

Fashioning drab items into pretty accessories

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PRETTY bougainvillea flowers encased between perspex, bits of tree bark carefully layered on a roll and pumpkin seeds that never looked so good before.

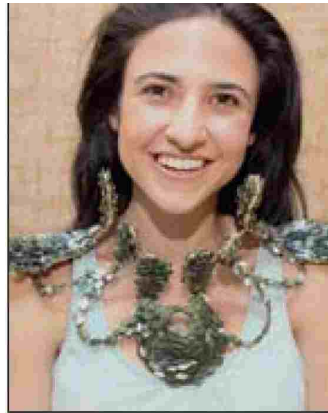
These natural items have been fashioned into jewellery items that can easily be worn day or night.

The Durban University of Technology's first-year fashion and textile design students have



LEFT: First-year fashion and textile design student Samkelisiwe Mhlongo shows off her tree bark and plaited plastic bracelet. Centre: Carla Gerstmeier with her pumpkin-seed neck piece. Right: A neck piece made by Sarah Gilbert, using a broken sign for the perspex pieces and pressed dried flowers in-between.

created rings, necklaces, fascinators and bracelets made from 50 percent organic plant matter and 50 percent recycled materials, as part of the Musgrave Centre



Flower Show, which starts on Friday and ends on Sunday.

The main attraction will be flower arrangements done by both amateur and professional



flower arrangers from across KZN, but the eco-inspired jewellery will form a special part of the exhibition.

Di Wayne, one of the

organisers of the show, said this year's exhibition was bound to look "spectacular".

"We've got four design categories for the flower arrangements, plus the jewellery items from the students, so it will all look beautiful."

Student Samkelisiwe Mhlongo created a bracelet out of recycled cardboard rolls, plaited pieces of plastic packet and bits of tree bark.

"I decided to go with a tree bark idea as this material would last long, especially once it dried it would hold," said Mhlongo.

Student Carla Gerstmeier created a neck piece using an old clothes-wire hanger and pumpkin seeds. "I found an old hanger, pumpkin seeds and started playing with the design," she said.

Gerstmeier said she cut out pieces of used cool drink cans in the shape of the seeds, and added them to the pumpkin seeds for sparkle.