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HOME GARDEN

**Kitchen Remodel
Goes From Crowded
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Cucina**

**Hawaii Home
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**\$75K Kitchen
Remodel Includes
an Extension -
Video Blog**

Issue 13



Hawaii Home & Garden Network

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Aloha Hawaii Home & Garden Network,

I want to start off this letter by wishing the best for our friends, family, neighbors and fellow kama'aina on Kauai as they continue with recovery efforts from the recent flooding. I have to admit, I was caught totally off guard by what happened. We here on Oahu got hit with some pretty heavy, overnight rain, but nothing like what happened in northern Kauai. If you want to donate to the recovery efforts, Hawaii News Now (<http://www.hawaiinewsnow.com/story/37970820/what-you-can-do-how-to-help-kauai-flood-victims>) has some great information on the charities who are assisting with the recovery. By the time we publish this issue, things may be closer back to normal, which is what we're all hoping for.

We have some more great ideas for you, both in the kitchen and your backyard or lanai garden. In fact, the aunt and uncle of Homeowners Design Center's owner did a complete remodel of their old kitchen. As kitchens get older, they seem to magically shrink in size, to the point they're no longer as big as you remember it to be. Clutter builds and layouts decades old no longer seem to be functional. With this complete redo, HDC was not only able to bump out an entire wall two feet out, making it much bigger, but they also reconfigured the cabinets and redesigned the countertops to maximize space and create better efficiency. The contrasting colors of the cherry wood cabinets and elegantly veined countertops are amazing.

The second featured kitchen by Design Trends Construction was not only a complete remodel but also involved an extension to increase the size of the kitchen, and DTC did an immaculate job of it. By bumping out the size and length of the kitchen, they were able to install a buffet style countertop to run the entire length of the kitchen. The job required quite a bit of construction skill as DTC had to match converging rooflines to make this happen seamlessly. With the increase in size, they were able to add a large center island to become the centerpiece of the home, which also included USB ports for charging and using the family's various mobile devices. Running across most of the back wall is an intricate, mosaic, glass backsplash acting as a spectacular complement to the quartz countertops.

Finally, Kellie Coyle has been experimenting with a great new idea over the last several months and she's presenting you with the final results; an organic pallet garden for your backyard or lanai garden! It really is a fantastic idea to help you organize your garden around several ideal herbs and vegetables, and depending on how you color them, they make for a colorful addition to your backyard or lanai. As usual, Kellie has taken some great photos and laid out detailed instructions on how she made her own pallet garden but as she says in her blog, you can take the basic concepts and run with your own creativity and style to make this pallet garden your own. It really is a great way to diversify your own organic home garden.

We hope these ideas help to inspire and to explore!

I hope you enjoy the issue!

Mahalo,

*Rick Presser
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Kitchen Remodel Goes From Crowded Kitchen to Open Cucina

