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ART OF **feng shui** BRINGS BALANCE TO HOME AND LIFE

Using the ancient Chinese art of feng shui can help create a positive flow of energy in your home.

Your home is more than a place to sleep, eat, and sometimes work. By following the rules of feng shui (pronounced *fehng shuey*), which place great importance on the arrangement of items like furniture and accessories, you can transform your home into a feel-good place that helps improve prospects in all areas of your life, including wealth, health and strong relationships.

"People will call me if they are having problems in one of these areas or if they are looking to improve their life overall," says Sondra Harper, owner of Balanced Concepts.

Feng shui, a very complicated art and philosophy, works on the principle that a home's environmental conditions should honor nature's cycles and employ a mix of the five elements — fire, earth, metal, water and wood. Creating these conditions harmonizes and balances a space for accomplishing one's goals.

The direction a home faces is considered important to the type of energy generated. Based on the homeowner's birth date and other factors, a feng shui practitioner can determine the direction that is most conducive for creating positive outcomes. The practitioner also suggests enhancements (or cures) if the direction of the home is calculated



Photo by Steve Reed

Sondra Harper of Balanced Concepts helped homeowner Kyle Pugh design his kitchen (above) that incorporated the principles of feng shui.

to be inauspicious for an individual. Paint color, furniture and plant arrangements are common tools for overcoming an ill-placed home, according to Harper.

Practitioners also advise clients when building or shopping for a home by examining location and structure. For example, Harper tells her clients to avoid homes where the sink can be seen from the front door, as energy can

be easily lost through drains. Some practitioners also help homeowners who are having problems selling a home.

"One thing that keeps people from selling a home is that they are still attached," says Jolene Blazer, owner of Feng Shui Consulting. "I encourage them to look for another home and to pack sentimental items." She also helps with home staging based on feng shui

principles in order to balance and harmonize energies.

Practitioners also move "cures" around a room or home depending on the phases of the moon to solve energetic problems and encourage growth. Health problems can be combated using salt, such as salt-filled tanks of water; arguments can be overcome through the use of fire — either in a fireplace or with an incandescent bulb

that gives off heat; and romance can be encouraged through deep pots of water.

"You have to be really careful where you put pots of water," says Karen Tomkins, owner of Feng Shui Wealth Strategist. "If you already have a relationship, it can attract affairs."

She provides her clients with personalized charts that instruct when and where to move items throughout the year. Tomkins says that she is also part of a group that has analyzed the 25 wealthiest buildings in Manhattan and determined the elements that are responsible for their success.

Feng shui translates to wind and water and emerged thousands of years ago in China. Various types of feng shui are practiced in the U.S., including the classical type that relies on mathematical calculations. Some practitioners can audit a home using telephone consultations and an evaluation of a home's location and direction using Google Earth. Others rely on questionnaires or face-to-face interviews in the home.

"Sometimes you can walk into a home and it doesn't feel good even though it is beautiful," Harper says. "A healthy environment will feature elements that make people feel energized."

Carin Hughes (carinhughes@hotmail.com) is a freelance writer based in Dallas.

DAVE PERRY-MILLER

Highland Park home to be held open today

The residence was built in 2005 and includes six bedrooms, four living areas and a pool.

Dave Perry-Miller is inviting the public to tour the home at 4301 Belclaire Ave. in Highland Park from 2 to 4 p.m. today. This three-story

English Tudor is located at the corner of Belclaire and Douglas and listed for \$4,295,000.

Completed in 2005 by builder Jeff Gilbert, the residence offers a flexible floor plan and attention to detail, both inside and out, Perry-Miller says.

The home has six bedrooms, six baths, three half-baths, four living areas, a formal dining room, a study, a playroom, a mud room, a guest quarter, a pool and double garage. Allman is offering the home for \$2,575,000.



The three-story Tudor home at 4301 Belclaire will be held open from 2 to 4 p.m. It is listed for \$4,295,000.

