



The feng shui palette

by Terri Parsell Hilmey

the art and science of feng shui, practiced for more than 3,000 years, deals with the flow of energy and harmony. "The home sets the tone for your life," says Feng Shui Your World owner Linda Ellson. "The theory is that your whole life is mapped out in your physical space." To that end, a fine collaboration between interior designer Mark Taylor, Ellson, and Williamsville homeowner Lynn Rizzo has resulted in décor that is both comfortable and beautiful, and which flows in all the best senses.

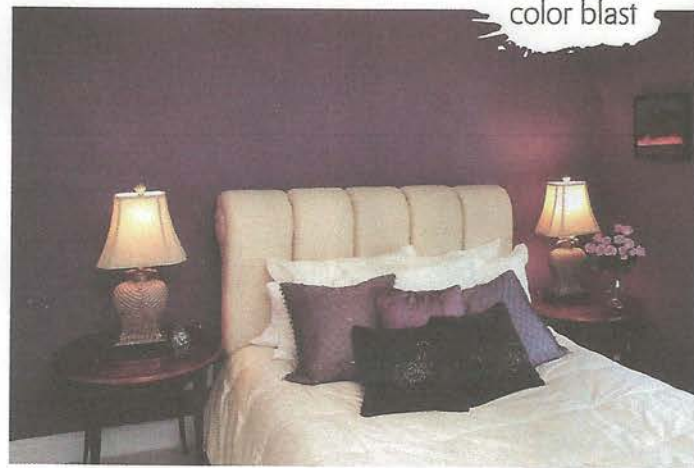
Ellson made her recommendations using traditional, classic feng shui—which starts on the front porch, the most "yang" part of the home, facing the street, where the most active energy is—and a compass, which she uses to analyze how the energy of a space flows. In following feng shui principles, the positioning of rooms

dictates their elements and secondary elements, as well as the shapes and materials for the furniture and accessories contained in each. (For more information on feng shui, see page 20.)

"Feng shui rules are very specific," according to Taylor, "so it was interesting to have this somewhat strict framework,

and work within it to find really great things that the owner would also love. It made the job a bit more difficult, but also more interesting."

In the dining room, for example, Fire and Earth are the primary and secondary elements, so Taylor and Rizzo chose a rather traditional damask wallpaper pattern with a rather non-traditional burnt orange color. A vase on the table incorporates the crystal and gemstones that were called for, as do other reflective and mirror-like pieces displayed in the china cabinet.



Opposite: This feng shui-inspired dining room features primary Fire and secondary Earth elements. Above left and right: The upstairs bedrooms are infused with Water and Metal, and Fire and Earth respectively; their shared bath (bottom right) uses Water, Metal, and Earth. Below right: The nursery crib faces the north wall in a room with Fire as its main element.

Two of the upstairs bedrooms—across the hall from each other in southeast and southwest positions—serve as guest rooms and share a bath. The east guest room has Metal and Water as its primary and secondary elements, so the walls are painted blue, and metal frames and lamp bases were incorporated to increase luck and health. By contrast, the west guest room's primary and secondary elements are Fire and Earth, so paintings with red hang on plum walls. "We loved the plum color," says Taylor, "because we had always intended to use that cream-colored tufted headboard in that room, and the plum color made that a perfect choice. The red in the paintings is really unexpected, but just looks great."

The guest bath demanded

Water, Metal, and Earth, and Taylor found this particularly fun because he found, and adores, a very large print watercolor wallpaper with purple flowers. Fortunately, he says, Rizzo is fearless: "She loved it, and it brought the colors of the two guest bedrooms together, plus it was such a great throwback to the sixties. We both thought it was the perfect choice."

Like the west guest room, the baby's room also had Fire as its main element, and Earth as its secondary, so a lovely buttery wall color was chosen. The baby's bed was then placed along the north wall, so that his head faces west when he sleeps, which encourages the most positive flow of energy, and sweet dreams. In the northeast cor-





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color blast

ner is the older daughter's room, which called for Water, with a bit of Wood and Fire. There, the walls are a soothing green, with one deep purple accent wall to bring in the Fire.

"Feng shui rules made the job a bit more difficult, but also more interesting."

"We just love it," says Rizzo. "It was important for my husband and me that the house respected feng shui principles, but I also wanted it to be comfortable, and beautiful. Mark was able to take all of the recommendations that Linda made, and find really great choices that would work for all of us. Now the house feels really peaceful, and it's a refuge for our family. At the end of a busy day, we can come into our house, and just exhale, and relax. The energy is great, and the house works just beautifully for us." ■

Terri Parsell Hilmey is a regular contributor to Buffalo Spree Home.

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Benjamin Moore (paint)
West guest room: Pinot Grigio Grape
East guest room: Porcelain Glaze
Daughter's bedroom: Elemental; accent wall: Bonne Nuit
Daughter's bath: Sanctuary
Baby room: Melted Butter
Wallpaper:
Dining room: Thibaut Mumford- Pearl on Rust
Guest bath: Seabrook Villa Floral and Villa Stripe



This room, which also called for Water, takes advantage of the element's soothing greens instead of blue.

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