

### Richie Sowa (Re)Builds Mexican Island Paradise on 250,000 Recycled Floating Bottles



If you can't afford to buy your own tropical island paradise, why not build your own? That is exactly what **Richie Sowa** did back in 1998, from over a quarter-million plastic bottles. His **Spiral Island**

, destroyed years later by a hurricane, sported a two-story house, solar oven, self-composting toilet and multiple beaches. Better yet, he has started building another one! His ultimate goal? To build the island bigger and bigger and finally float out to sea, traveling the world from the

comfort of his own private paradise.



The [original Spiral Island](#) was (as its successor will be) built upon a floating collection used plastic bottles, all netted together to support a bamboo and plywood structure above. Located in Mexico, the original was 66 by 54 feet and was able to support full-sized mangroves to provide shade and privacy, yet also able to be moved from place to place by its creator as need with a simple motorized system.

