

# Eco Beat

STEFAN RURAK TRANSFORMS HURRICANE DEBRIS INTO STUNNING DESIGNS.



**PRODUCT DESIGNER**

Stefan Rurak

**BROOKLYN-BASED PRODUCT** designer Stefan Rurak's Sandy Project is an initiative to transform timber salvaged from the Hurricane Sandy into items of beauty and utility. Stefan has been fascinated with Zen Buddhism and its powerful parallels which drove him to apprentice with New York City's most respected custom woodworker, Palo Samko. After learning under his tutelage, he then founded the SR studio (2011) based on the vision that furniture cannot only fulfil functional needs but also have the expressive power of fine art. In the aftermath of the hurricane, Stefan began carefully selecting pieces of fallen sugar maple and walnut. He would repurpose them into furniture and jewellery. The stump stool by Stefan features repurposed slices of sugar maple that have been uniquely shaped to render a scooped-out seat for comfort. The stool's legs and the base are made of walnut. Since each piece is made to order, a stool or bench can take three to four weeks to complete. A portion of the furniture sales is donated to the Mayor's Fund.

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[www.stefanrurak.com](http://www.stefanrurak.com)