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(Recently we did a collaboration with Lamudi.com and we share with you what they had to say about Filipino building materials and sustainable design, feel free to share your thoughts with us too!) When you look closely at local real estate, you can see that current housing trends follow examples of American and European designs. However, many of them, although impressive, are not always ideal for our tropical climate. Many of these result in significant energy and operating costs, and the continued rise in the price of building materials is already creating problems in construction. Despite modern developments that provide more affordable solutions, not all of them are necessarily sustainable. It is noteworthy that the greenest methods and materials may not actually come from foreign influence or future achievements, but from local ingenuity, history and natural resources. Leading real estate website Lamudi lists only some of these local materials housebuilders can use. Bahay KuboThe Sawali Design CueFavored in a tropical country, bahay Kubo has always been designed to combat heat, humidity and flooding. Bahai Kubos are built raised from the ground or on stilts, allowing air to circulate from under the house, helping to keep it cool as well as avoiding significant flood levels. While the concept of indigenous peoples, commonly referred to as sawali, seems simple, it remains effective today, with the existing bahay Kubos naturally cooler than modern villas and homes. With the type of properties, space, and landscape allows, sawali can easily be applied to modern homes. Modern Bahai Kubo is a problem that makes us go. We tried to extract the principles of Bahai Kubo and applied it in a more modern contextBambooBamboo is 80-90 percent Bahai Kubo. The material is very versatile, used as strips, split, or whole varieties of wood. Unfairly, given the nickname of the poor man's lumber and relegated for use in furniture, bags and wall decor, bamboo has experienced a renaissance as a building material thanks to the increased public interest in the green transition. The technology has allowed bamboo to be cured, where it is impregnated with special solutions that eliminate starches that make it susceptible to fire and termite infestation. It also preserves the material, allowing it to last as long as 30 years. Rhys Hull Ash Cement (RHAC)Of course, it is no longer practical to build a full on bamboo bahay Kubo, especially in the subway, because of the risk to fire safety and durability. Concrete is important for modern homes, and given that the standard variety has volcanic ingredients, it can be expensive, especially in copious quantities. Fortunately, rice ash or husks are an affordable and effective substitute. When burned 700 to 750 degrees Celsius, the ash from the pale coatings offer binding properties that make it a suitable addition to cement solutions. Because rice is a common crop in the country, RHAC building materials are easily easy LumberWhile palm trees have grown in various parts of the Philippines since the early 20th century, they were primarily just for collecting coconuts. When the trees have stopped bearing, they are usually simply cut down to give way to the plantation of new trees. With rising prices for more commonly used lumber variants, in recent years have seen palm exploration as an alternative source. The once low-value old coconut palms have since been promoted as a source of income for the forest industry, with a material source of veneer and numerous building products. We would like to introduce the Spirit of Optimism and community with these houses, which we hope will be built in TaclobanSantol WoodCuth common in the Philippines, Santol is mostly known for its fruits, which are widely consumed and used as an ingredient in places across the country. What most of them don't realize is that the tree that the fruit grows out of is also an ideal alternative to wood. Although the material is relatively less dense than other wood options, it is one that is easy to work and polish. This is, of course, if the lumber has been cured correctly. Probably the best feature of high-quality wood from santhol trees is that it is very resistant to wood borax, or beechbok. This makes it ideal for use as a protective cover or skeletal framework. Infographic courtesy of Lamudi Team For more information on Lamudi, visit their website on When you say Filipino home, most often, the first thing you think of is bahay Kubo. Over time, however, it has evolved into a more modern structure, not just in design, but also through the environments used. If you are in the process of completing your space and thinking about adding touches of Filipino design to your home, you can work with materials that are all over the country. Here's a list to guide you: Image Merrill Abaca chair from Debbie Palao ADVERTISEMENT - CONTINUE READING BELOW Abaca Originally used as a material for rope, abaca found its way inside Filipino homes as a great material for furniture and decor. The versatility of abaca, or Manila hemp, makes it easy to work or create different designs with it. Furniture makers and designers choose this material for their work because of its durability and accessibility. IMAGE Trilogyours ADVERTISEMENT - CONTINUE READING BELOW Coconut Coconut Shells Coconut laminate shells are considered on a par with the quality and appearance of turquoise shells or ivory. When you look at photos of homes- whether in magazines or an