compostable, biodegradable and recyclable version. New products such as bioplastics produced from renewable biomass sources, such as vegetable fats and oils, corn starch, straw, recycled food waste etc are revolutionary to the commercial world. Since I have started on the design of the TREEHOUSE restaurant, a whole new world of eco-friendly materials and workmanship has opened before my eyes. I am glad to join this movement and conserve our environment. In TREEHOUSE, we have used the Kirei Boards constructed from the left-over, post-harvest stalks of the sorghum plant for the kitchen counter because of its strength and lightweight. Organic and natural materials such as wood are abundantly applied around the restaurant. Another example is bamboo that is highly sustainable and is easy to grow and resistant. While the certification might be a prestige of the conglomerates, the use of recyclable and natural materials is easily adoptable for small business owners who recognize the need of respecting the environment.

Eat less meat and more veggie!

Easiness ★★★★★

This is the most obvious and easiest action that we can adopt. According to different studies, agriculture accounts for 92% of the freshwater footprint of humanity; almost one third relates to animal products. Reducing animal product consumption is saving fresh water on our planet. Many people think of sustainability as an out of reach philosophy that only the saints are able to do. If being a vegan or vegetarian look too difficult for you, we can simply have a more balanced diet. It is good for our health, it is also delicious!

Often we have the false impression that veggies do not provide enough calories and proteins. This observation is less true when we are living in a city with plenty of food supply locally and overseas. On the contrary, eating the right kind and right proportion of food is more important for health. Even carnivores can enjoy good veggies if we choose the right ingredients. TREEHOUSE is a plant-based restaurant and if one does not know that there is no meat available. However we will not even have the time to realize as the food is very heterogeneous and tasty. As we like to say, the restaurant is 'accidentally' vegetarian. This means that the aim is to propose healthy and nutritious food and it happens not to have meat.

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