Featuring Homeowners Design Center

Written by Andy Beth Miller

Photographs by Ryan Siphers

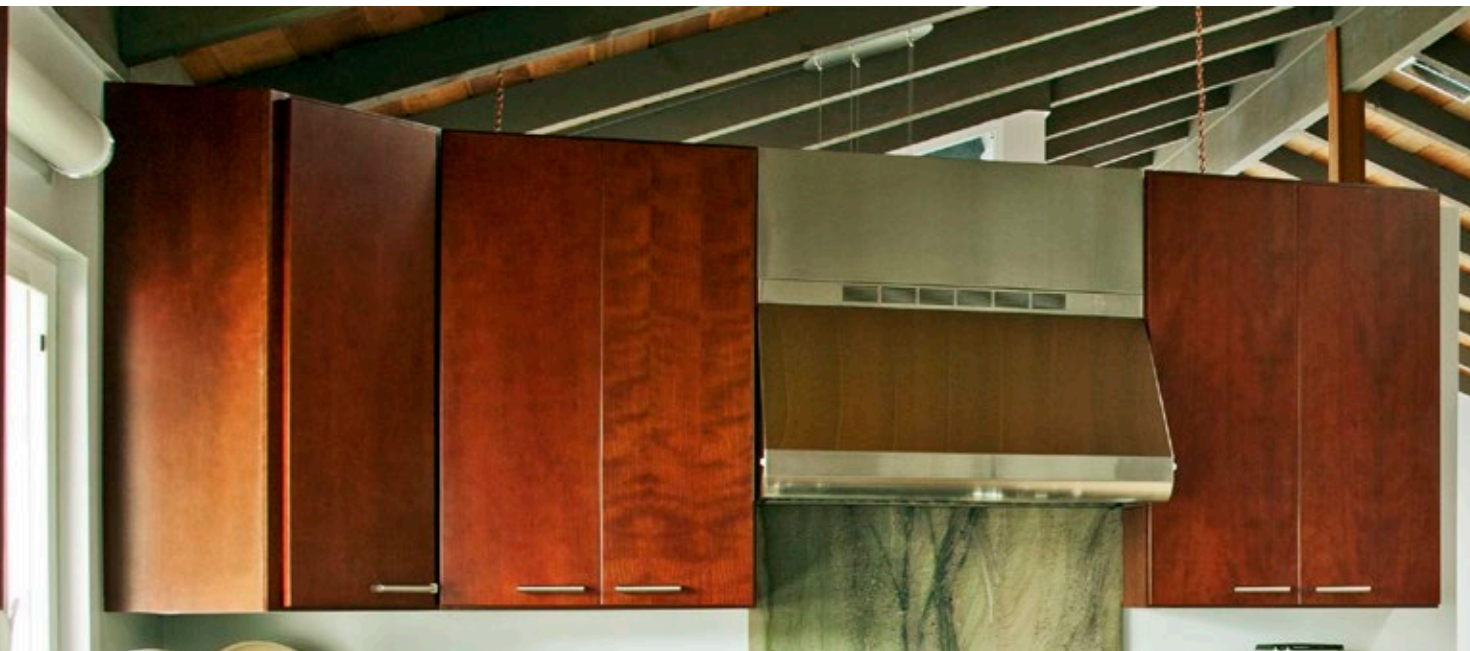
When one Oahu couple started feeling a bit too cramped in their kitchen, this auntie and uncle—who just happen to be relatives of the owner of Homeowners Design Center, a local full-service design and kitchen remodel company—knew exactly where to turn.

Kitchen designer Randall Omoto explains how Homeowners Design Center solved these issues in the kitchen remodel by removing the peninsula entirely, slightly reconfiguring the island (increasing its size to accommodate more seating surrounding it) and the shape of the kitchen layout (modified from its previous circular to a more efficient U-shape), as well as by eliminating the overhead cabinetry altogether.

Another way that the company was able to open up the kitchen, explains Omoto, was by “moving the refrigerator back two feet,” as well as utilizing closet space from an adjacent room, which “pushed the kitchen wall back [making the entire space wider] by an entire two feet.” What this also did, explains Omoto, is “helped us open up the space—make it wider—and it also gave us the ability for a bigger table in the center, so that more people could gather around.” Improvements such as these were especially exciting for the homeowners, who love to entertain and host friends and family in their hale, so were critical in the kitchen remodel. “Now they can actually fit four more chairs around their table, and be able to have more people sitting—and being comfortable—which is really important,” reiterates Omoto.



The striking veining in the natural stone added another layer of texture to the kitchen.



High-end Dura Supreme cabinets in classic cherry provided contrast with the countertops and flooring.

Choosing a rich and classic cherry wood with a veneer door for the cabinetry (Dura Supreme brand, chosen for its high quality and low maintenance), the company then complemented these beauties with prefabricated, natural stone countertops. "A distinction you have in cabinetry is that you have manufacturers (who) actually make all of their own pieces," says Omoto of the superiority of lines like Dura Supreme. Of the countertops, Omoto especially appreciates the "veining" and "movement" that the chosen material exhibits, adding another layer of texture to the kitchen remodel.