online wide range of boxes, lamps, tabletops, chairs, household accessories, and even to treat walls that use these materials. IMAGE Stefano Skate Photographer ADVERTISEMENT - CONTINUE READING BELOW Bamboo Houses in the provinces often use bed frames, sofa sets, and tables made of bamboo, proving it's universal must-have that designers and homeowners should consider. In addition to Used in a variety of pieces of furniture, bamboo is also sturdy and can give your home a relaxed tropical atmosphere. As a bonus, it can last a lifetime, too. IMAGE ON HOME Design - CONTINUE READING BELOW Capiz Shells If you think about it, you've seen cape shells in different homes, in different forms. These sinks are often used in the design of wall art, decor and even fixtures. Invest in one part and use it as a focal point in the living room or dining room. There's no doubt that this will be a conversation starter at the next dinner party. IMAGE Yanko Design - CONTINUE READING BELOW Rattan Made from climbing palm leaves, rattan is another favorite of many designers. Rattan furniture pieces have evolved over time, as seen in the works of renowned designers Kenneth Kobonpu and Ito Kish, to name a few. IMAGE Balay PH Santol Wood Is quite common among Filipino backyards and farms, Santol is mainly known for its fruits, which are widely consumed and used as an ingredient. Little did we know that it has more to offer, while it is less dense than narra or molawa, is the way easier to work and polish. It is also very resistant to wood borax (bukbok), which makes it ideal for skeletal frames. ADVERTISEMENT - CONTINUE READING BELOW IMAGE Pinterest Rice Hull Ash Cement (RHAC) Concrete is important in modern homes, but if you are looking for a more cost-effective and sustainable alternative - RHAC is the answer. Ash from rice casings or husks, when burned at 700-750 degrees Celsius, offers binding properties that make it a suitable addition to cement solutions. ADVERTISEMENT - CONTINUE READING BELOW This story is based on an earlier article published in July 2016. Read more about Realliving.com.ph Volume 16, Issues 3-4, 1991, Pages 925-932Revide the full text As the architectural world evolves, current housing trends in the Philippines prefer also to follow Western culture. While impressive, these forms are not quite better for our tropical climate, which establishes the importance of using indigenous materials in Philippine architecture. The use of local materials in your homes not only reduces the cost of energy and operation that is very noticed with the foreign style, but it also helps the sustainability of these materials and shows pride in our products. Here is a useful list of 6 indigenous materials that are popular and common in any Philippine home setting. A finely created piece of furniture can make all the difference in a beautiful home. With a wide abundance of country on many types of wood, one particular wooden material that is best used as furniture for a Narra home. Not the locals may not be aware of this, but Narra is called the national tree of the country. Used as furniture, Narra can be better lovely cabinetry, sturdy headboards and beds, and even created intricate details like this piece above. Rattan consists of thin malleable palm stems that originated in southeast Asia. Rattan is a very good good mainly because it is lightweight, durable, suitable for outdoor use, and, to a certain extent, flexible. It is a favorite favorite of homeowners who enjoy the furniture and decor that bring a touch of indigenous and natural appeal to their interiors. Emphasizing the concept of banig, which is a hand mat commonly used in East Asia and the Philippines for sleeping and seating, this set of furniture features palms or storms as seat coverings for sofas. Usually mistaken as textiles, this kind of material is actually made from dried leaves that are sometimes painted before being cut into strips and woven into a mat. Notice the criss-cross pattern showcased on the sofas. Want to know what the material is made of? It's not just some type of tree, it's Santol wood! Santol or cotton fruit is common in the Philippines. What most people don't realize, however, is that santol fruit is ideal as an alternative to wood. Although the material is less dense compared to other wood options, it is actually very easy to work with. With the right treatment, this wood is very resistant to wood borax, making it ideal for use as a skeletal frame. Abaca, a plant closely associated with banana, has unique fibrous leaf stems originally used in the creation of the rope. Due to its versatility and wide availability in the market, Filipino interior designers have found deep admiration for Abaca. It can be used in furniture, and in interior decoration. In the picture above, the backboard bed features Abaca painted beige. He tries to imitate the bed back pillow, and still keeps the Filipino roots alive. Husked, split, scraped, and extracted from the fruits of coconut palm, coconut shells are now introducing fresh amazing trends in Philippine architecture, interior design and decoration. Coconut shells are commonly used as decor. It can be cut into pieces and glued completely to form a beautiful work of art, or leave alone in it a rounded shape. In this living room, coconut shells are presented in wall decoration. Small pieces are included to create this round, rustic art. Check out this book of ideas, the best building materials for any Filipino home too! Tooi

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