



LONDON UPCYCLING SHOW 2019



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ABOUT THE SHOW

In 2018, over 21 million small items of furniture were thrown away in the UK.

To encourage Londoners to consider upcycling, reusing or repairing furniture before throwing it away, as part of the European Week for Waste Reduction 2019, North London Waste Authority and Groundwork London present to you the London Upcycling Show 2019.

As part of this exciting show, DIY experts and TV presenters Tommy Walsh and Georgina Burnett will judge the Upcycling Competition. Featuring 25 amateur upcyclers from across north London, competitors will present upcycled creations made from donated furniture.

Learn new craft and DIY skills in our free creative upcycling workshops. Turn to page 21 to see the event programme.



THE TEAM THAT NEVER QUILTS



The piece was 'boxy' and was plastic laminated chipboard which is tricky to cut and refinish. We, perhaps over-ambitiously, had a shipwreck theme.

We lowered the height and created an organic and symmetrical shape with scaffolding planks, and logs from our neighbour's garden! We used a glass lamp shade which broke at the last minute but we repaired with Milliput. We used furniture spray paint to chalky finish the cabinet.



Our son helped, gaining skills which will help him undertake his own repairs and renovations in future.



TOP TIP: USE WATER-BASED PAINTS FOR EASY CLEAN UP AND LESS TOXIC SMELLS.

THE TROOPERS

I had the design for a large dog bed in my head which I was working on at the Loop @ Grahame Park with my colleagues Bezs and Doug.



I started by strengthening the base. Bezs helped me cut the front and fix the sidebars. We all brainstormed and came up with using the head board. The legs we found in one of our wood recycling bins.



I used old newspapers to decorate the sides and Carol from the Loops found old sofa cushions and covers which we made the bed and side cushions with.



We all came up with ideas and I put them together. I got the flu but still went to work every day with a face mask to finish the project.

TOP TIP: TRIAL AND ERROR PLUS BRAINSTORMING.

JODIE CAVENDISH

My process included applying two coats of paint, paste for the wallpaper and two coats of varnish. All of which all had to dry, so time was my biggest challenge.



TOP TIP: IF YOU ARE WORKING WITH WALLPAPER AND DECOUPAGE TECHNIQUES, USE TRACING PAPER TO DRAW YOUR TEMPLATE OUTLINE.

TONI WALLACE

I rarely plan my projects, they evolve as I go along. I started by painting the table with light grey chalk paint. I wanted to create something multi functional as homes are getting smaller. The table had a shelf I turned into a cat/ dog bed.



The first challenge was choosing the fabric. I have a huge collection of recycled fabric mostly bought from charity shops. It took me ages to decide on something that would appeal to lots of people and suit the turned



legs of the table. I love finding signs of previous decoration on walls and furniture, it's like a story.



TOP TIP: REPLACING HANDLES OR KNOBS IS A REALLY QUICK AND EASY WAY TO CHANGE THE CHARACTER OF A PIECE OF FURNITURE.

ELIZA O'DONNELL

I first thought about what was wrong with the furniture; the top was loose, the veneer chipped, and as it wasn't wood it was difficult to sand and paint.



It had a nice 1920s Art Nouveau style shape. I decided to create a mini crafting table. I fixed the loose top and added some handles so it would be easy to carry.

I used leaves for decoration and nail art tape for the trim. All the materials for the inserts were upcycled from previous projects; curtain ties, mitten clips and old spools from threads.

I'm happy with the way it turned out, and my 7-year-old daughter has decided she wants to keep it for herself!



TOP TIP: USE A GOOD SPRAY PAINT RATHER THAN PAINT BY HAND.

KAROLINA KOŁODZIEJ

I always wanted to do a mosaic and this was a great possibility for that.

I had broken some old plates and cups but realised that the pieces were different thickness and so I ended up breaking much more pottery than I anticipated. White plates are of different hues and I only realised that after I put grout in. If I had known that before I would have placed them in a different way.



The grouting was very difficult and I ran out. Needless to add that it was on the day of collection. The best part of the project was designing the mosaic and putting the pieces together. It was a long but rewarding task.



TOP TIP: HAVE A LOT OF GROUT READY AND REMOVE THE EXCESS GROUT AS FAST AS YOU CAN AS IT IS VERY FAST DRYING.