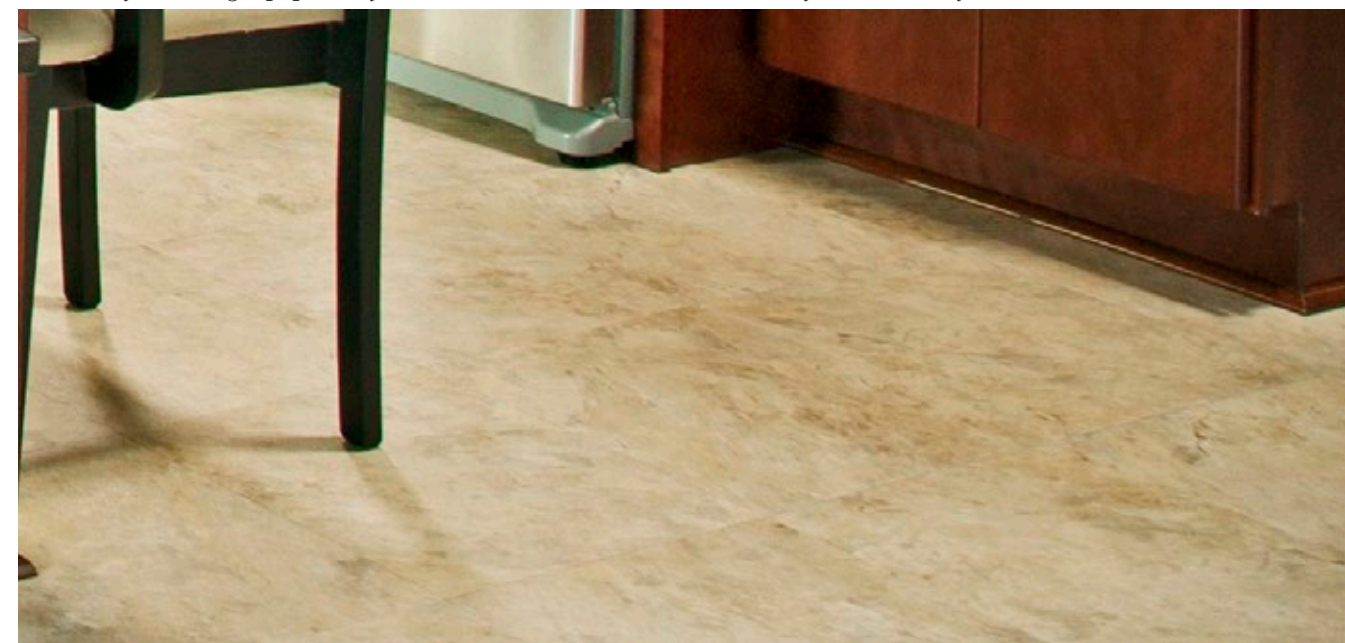
"A distinction you have in cabinetry is that you have manufacturers (who) actually make all of their own pieces,"

JESSICA OMOTO
KITCHEN DESIGNER,
HOMEOWNERS DESIGN CENTER

Vinyl tile flooring, gorgeous KitchenAid appliances, and pendant lighting procured from Lighting Elegance serve to add the exact right finishing touches to a truly well-done kitchen remodel. As for the homeowners? They are ecstatic, proving that this endeavor was indeed a successful family affair.



Vinyl flooring's popularity is on the rise because of its durability, wide variety of colors and looks and cost.



VIDEOS
Kitchen Remodeling Advice for Family & Friends, Video 2

BLOG
A Kitchen Remodel That Would Make Mom and Dad Proud

COMPANY PROFILE PAGE
To learn more about Homeowners Design Center

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\$75K Kitchen Remodel Includes an Extension - Video Blog

Featuring Design Trends Construction
Photographs by Design Trends Construction



When these Oahu homeowners wanted to update their small, closed-off kitchen into a larger more contemporary and functional design, they turned to general contractor and kitchen designer Design Trends Construction to help them with the extension and brand new kitchen.

