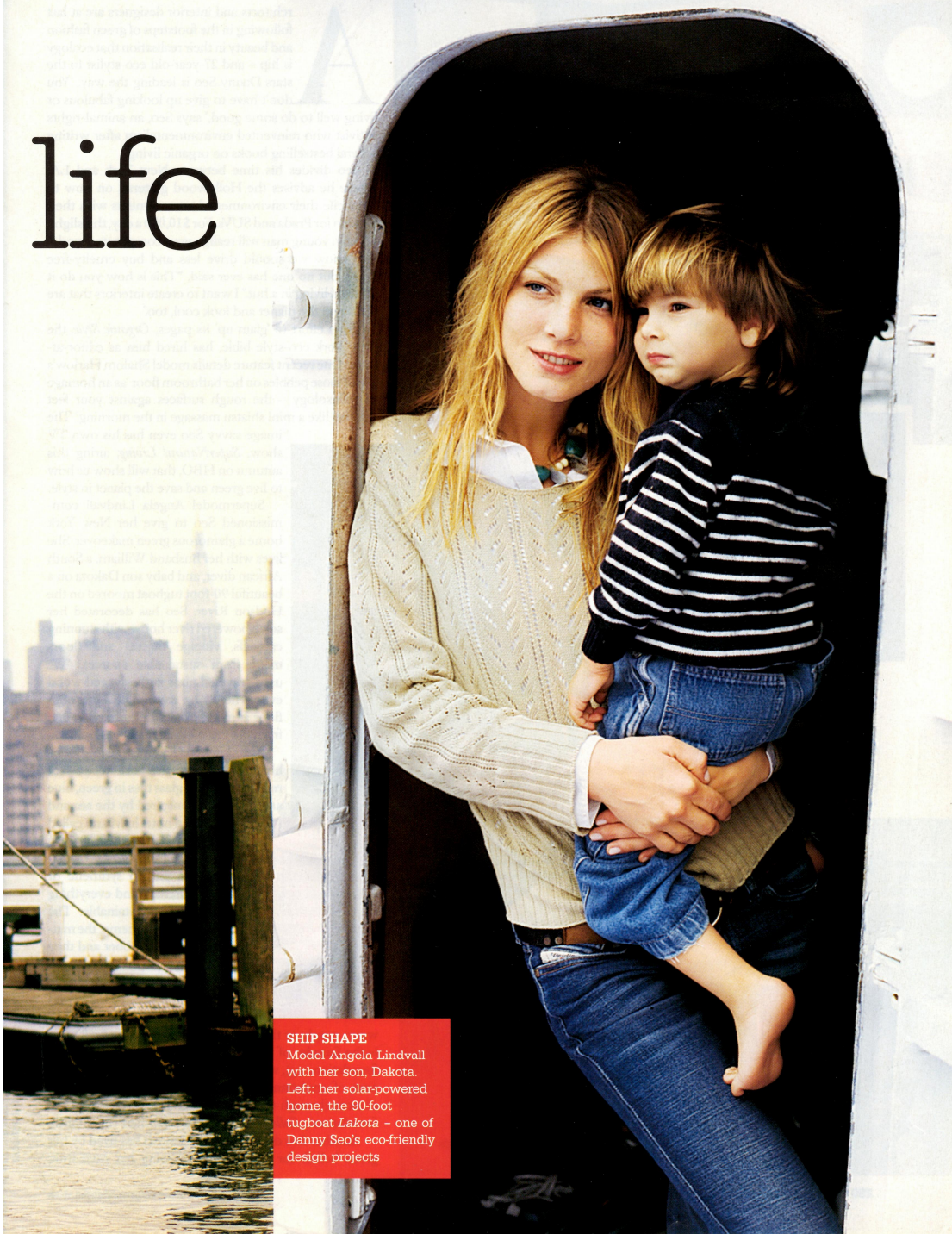


Designed for life

Angela Lindvall's environmentally friendly houseboat is just one of the star homes that have undergone a green makeover courtesy of eco-design guru Danny Seo. Style is getting back to nature, says **Britt Collins**



SHIP SHAPE

Model Angela Lindvall with her son, Dakota. Left: her solar-powered home, the 90-foot tugboat *Lakota* - one of Danny Seo's eco-friendly design projects



Architects and interior designers are at last following in the footsteps of green fashion and beauty in their realisation that ecology is hip – and 27-year-old eco-stylist to the stars Danny Seo is leading the way. 'You don't have to give up looking fabulous or living well to do some good,' says Seo, an animal-rights activist who reinvented environmentalism after writing several bestselling books on organic living.

Seo divides his time between New York and LA, where he advises the Hollywood glitterati on how to reconcile their environmental commitments with their passion for Prada and SUVs. For \$10,000 a day, this slight, pixieish young man will realign your complicated world. 'We know we should drive less and buy cruelty-free items, but no one has ever said, "This is how you do it without living in a hut." I want to create interiors that are gentle on the planet and look cool, too.'

In an effort to 'glam up' its pages, *Organic Style*, the New York eco-style bible, has hired him as editor-at-large. One recent feature details model Shalom Harlow's use of loose pebbles on her bathroom floor 'as an homage to reflexology – the rough surfaces against your feet will feel like a mini shiatsu massage in the morning.' The image-savvy Seo even has his own TV show, *SuperNatural Living*, airing this autumn on HBO, that will show us how to live green and save the planet in style.

