

Designing In Shades of Green

Designer Profile: Robin Buck of Robin Buck Design & Feng Shui

Home is where your heart lives. Be it casual or formal, shabby-chic or designer-label, our homes are the places where we relax, restore and share ourselves openly with others.

The tag line on designer Robin Buck's portfolio reads: "Creating the Space for Peace Healing and Wholeness." Ahhhh.....

The heart of what she offers her clients is this: A genuine desire to help them create a home that fully supports who they are and provides them the space to grow into who they want to become -- as individuals, couples, families and communities.

As Winston Churchill wisely perceived, "We shape our dwellings, and afterwards our dwellings shape us."

Robin is a DC-based designer and space planner who, in addition to her feng shui training, incorporates environmentally friendly products and materials. She is thrilled to be working increasingly with clients who are concerned not just about footprints on the carpet, but also about their "environmental footprint" on the earth.

Designing for beauty and health have long been driving forces in Robin's life. Formerly both a public health nutritionist and chef, she believes that the aesthetics that touch our daily lives feed us on many levels.

"Going green" is a new concept to many clients. And they are often amazed by the gorgeous new products hitting the market that offer a healthier home environment with less impact on the planet.

"We make changes at a pace that's comfortable and affordable for us," Robin observes. The easiest and most effective way to "green" our lives is to begin asking ourselves "What do I need?" and then designing our homes and businesses to meet our deepest needs first. Asking questions like "What do I need in my home to comfortably and efficiently perform my daily tasks and routines?" "What gives my family the most satisfaction?"

"What would I love to do in my home - and my life - if I could only create the space for it?" provides the foundation for fashioning a supportive home.

In Eastern medical tradition, environmental design (feng shui) is one of the disciplines of medicine -- sharing equal weight with nutrition and pharmacology. Feng shui offers a systematic way of viewing not just our homes, but the lives that we want to live within them. It starts with asking lifestyle questions and guides the home design solutions that follow.

As both a designer and feng shui consultant, Robin brings a unique variety of skills to each project. Her interior design training spans continents -- from a trade school in southern Norway (where sustainable design has long been the standard) to the Corcoran School of Art in DC. Ms. Buck earned her Certificate of Feng Shui Studies at the Metropolitan Institute of Interior Design in New York. And her training and experience as a personal coach further helps clients define their dreams and dream homes. Her knowledge of green interiors has been both a personal and professional adventure.

Finding eco-friendly products is one thing. Any internet-savvy individual can run google searches for flooring. As both a designer and homeowner, the challenge was finding the product **LOCALLY** -- and finding the technicians and craftsmen trained to install and maintain these often new-to-the-market choices.

In February 2007 Robin formed the "Eco-Partners" Networking Community, a DC-area community of businesspersons specializing in residential and commercial construction, renovation, interiors, landscaping, maintenance and related goods and services who are committed to utilizing environmentally-sustainable products, processes and materials.

Through the Eco-Partners network, Robin is able to provide clients access to a full complement of eco-friendly products and services via a comprehensive network of trusted retailers, contractors and consultants.

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In addition to residential, commercial and municipal projects, Ms. Buck's portfolio includes theatre and television studio sets, art galleries, special event sites, and staging homes and businesses for sale. Robin Buck teaches public and private workshops and is available as a guest speaker.