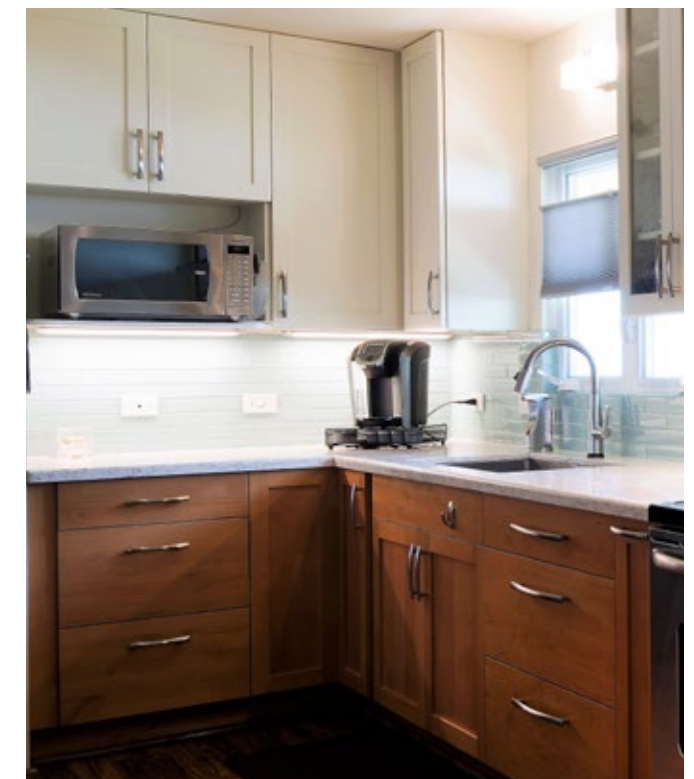
The transformation of the kitchen by enlarging it, adding seating and designing the island to also be used as a workspace has made it the center of the home.



Buffet-run style kitchen countertops along the back wall complemented the mosaic style, glass backsplash.



Part of the remodel dealt with converging rooflines and the addition of the center island, along with two-tone color cabinets from Canyon Creek.





The kitchen was bumped out and extended to increase the size and length of the space and incorporated engineered quartz countertops.

 **VIDEO & BLOG**
Hawaii Home Builder - Design Trends Construction

 **VIDEO BLOG**
\$115K Kitchen Remodel Results in Million Dollar Mariners Ridge Views

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Hawaii Home Garden - Organic Pallet Gardening

Featuring Hawaii Home & Garden

Written & Photographed by Kellie Coyle

Ever since I started my home garden on the Big Island, I have been interested in organic pallet gardens. After years of collecting pallet garden photos for inspiration, I finally got to it and created my own for my own home garden. I will share how I did mine but know there are many different approaches out there. Maybe you will come up with an approach all your own.

Regardless of your prep approach, you will need a pallet. They are everywhere. Check behind home improvement and grocery stores. Our local newspaper sometimes advertises their free pallets. Once you locate your pallet, you need to acquire it. Please always ask permission to take a pallet. Take a moment to speak to a manager – they will most likely let you have one for free. If not, move on to another location. Don't be tempted to grab one while no one is looking. Remember security cameras are now small, easy to install and are commonly used. Consider the embarrassment of being caught on camera procuring your pallet. Yikes!

The beauty of the pallet garden is that it is great for

Original pallet from behind the local home improvement store.



both a backyard or lanai home garden. Pallets come in all sizes. A larger pallet may be more appropriate for a backyard home garden as it requires more room and will not be so easy to move locations. Smaller pallets can be relocated once the pallet is planted and work well in either a backyard or lanai garden. I chose a smaller pallet (28" x 29") for my backyard garden. Location should be considered regardless of size. Do the plants require full sun? Is the location ideal for watering? Watering can be somewhat messy at first as the water and soil will spill over the side as the plants settle.

Used pallets also come in different states of disrepair. Don't worry if your pallet isn't in such great shape. That's part of the charm. You can work with what you have, or you can augment the pallet to increase functionality. It's up to you. I added some wood pieces for support. I picked the wood up at a hardware store, but you might have some scraps lying around. It all works. I am not so great with wood – but I found it super easy to include wood with some Gorilla Glue. Hammer and nails work great too.

Eco friendly coco liner is great for creating planter liner for the pallet shelves. It's made of coconut husks and tree sap.



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Create initial pattern out of eco-friendly coco liner.

Make sure pattern fits snugly in pallet shelf.



