

published: 15th of August, 2008  
 media: Wired Magazine  
 section: Create  
 page: 78  
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## Create: Earth From Above

Show off  
 your favorite  
 topography  
 with custom-  
 sculpted  
 woodwork.



Consider it one of the last great joys of air travel: On a clear day, you can close your laptop and press your nose against the window to gawk at the craggy Rocky Mountains, the geometric Great Plains, the dusty red plateaus of the Southwest. It's better than any in-flight entertainment. ¶ Now you can capture your favorite swath of topography with a Fluid Earth "bowl" from designers Hannes Walter and Stephen Williams. Here's how it works: Identify your quadrant of interest with the Google Maps tool on the Fluid Forms Web site ([fluid-forms.at](http://fluid-forms.at)). That data is converted to an algorithm that generates a 3-D digital model, which gets sent to a computer-controlled milling machine. Then a carbide bit begins to cut, moving in a spiral path, shaping rounded peaks in the mountain ranges and subtle elevation changes down in the plains. (Shown here: two views of Vancouver.) ¶ Choose from layered walnut and maple or birch plywood—the alternating hues suggest contour lines—to render Area 51, your winter retreat in Aspen, or your parents' stomping grounds in Shakopee, Minnesota (a good choice if you want a plate). Use your imagination: An American mining company ordered a slab based on the coordinates of the crater it blasted into the ground. ¶ So next time you're flying the not-so-friendly skies, take a look down and ask: Would this stretch of land look good on my coffee table? —Allison Roeser