ELLIE BAGULAY

My family encouraged me to enter the competition. I started to think of ideas for the furniture I put as my choices and then resourcing the materials needed such as paint, wallpaper, glue and varnish.

I added a shelf to the table as I wanted to add a checkers board. After finding some wood in a skip I had the task of cut it down to size and made brackets for the shelf.

After painting using chalk paint which I got from the community reuse scheme, I then used PVA glue to put the wallpaper on the side of the shelf and the photo copies of prints to the rest of the side table before finally varnishing to completely seal the item and making the top of the side table more hard wearing.



TOP TIP: DON'T BE AFRAID TO ASK FOR SOMEONE ELSE'S RUBBISH IF YOU CAN USE IT.

PATRICIA GRAHAM

When the chair arrived it was lovely already and all my ideas changed.



The curled arm rests reminded me of hair. I took off the outer upholstery and armrests, finding it was a Parker Knoll chair. The original label said it was made on 12 October 1950, so the idea of a woman's face in 1950s style formed.

I wanted the wood to be glossy and elegant. I sanded, stripped it and used walnut wood dye. I'd found a tiny piece of the original green, orange and cream fabric, held by a tack. I matched the green and orange colours with paint. The chair is stuffed with recycled cotton and wool insulation pieces.



**TOP TIP: LET YOUR VISION GUIDE YOU AND LEARN
THE SKILLS TO MAKE YOUR VISION HAPPEN.**

PAUL STEVENSON

I've never attempted to refurbish furniture before and thought I'd struggle. I took my toddler to Walthamstow market and found beautiful soft velvet fabric which resembled a William Morris print.



Removing over 1,000 staples was tough. I stripped the old varnish and removed part of the frame, sanded it and treated with a natural varnish. I used a heavy duty stapler to fix the material to the frame.

It took around ten hours. I'm pleasantly surprised with the end product and really enjoyed the process. I wanted to create an armchair that would be a joy to own and also enhance our family living space.



TOP TIP: SET YOURSELF AN ACHIEVABLE DEADLINE AND STICK TO IT.

KATE MCGINLEY



amy shareen davis

Almost everything I used for 'The Secret Garden' project was found, reused, borrowed, donated and recycled. I captured a magical nature scene to recreate on the chest of drawers with a hidden element!



I found some beautiful tiles by the bins; cutting and sticking each piece took care and time, and my cats enjoyed messing the pieces up! Making my own paint colours for inside the drawers was like conjuring up a spell!

The end result is more magical than I imagined! The chest is now a functional work station to awaken all of the senses by creating teas, herbs, spices and preparing plant propagation and seeds.



TOP TIP: LOOK FOR UNWANTED TREASURES THAT HAVE BEEN THROWN AWAY AND SET YOURSELF OR FRIENDS A CHALLENGE FOR A REALLY GREEN UPCYCLE TRANSFORMATION!

HARRIET SMITH

I could see that the drawers had such potential and would be perfect for my daughter's bedroom.



Time was a challenge. I spent the first two weeks thinking about what I could do. I filled the dents and primed it whenever I could find a spare half hour and then two coats for the base layer. The night before collection, I gathered all my paints and that's the bit I enjoyed the most, it was really fun.



But then I ruined it all. Midnight the night before it was being picked up I decided to varnish it. Error. When I came downstairs the next morning I realised the mistake. The varnish had bubbles and dripped all over.

Lesson learned.



TOP TIP: DON'T RUSH, DON'T DO THINGS AT MIDNIGHT. DON'T USE A FOAM ROLLER... EVER.

nAtACHA TOLEDO



I thought the piece had good proportions for a home recycling bank.

A reusable bag can be placed in the top section for collecting and easily emptying recycling. I used chalk paint so recycling guidelines can be painted on.



I sanded the unit ready for painting, and lined each drawer with environment themed wrapping paper. I left the outside neutral so it would fit in most houses with an element of surprise inside.



My biggest challenge was the original chalk paint, it was hard for the new paint to adhere to. Overall I enjoyed the process, it's very satisfying to repurpose something old and it makes it something unique.