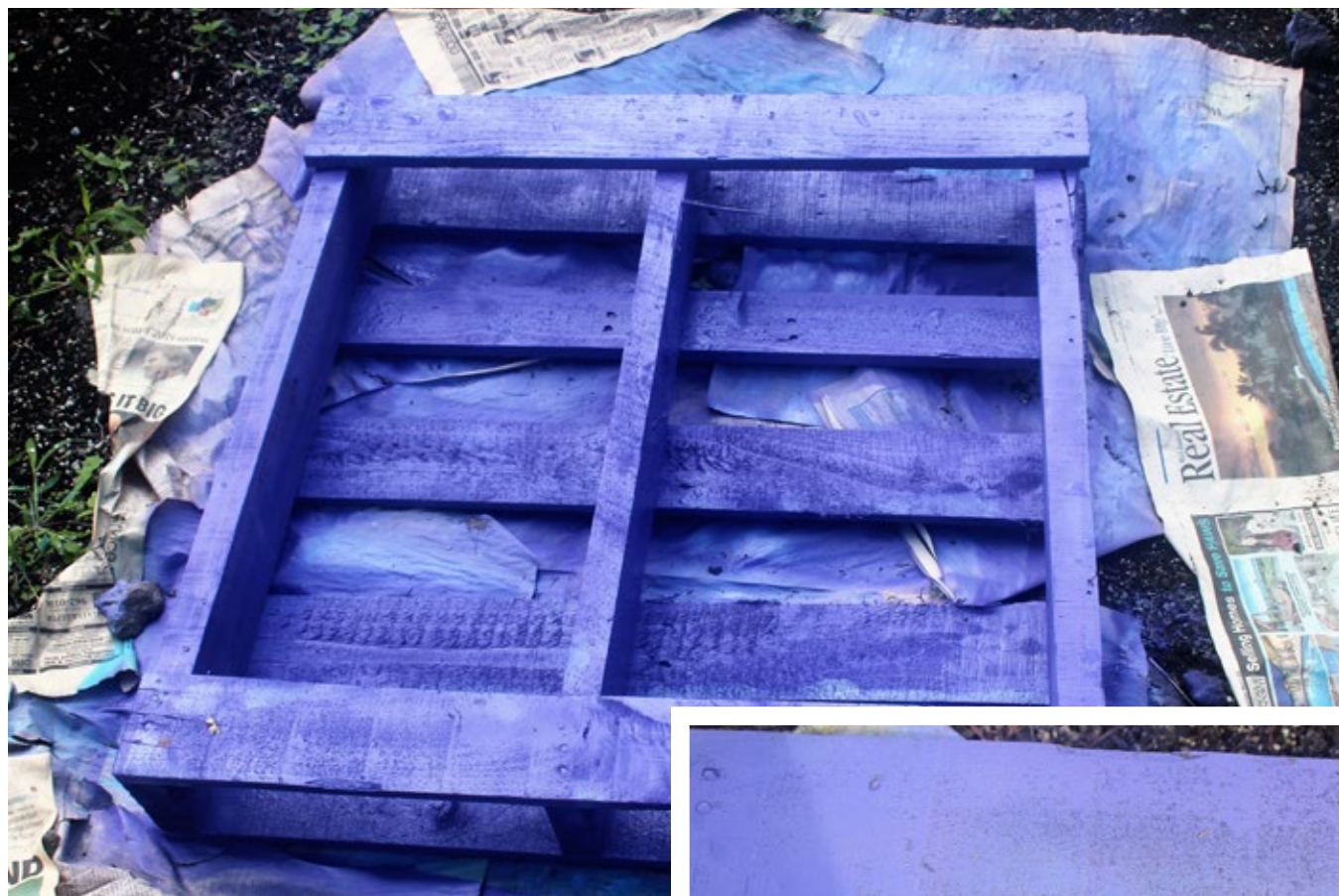
Use glue or staples to secure ends – creating a coco liner planter for the pallet shelves.



My biggest challenge was determining what was going to hold the plants and dirt in the pallet. There are many approaches. My research included one method of stapling plastic liner across the entire back of the pallet and pouring dirt throughout the pallet before planting. It seemed like that would be great for a horizontal pallet home garden. It would take time for the plants to take root well enough to stay put if the pallet became vertical.