ALLIE BETH ALLMAN

Traditional design available in Park Cities



The home at 4308 Belclaire is offered for \$2,575,000. Amenities include an outdoor fireplace, sport court and saltwater pool.

Famed city planner and designer George Kessler laid out Highland Park west with sweeping boulevards, calling for trees and lawns. The home at 4308 Belclaire reflects the timeless appeal of the classic neighborhoods west of Preston Road, says Allie Beth Allman, CEO of Allie Beth Allman & Associates. This 4,793-square-foot traditional design, flanked by mature trees, has four bedrooms, 4½ baths, four fireplaces, a formal living and dining room, family room, study, playroom, mud room, guest quarters, pool and double garage. Allman is offering the home for \$2,575,000.

"The location is near the Dallas Country Club, Highland Park Village, schools, Oak Lawn and the Knox-Henderson area. The neighborhood has parks and is people friendly," Allman says. "And See ALLMAN on Page 2H."

PAUL TAYLOR

Homesites in Parker community showcased

Southridge Estates, a countryside community in Parker that is served by the Plano Independent School District, is comprised of a limited number of acreage homesites.

Large, one-acre properties provides an opportunity for homebuyers who want to build a one-story home with a large kitchen featuring a granite island, a master bath with a walk-in, private shower, a media room, a game room and multiple garages.

Homes in Southridge Estates start in the \$450s with floor plan sizes ranging from 3,914 to 5,672 square feet. All Southridge homes come with a minimum of a three-car garage.

Southridge Estates is near high-end shopping and restaurants at Watters Creek at U.S. Highway 75 and Bethany, and at The Village at Allen at U.S. 75 and Stacy Road.

Paul Taylor homes are backed by a 10-year home warranty and exceed Energy Star guidelines.

The model is located at 6001 Southridge. For more information, contact Michael Romer at 972-429-1701 or visit www.paultaylorhomes.com.



Southridge Estates homes start in the \$450s and offer floor plans ranging from 3,914 to 5,672 square feet of living space.

NORMANDY

Builder presents Las Colinas grand opening at Alto Vista

Normandy Homes recently announced its grand opening at Alto Vista in Las Colinas, a community of 27 homesites located one block from the Las Colinas Country Club. Homes are priced from the \$460s. City of Irving officials and Realtors had the opportunity to preview the community during a Chamber of Commerce ribbon-cutting ceremony and preview luncheon.

In addition to its close proximity to the country club and the community's large lots, Alto Vista is the highest point in the area, affording some homeowners unobstructed views of downtown Dallas. In addition, established homes in Alto Vista are in the million-dollar range, making this first community by Norman-



Normandy Homes has recently opened its newest community at Alto Vista in Las Colinas.

dy Homes an excellent opportunity for both luxury and value, says a company representative.

See NORMANDY on Page 12H.

KELLER WILLIAMS ELITE

Office expects strong 2013

Keller Williams Elite Dallas-Park Cities is welcoming 2013 as a year of exciting real estate success and growth, says a company representative. As an integral specialty office of Keller Williams International, the second-largest real estate company in North America, the Keller Williams Elite office is located in Preston Center and offers residential and commercial expertise throughout the greater Dallas area and surrounding communities.

Understanding all of the different markets within the area is a crucial part of real estate expertise in today's marketplace due to the mobility of clientele moving into and among North Texas. Extensive agent training, in addition to national and international marketing networks, enhances each client's experi-



The Keller Williams Elite Dallas Park-Cities office staff includes (seated from left) Vicki Foster, Susan Bradley, Robyn Carafiol, Judy Collins and Jill Long. Standing (from left) are Page Fielder, Steven Rosenthal, Tim Schutze and Jane Idzi.

ence, producing the highest in overall satisfaction for homebuyers and sellers among national full-service real estate firms and once again earning Keller Williams Realty the 2012 JD Powers award.

For more information about Keller Williams Elite and its market leaders, contact Matt Hilton at 214-526-4663.



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