TOP TIP: DON'T BE AFRAID TO TRY DIFFERENT THINGS, even MISTAKES CAN LEAD TO A SOLUTION YOU WOULDN'T HAVE THOUGHT ABOUT, SO EMBRACE IT.

BARBORA MELEZINKOVA

I was very excited to see how nice this chest of drawers was when it arrived! In total I spent about five days working on this piece.

I fully stripped the top and front, re-stained and oiled the wood; painted the sides and stencilled the front, plus sprayed the drawer knobs gold. Inside



the drawers, I lined them with some wallpaper with a peacock feather design I sketched up and had printed.



The sanding process to strip the existing stain was challenging and very messy and at the end I had an issue with the orange acrylic paint staying on.

TOP TIP: TEST EVERY NEW IDEA ON A SCRAP PIECE FIRST AND DOUBLE CHECK YOUR MEASUREMENTS.

KERISHA WATSON

I enjoyed the process and I found it very therapeutic to be freely creative.



TOP TIP: DON'T PLAN!

CHRISSY alen

I loved every minute of my journey and dreamt about my piece before I received it.



I made sketches and looked at home for what I'd need to make my ideas come to life. I had a lot of African off cuts of fabric and old jeans from charity shops. My brother had an old swivel chair in his office which I used the base of.



I did have challenges in attaching the swivel base to my chair, in the end I used bolts. Not having a workshop meant using the living room which I share with my children.

When they came to collect my piece I almost shed a tear and asked him to take care of my babies.

TOP TIP: SOURCE MATERIALS FOR YOUR PROJECT FROM FREE SITES SUCH AS FREecycle AND GUMTREE. I GOT 40 TESTER POTS OF PAINT FOR MY PROJECT FROM FREecycle.

samael coco

I enjoyed the process and the challenge of transforming the chair given to me.



Before receiving the furniture, I had an idea of what to do, but then it had to radically change when the chair arrived. Being quite a simple and elegant chair, I ended up adding elements that I found in the street around my area.



One of the challenges was struggling to make straight cuts with the hand saw. I would advise upcyclers to look around their neighbourhood, collect materials and have fun being creative.



TOP TIP: make LOTS OF SKETCHES AND MOCK-UPS AND DON'T PANIC IF THE DESIGN DOESN'T COME STRAIGHT AWAY.

AVANITA PEART

My worst challenge was stapling and holding the fabric in place to get it smooth. I enjoyed the covering of the chair with the sponge to make the chair softer.



TOP TIP: BE PATIENT AND CONFIDENT.

FIONA MCLLOUD

Due to ongoing health issues, time turned out to be an issue for me and space, as my home is so small. But, I love anything creative, so I loved the whole project. I found it all really therapeutic.