Supermodel Angela Lindvall commissioned Seo to give her New York home a glamorous green makeover. She lives with her husband William, a South African diver, and baby son Dakota on a beautiful 90-foot tugboat moored on the Hudson River. Seo has decorated her solar-powered river home with stunning cast-offs, vintage objects and floors made from sustainable sources. 'We used recycled glass and salvaged wood everywhere,' he says. 'The bathroom floor is made of glass tiles handcrafted from old car windshields.'

The kitchen features slate floors, black stone counters and a wall of recycled stained-glass tiles in green, blue and orange. 'It's inspired by the sea and sky, and a hotel in Miami called the Shore Club that I fell in love with,' says Lindvall.

There are no synthetic or toxic materials, and everything is reused or sustainable. The rugs are made of hemp, the mattress is natural rubber and they even have an incinerator loo to conserve water. 'Most people know more about Hollywood stars than about what's in their

water supply or the water shortage,' says Lindvall, who is the founder of the Collage Foundation (www.collagefoundation.org), which is dedicated to spreading awareness of environmental issues and alternative lifestyle choices through the mass media. The first issue of the foundation's *Collage* magazine is published this month.

Another Seo devotee, Daryl Hannah has lived by her green beliefs for many years, growing her own fruit,



SEO CHIC
Clockwise from above left: master bedroom in Danny Seo's Pennsylvania house. Vintage chest of drawers outside on the deck. Danny Seo

vegetables and flowers, and driving a bio-diesel truck that runs on vegetable oil. She lives in the Rocky Mountains, in a 1,000-acre forest that she saved from redevelopment. 'For me, it's never been a green issue, just common sense,' says Hannah, who has also taken Seo's advice on which materials to use and where to source them. Hannah spent several years living in a teepee while she worked on her dream home, a modest solar-powered affair, constructed from a salvaged 19th-century carriage house, which she shares with a collection of rescued animals.

Her love of nature pervades every aspect of the space. The bathroom is a sensuous, grotto-like mosaic of pebbles, rocks and ferns, and her living room features a 'living sofa' built on a rockery and covered with velvet cushions. 'Every few days, we have to pull off the cushions to water the moss and lichen.'

Hannah isn't the only Hollywood A-lister looking to Seo for eco-inspiration. His popularity reached new heights 18 months ago with the launch of his coffee-table book *Conscious Style Home: Eco-Friendly Living for the 21st Century* (£16.30, St Martin's Press), which was enormously popular and set him on his way to Hollywood after Kevin Spacey's publicist gave it to all her clients as gifts.

The son of a doctor and an artist, Seo grew up in the Midwest, but has become a poster-boy for the resurgence of committed youthful glamour. By the age of 15, he had founded a 20,000-member environmental charity promoting veganism after he watched 'a heartbreaking documentary on factory farming'. By 17, he was a media darling, featured in *Newsweek*; at 19, he wrote a guide to compassionate living that won him a place in Oprah Winfrey's heart and on her show. At 21, after he'd written a further three eco-chic books, *People* magazine named him one of the world's 50 most beautiful people.

'Green products, excluding food, have

exceeded \$100 billion in sales each year since 1996,' says Seo, whose menswear range, Veteran, launched at New York Fashion Week last autumn. In the coming year, he plans to roll out an elegant line of eco products for the home. 'I want to provide cruelty-free alternatives that are durable, stylish and not terribly expensive,' he says. 'It's all about giving back to the world, but also making a delicious tofu cheesecake and having groovy-looking hemp throw-pillows on your couch.'

These days, Seo's life, an endless whirl of glamorous parties, is far removed from the anti-globalisation front-lines. But fighting for the environment, he says, will always be his top priority. 'It's what keeps me awake at night,' he says. □

OTHER ECO-DESIGN GURUS

Julian Marsh English eco-architect.
Where? At Marsh Grochowski (0115 941 1761; www.marsh-grochowski.com).
Projects This award-winning practice has eco-venture proposals in the pipeline including galleries, residential buildings and even a bio-digester that will recycle out-of-date supermarket produce.
Why? Marsh worries about global warming and vanishing wildlife, and believes 'everyone can do something'.

Chris Sorensen Californian architect.
Where? At Sorensen Architects (+1 310 456 1860; www.sorensenarchitects.com).
Projects Stylish solar-powered and energy-efficient homes for celebrities including Jane Seymour and Amy Smart.

Why? 'I started greening celebrity homes because I know the rich and famous set the trends and are likely to inspire change.'

Mike Reynolds American architect.
Where? At Earthship Biotechnology (+1 505 751 0462; www.earthship.org).
Projects In the desert of Taos, New Mexico, there are now more than 100 Earthships: solar- and wind-powered carbon-neutral homes built from old tyres and aluminium cans. Rain provides the mains water and all waste is recycled.
Why? To make eco-design accessible. You can buy building plans direct from www.earthship.org; or learn how to build one here in the UK with Earthship pioneer the Low Carbon Network (0870 765 9897).



CRUISE CONTROL
From top: the Moroccan-style living area aboard the *Lakota*. A family photograph of Angela with her husband William and son Dakota



OPEN HOUSE
Above: stone carving in the bedroom of a meditative mudra (hand gesture) symbolising wisdom and good fortune. Left: a tented canopy above the outside living area on the deck of the *Lakota*



PHOTOGRAPHS: MICHEL ARNAUD (ANGELA LINDVALL); PROPERTY OF DANNY SEO/MEDIA VENTURES