

► HOME: *Décor nurtures well-being*

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1AA

Sometimes, however, feng shui principles can conflict with a person's inherent nature, she added. For example, removing clutter as directed by traditional feng shui methods could actually diminish a person's sense of safety.

Because there are so many factors that influence a person's well-being, Wallers also specializes in holistic interior decorating.

"Holistic interior decorating is about creating nurturing therapeutic environments. When a home expresses positive messages and symbolism it is energizing. Positive surroundings create positive futures," she said.

Intensely individualized to support each person's needs, the interiors designed by Wallers are created using a variety of tools, among them a system of image diagnostics or archityping, which she said is a science-based test developed in 1999 at Harvard

University to determine how a person feels in a specific space and reacts to situations.

Additionally, Wallers offers a simple test that reveals which elements — water, wood, fire, earth or metal — are dominant in a person's life and how they can be represented to achieve a healthy lifestyle.

"I get a good idea of how you relate to a space and what you need in that space to feel safe and healthy," she said.

Using her own test results as an example, Wallers said she is a wood person who needs water elements to help her maintain balance. As a result, she has a fountain near the front entrance of her home and a pool in her backyard.

The basic elements can be represented by colors and specific materials, which are introduced into a home's décor — or removed — as needed to create balance.

Waller's said she has met many people who are more comfortable with the holistic

approach because it is based on science, versus feng shui, which is based on philosophies and cultural practices. She said holistic interior decorating addresses all five senses, alleviates fatigue, increases productivity and mood, and improves overall health.

Also striving to create a sense of harmony and positive influences on a person's life is Tina Dyba, owner of D.I.V.A. Concepts in Las Vegas. Through her experience as a decorator, Dyba has developed a new design concept called "elemental fusion," which brings elements of nature into the home to create harmony and a tranquil feeling.

By focusing on function of space, lighting sources, colors, textures and patterns, elemental fusion will help create an environmental where the mind and body can work together successfully.

She accomplishes this by introducing colors found in nature, such as earth tones and shades of blue and green; various textures; images of items such as leaves and flowers; and elements such as water and plants into her décors.

"You want to create a balance between color, texture and pattern," she said, noting designs also have to take into account the natural environment. For example, here in the desert, where it is dry, water features should be incorporated into the home's décor, but in Portland, Ore., where there is a lot of natural water, elements representing water should be limited and items representing fire and earth such as candles and rocks, respectively, should be featured.

Dyba believes that to fully incorporate elemental fusion into one's home, a person must also have an organized lifestyle, believe in God, lead a healthy life, strive toward financial freedom, set goals and be able to express oneself.

She said she has honed her skills throughout her life. In addition to studying at the Art Institute of Pittsburgh and College of Southern Nevada, Dyba said she learned about good designs while working for architecture firms and when she was a real estate



PHOTOS COURTESY D.I.V.A. CONCEPTS
Using elemental fusion to create a more tranquil environment, Tina Dyba of D.I.V.A. Concepts transformed the plain dining room, below, to one filled with traces of nature.



agent before opening her design firm, D.I.V.A., which stands for Designing Is Vision with Attitude.

Additional information about the benefits of feng shui and holistic interior decorating is

available at www.fengshui-designsolutions.com. For more information about

elemental fusion, visit www.divaconceptsin.com.



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Holistic interior decorating addresses all five senses and uses elements of nature to nurture.

► DESIGNER: *Work goes beyond basic look*

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1AA

Inc., a Las Vegas Design company, said interior designers work hand in hand with licensed architects to make sure all elements of a property, whether residential or commercial, work together to create spaces that function as beautifully as they look.

So while an interior designer will not create electrical drawings, he or she can read the architect's drawings and make sure outlets and electrical connections are put in the proper location.

A designers also can specify the right kind of flooring, lighting and plumbing fixtures to fit your lifestyle.

"It goes beyond the selection of furniture and fabrics, wallpaper and drapery," she said. "We (interior designers) have a deeper understanding of architecture and architectural elements."

This is particularly true for commercial properties, which must adhere to municipal, state and federal standards on issues such as fire safety and compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

"There is a huge difference

between a decorator and an interior designer. A true interior designer has more intensive training," Parraguirre said.

According to Parraguirre, interior designers will have degrees from schools that have been accredited by the Foundation for Interior Design Education Research. The agency aims to promote excellence in the field of interior design education through research and the accreditation of academic programs. It follows a set of standards created by interior designers and educators.

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