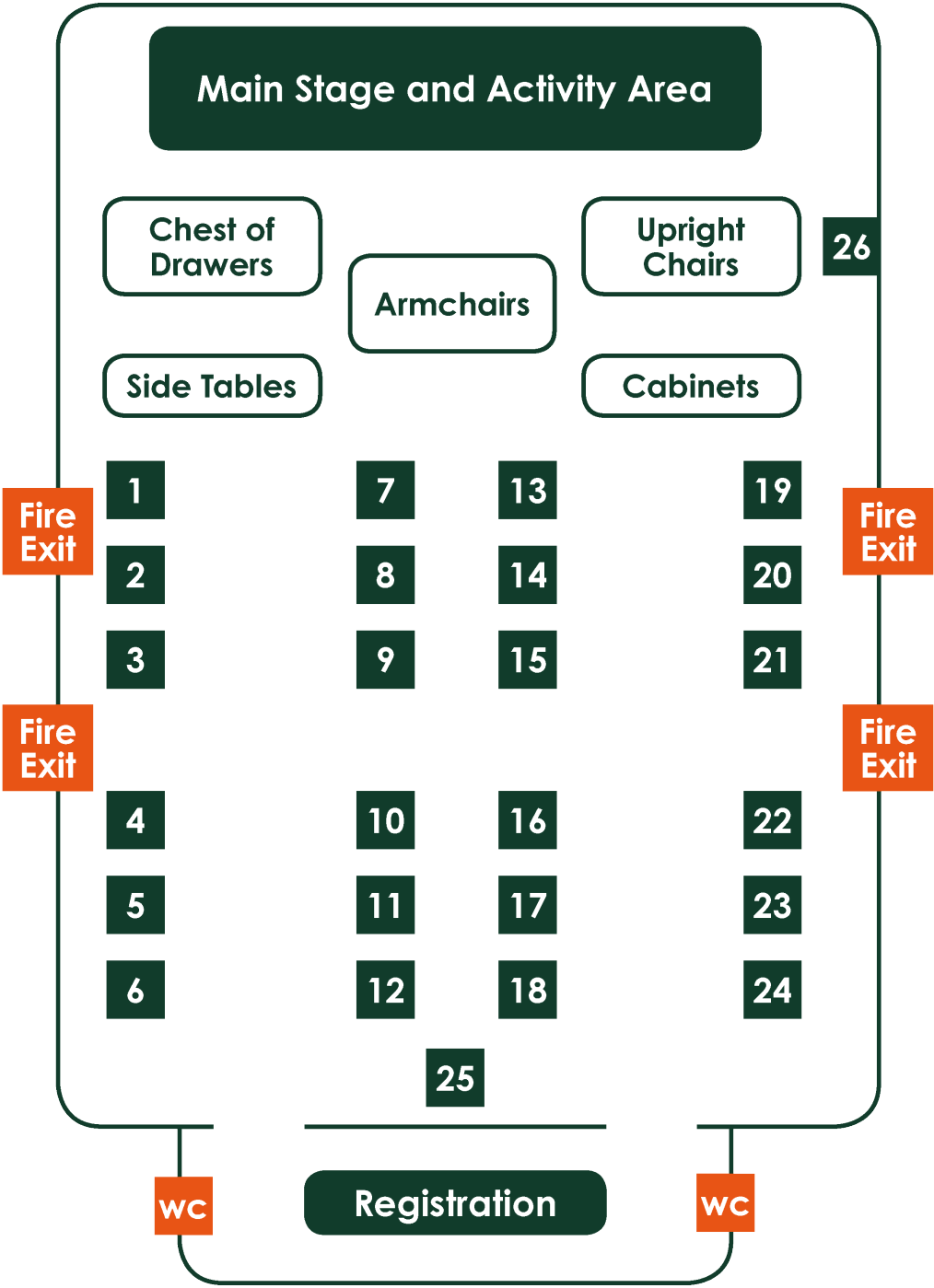


TOP TIP: COLLECT RANDOM STUFF, IT WILL ALWAYS COME IN HANDY LATER ON.

EVENTS PROGRAMME

11.30am - 12pm	Competition judging and Exhibition opens
12.30pm - 1pm	Creative Challenge
1.30pm - 2pm	Competition results announced
2pm - 2.30pm	'Ask the Expert' panel discussion
3pm	End of event





- 1 Joan O'Connor - homemade cakes and hot drinks
- 2 Catherine Suttle - restored/ upcycled furniture
- 3 Catia Squarcia - upcycled accessories
- 4 Wood That Works - wood working training
- 5 Wood That Works 2 - wood working training
- 6 Margot McShane - DIY Solar panels
- 7 Uniq Furniture - upcycled furniture
- 8 Liam Cook - refurbished, upcycled & restyled furniture
- 9 Revitalised Goods - upcycled furniture
- 10 The Loops Hackney - upcycled furniture & skills training
- 11 Sandie M Sutton - environmental artist
- 12 Sam Griffics - artist
- 13 Kimberley Pyper - upcycled furniture
- 14 Whitney Green - upcycled furniture
- 15 Designed by Tom - upcycled wood carving garden furniture
- 16 The Loops Barnet - repurposing scrap into bird houses
- 17 Graham Park Loop - upcycling activity
- 18 Zuzana Kaiserova - upcycled jewellery and gifts
- 19 Felix Project - surplus food project
- 20 Anja Tchadieukey Newaw - upcycled bags made from Jeans
- 21 Ray Upholstery - upholstery
- 22 Tim Worsley - furniture re-created from old skateboards
- 23 In Re-Use - pallet furniture
- 24 Upcycled by Jo Gibbs - upcycled furniture, lighting & clothing
- 25 North London Waste Authority
- 26 Uptown Catering West Indian Food

find out more:
wiseuptowaste.org.uk

#UpcyclingShow

