



Trash Talking

With their creative recycled displays, Linsey Burritt and Crystal Grover of Indo are greening Chicago's shopping scene one store window at a time **BY SARAH ENGLER**

THE INDO OFFICE isn't your typical workspace. The long desk that Linsey Burritt (on left) and Crystal Grover share is actually a few found doors mounted on sections of pipe that have been spray-painted white and affixed to the wall. Nearby is a jar of at least 100 used chopsticks, an alcove stuffed with cut-up cardboard, and, high in one corner of the room, a cloudlike plume of Styrofoam cups and takeout containers.

What might seem like just a bunch of trash to most people is art to Linsey and Crystal. For the past four years, the duo has been fashioning beautiful and thought-provoking window displays for Chicago-area businesses using discarded and recycled objects.

It all started when Crystal, a recently graduated interior designer, walked by a store window that had whimsical concepts displayed with unexpected materials (like stuffed animals and sausages made out of fabric). She was inspired enough to call her up-for-ananything graphic designer friend Linsey with a plan: They'd supplement their day jobs

VITALS

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HOMETOWNS
Chicago, IL

OCCUPATIONS
Eco-friendly window-display designers at Indo (theindo.projects.com)

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FUN FACTS ABOUT INDO

1. SOMETIMES WE WING IT

"The craziest thing we ever did was make a wall for the Steppenwolf Merle Reskin Garage Theatre out of 5,800 pounds of paper."

2. WE DO BUY ONE ITEM NEW

"Fishing line. It's practically invisible and holds a lot of weight. We recycle used line with the Monofilament Recovery & Recycling Program (mrrp.myfwc.com/donation)."

3. HOT GLUE IS OUR HERO

"It adheres almost anything in seconds, and we love that glued paper is still recyclable."

by creating unique, eco-conscious window displays on the side. Soon evenings and weekends were spent dreaming up ambitious designs and scrounging for materials.

"Our first window [for a shoe store] had a wishing well theme," says Linsey. "We salvaged a big barrel and surrounded it with buckets hung at various heights with shoes perched on them. We covered the floor in dandelions and previously used yarn spun into balls."

Requests started coming steadily, and Linsey and Crystal were able to quit those day jobs to focus on Indo (a play on the word window) full time. Their designs have included a paint-swatch dress for eco-paint boutique Colori, a backdrop of repurposed cardboard slats for midcentury modern home store Post 27, and a suspended stream of intertwined mannequin arms and fabric remnants for the Delta Faucet showroom in Chicago's Merchandise Mart (see photos at wholeliving.com/window-designs). Soon, they hope to incorporate more heavy-duty materials into their designs.

"We're lucky because our office is near all these steel and wood plants, recycling centers, and fashion designers," says Crystal. "People come to us and say, 'I have all this stuff. Could you use it?'"

Indo is serious about that reuse mission. "Sometimes clients ask why we just don't buy new paper with recycled content instead of finding it secondhand," says Linsey. "That's not how we do it."

The women are also concerned with what happens to the materials after the window comes down. "We have that conversation with our client up front," says Crystal. "What's the game plan? They can sell it on eBay, coordinate with recycling services, or just give it back to us for a future project." +