

## Blog from Anke Herder

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### The German art of A.R.M. - poverty a climate change connected



A.R.M, read as one word, means poor in German. A.R.M also stands short for All Recycled Materials (- Furniture). In summary **A.R.M.** art project in Berlin by German Artist Barbara Caveng. Even though the exhibition part ended in 2006 – the project of some sort is still going on.

What exactly is A.R.M.?

In the middle of Berlin **Barbara Caveng** designed a whole apartment – literally out of nothing – or what most people would describe as nothing: junk. In hours of work she picked up Berliner society's refuse from streets, garbage bins etc.. Took them apart and recycled them into objects of individual design. **The furniture** she designed is unique, beautiful, fun (just look at this **socklamp**) and most importantly unbelievably cheap (aside from the physical work).



Surprisingly, even for herself the whole art project became a huge success. All big newspapers in Berlin featured A.R.M. at one point Barbara Caveng got invitations to Germany's biggest furniture fair (e.g. in **Cologne**). Designers from all over the world working with recycled materials called her up.

**The apartment** which she furnished became so popular that during the duration of the project it never stood empty – people from different financial backgrounds called her up to live in All Recycled Materials. After the project was completed in 2006 parts of the furniture were sold on ebay. But the demand for more furniture never stops so that Barbara Caveng currently thinks about industrializing production.

