

KAREN SINGH

INDIAN bridal accessories have inspired a Durban fashion-design student to go green and turn trash into art.

Durban University of Technology (DUT) first-year student Lynnette Pillay, 24, is one of 25 chosen from her class to exhibit jewellery designs at the Sustainable Living Exhibition.

DUT has started a Green Entrepreneur project to encourage green living by incorporating the 3 Rs (reduce, reuse and recycle) in creating jewellery.

The collection includes arm cuffs, wrist bands, colourful neck pieces, exotic earrings and hair accessories.

Pillay said she was given three weeks to complete two items and she chose to make a hand chain and necklace using plastic milk bottles from home.

"I was inspired by Indian bridal jewellery and accessories to make the hand chain which links to the finger as well as the necklace," said Pillay.

The students designed the

Pretty cool, for a bunch of garbage



CHAIN REACTION: This piece was made from recycled milk containers

jewellery and then assembled it using milk and soft drink bottles, old vinyl records, colourful butter lids and CDs.

Lee Scott, DUT project coordinator, said students were asked to take a fresh look at

trash and find the beauty in discarded household items.

Scott said the design brief required accessories to be fashionable and eye-catching and to inspire the public to make environmentally friendly

choices in their daily living.

She added that the end product had to have aesthetic appeal and commercial value, be ready to wear and generate excitement around recycled fashion.

Pillay said she used pink and blue nail varnish to make her designs more vibrant and colourful.

"The only problem I had was that the plastic was fragile, making it hard to cut into flower shapes," she said.

"But the chain was easy to work with, using pliers."

The Sustainable Living exhibition — with the theme "Spring into Action" — is the second annual exhibition to be held so far, aimed at bringing government together with individuals, schools, nonprofit organisations and businesses that are engaging in carbon-reducing practices.

The exhibition runs from Friday to Sunday at the Durban Exhibition Centre.



STRIKING: Lynnette Pillay's design