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INTO THE

New and old ideas for getting into the woods today.

his summer, artist brothers Mike and Doug Starn are presenting Big Bambú—an installation bridging sculpture, architecture, and performance—on the roof of the Metropolitan Museum of Art in NYC. The bamboo structure in the form of a cresting wave is in place now, but the artists and a team of rock climbers-that's right—will continue to construct it over the duration of the exhibit. Until October 31, visitors will be able to view the evolution of the work—a network of 5,000 fresh-cut bamboo poles that will reach approximately 50 feet high-and explore its contours against the backdrop of Central Park and the urban landscape.

As an elegant counterpoint, furniture maker Heidi Earnshaw's handcrafted hardwood pieces

celebrate the natural beauty, richness, and complexity of wood in a more time-honoured fashion. Her simplified Empire-style black walnut dresser is traditionally made using mortise-and-tenon joinery, dovetail construction, and a beeswax finish. Yet, the studio's practices are essentially modern, employing a balance of old and new crafting techniques, using materials responsibly, and producing oneat-a-time custom pieces designed to last.

Landscape design firm Earth Inc. creates gardens and outdoor living spaces. Some are 2,000-sq.-ft. rooftop "dreams of grandeur," as partner Joel Loblaw describes them. Others are more down-to-earth decks or terraces. The firm's projects require a combination of space design, construction, and planting know-how. For the sleek terrace shown here, they chose six ivory silk tree lilacs—they bloom later and longer—to shape the outdoor room and created a screen of horizontal cedar planks "because people love its warmth." The screen is backed by yellow-twig dogwood, whose leaves and branches give shade and privacy without stifling air circulation.

Brothers Starn and Starn say their structure is "an organic system of its own." With respect, it seems the description also applies to the myriad ways artists, designers, and makers today are using wood-salvaged, reused, safely harvested-to create living, breathing spaces and beautiful functional objects.

