

Garden Laboratory

Green design is increasingly becoming mainstream practice for workplace and residential interiors, with energy efficiency, indoor air quality, and natural light all key considerations. But a few designers are taking this approach to unorthodox new extremes, greening the home and office with products suggestive of science fiction, including biophilic pods, a domestic breathing machine, and a "kitchen of terrestrial mechanics" that contains real live worms. It's a brave new world indeed.



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Sink

Compost box

Sifter

1 John Arndt's **Flow** kitchen creates its own mini-ecology in a compact modular system. Dishes drying on racks drip water onto herbs and edible plants in earthenware jars; an inset bowl flips to dump food scraps into the "worm composter," where Red Wigglers dine, leaving their nutrient-rich castings in a removable tray. www.johnarndt.com **2** Part of the VIA show at last year's Milan Furniture Fair, Mathieu Lehanneur's **O** breathing machine is a sculptural glass vat of *Spirulina platensis*, a microorganism that produces high levels of oxygen. A built-in oximeter monitors O₂ in the air and, when necessary, activates a light that stimulates photosynthesis in the glowing green slime. www.mathieulehanneur.com **3** The **Topo** table, by Nondesigns, integrates shallow plastic inserts for growing small plants into dining and coffee tables; the number and arrangement of inserts is customizable, and individuals with black thumbs can use them to hold fruit or decorative bric-a-brac. www.nondesigns.com **4** For a New York office renovation, architecture and design firm Gage/Clemenceau proposed installing plant-covered **Biophilic Pods** both to beautify the interior and to improve its air quality. The client is currently considering the proposal, but principal Mark Gage admits, "We may have completely scared them off." www.gageclemenceau.com —Mason Currey



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