I wanted a vertical pallet home garden, and I decided to use coco liners. Truly an organic product, coco liners are eco-friendly – made from actual coconut husks

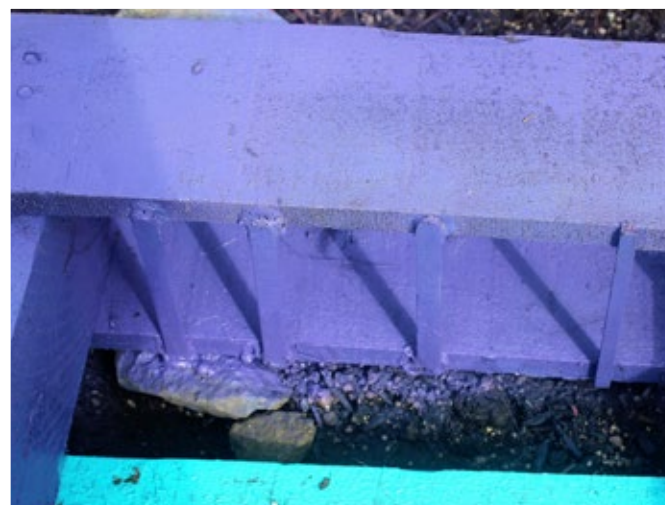
and tree sap. They are very strong and pliable, so it is easy to create planter liners to be placed within the shelves of the pallet. They hold dirt very well and allow for good irrigation. I found the coco liner at a local home improvement store. I purchased a large (21" long) rectangle piece designed for a trough planter. It was about \$7 a piece; I used two for my pallet. I cut the pattern for one planter liner making sure it fit snugly in the shelf. With a pattern, it was pretty easy to crank out the rest. I used glue to secure both ends. A fairly easy process.



Paint away. I used several coats of spray paint.

After I was confident that the coco liners would work for my pallet home garden, I started to paint. It's not necessary though, I've seen many pallets that look great without paint. But I like colors. I bought several cans of spray paint (about \$4 each) and got to work. I used a vibrant purple with touches of lilac and turquoise. I painted several coats on both sides for rich colors. You'll probably need some tape to section off certain areas for painting.

Herbs and flowers are ideal for a pallet home garden. Certain vegetables might work as well. Planting different varieties of lettuce in each shelf would be great for salad lovers. Vegetables like tomatoes and peppers typically need more space than found in most pallets.



Scraps of wood can be painted and added for support.



Begin planting – include a thin layer of potting soil in coco liner planter.

I planted several types of organic herbs – thyme, mint, oregano and dill. These herbs tend to go wild and take over in a backyard home garden, so they are a good choice for containers. I put one type of herb in each shelf. I used two to three starters per shelf (about \$2 each and found at local home improvement stores). Choose any herb you would like – consider herbs you use most frequently in your cooking.

You could experiment by using seeds – again there are many approaches to pallet gardening. Starters give you immediate satisfaction, and you can begin to harvest your home garden right away. If one of your starters doesn't adapt well, it's easy to replace it with another plant. Just pop out the coco liner and try another plant.



Place starters in coco liner before placing in pallet shelf.

Freshly planted pallet – ready for some gentle watering. It's somewhat messy as the plants and soil settle.



If you are planting herbs or vegetables in your home garden, know that you and your family will be eating them so no pesticides, please. Use an organic product, such as Neem oil, to get rid of any bugs you may find. Check out this article on Neem oil from the National Pesticide Information Center <http://npic.orst.edu/factsheets/neemgen.html>

A little sign helps identify herb.





Two weeks later and thriving.

When planting the starters, I began with a thin layer of inexpensive potting soil in the bottom of the prepped coco liners. I placed the starters in the liner. I then gently positioned the liners in the shelves of the pallet. I filled in the shelves with extra soil. I found this approach is more effective than planting the starters while the liner is in the pallet shelves. Once everything is planted, gently water. I used a watering can. Again, this is a messy process.

All in all, it was an easy and enjoyable process. I was happy with the results. And it was ok if it didn't turn out like I wanted. I figured I could always repaint and replace any plants that didn't quite work.

I recommend creating an organic pallet garden for your own home garden. It's fun and you end up with a unique and functional container. Remember, there is no right or wrong way to get the finished product. So get creative and know your home garden will be as individual as you and your pallet.



COMPANY PROFILE PAGE

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