

A CHANGE OF SPACE GOES GREEN

BG Designs features items made from recycled, reclaimed materials
LISA CAPITELLI | Staff Writer



Angie Gillis has transformed her design studio, A Change of Space, located in West Ocean City, into an environmentally-friendly, natural and earthy green space with a soothing, peaceful atmosphere. OCEAN CITY TODAY/LISA CAPITELLI (May 6, 2011) Angie Gillis has transformed her design studio, A Change of Space, located off Route 611 in West Ocean City, into an environmentally friendly, natural and earthy green store with a soothing, peaceful atmosphere.

“This is the best A Chance of Space has been. I couldn’t be happier. It’s like I reinvented A Change of Space,” she said. “When people walk in here, I want them to feel like they’re at home. [The studio] is filled with good energy. I want people to feel inspired and happy when they leave. That’s my goal.”

An interior designer for 20 years, Gillis began renovating her studio last September. From top to bottom, she has incorporated recycled and reclaimed materials.



Interior designer, Angie Gillis, owner of A Change of Space, and master carpenter, Larry Brewington, started BG Designs, an “environmentally green friendly” company featuring furniture and accessories made from recycled and reclaimed materials. OCEAN CITY TODAY/LISA CAPITELLI “I’ve basically gone very green. It’s as green and as earth-friendly as you can get. It has an industrial, shabby chic look and feel,” said

Gillis, who has been in her West Ocean City studio four years. “I thought about going green the last two years, but it takes a lot of time...It was a lot of work, but I believed in it.”

Mud paint, burlap and craft paper cover the ceiling. Tin, raw cork and wood adorn the design studio and old windows are used as bookshelves. The lighting area of the store includes pieces made from French and Belgian wine barrels. Old drop cloths from the back of Belgian delivery trucks have been washed with organic agents, Gillis said, and laid out on the studio floor. They have also been used to upholster furniture.

Because of the economy, Gillis said she began making and creating merchandise again like she did years ago.

“It was a blessing in disguise,” she said. “The economy ignited me to do what I really do best.”

Gillis, along with master carpenter, Larry Brewington, started BG Designs, an “environmentally green friendly” company featuring furniture and accessories made from recycled and reclaimed materials, exclusively sold at A Change of Space. The BG Designs logo is burned into the wood of each piece.

“I design, he builds and I finish,” said Gillis, who uses slate pieces as business cards. “We played around with some sketches, came up with ideas and I thought, ‘We can make this work.’”

The pair has already created a desk, wall unit/organizer and a custom headboard for area residents. A variety of furniture and accessories are available, including tables, chairs, stools, benches, message boards and picture frames with inspirational thoughts. Wooden cards are also available and Gillis will write whatever the customer wants to say on it.

She has made her own wallpaper out of junk mail and magazines, infused with dried flowers and herbs. Shells, stones, wood, grass and slate pieces give the wallpaper depth and dimension. The wallpaper is a great accent and focal point for any room, she said.

Gillis has also created “living wall art.” On driftwood panels she applies moss and tillandsia air plants, which grow without soil while attached to other plants. They just need an occasional spray of water.

Gillis is currently taking a pottery class and hopes to offer her own pieces by next winter. The pottery line will be called “Armond’s Clay,” named after her grandfather, and each piece will feature a dragonfly.

A Change of Space is open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Saturday.

“If you’re looking for unique gifts, here’s the place for it,” Gillis said.