

The New York Times

ON THE WEB

MAY 20, 2007



Doug Dubois for The New York Times

THE ECO-INNOVATORS

WITH HEADQUARTERS IN NEW YORK AND OFFICES IN BANGKOK, COLOGNE AND MILAN, MATERIAL CONNEXION has been the go-to resource for designers and corporations looking for innovative materials for nearly a decade. About 40 percent of the most recent stock is sustainable. Andrew Dent, the company's vice president, has a Ph.D. in materials science, and Cynthia Tyler, the senior research scientist, has one in chemical engineering.

The next big thing? Biopolymers—plastics made from plants like corn, beets, or potatoes that can be re-grown, thereby taking out of the atmosphere whatever carbon dioxide their manufacture generates.