

## Feng Shui Rater

Judging random home design trends by their energy.

This month's guest judge: Katie Bassett of KBI Interior Design Studios

## **GOOD CHI**

Mixing bold colors, textures and materials: 2012 brings unusual schemes and material" combinations. Mix vibrant colors with different textures and materials (think natural stone, silk fabrics, wood, glass and metal) within a room to create balance. Woodcarved lamp bases are also big this year.

**Functional** home-office décor: Choose modern, contemporary, minimalistic styles of office furniture that are comfortable, simple and that boost creativity and production. Also consider a panoramic wall mural with an inspirational photo. According to feng shui principles, tabletop fountains in a workspace (which bring in a water element) will aid in prosperity. Paint this room green to boost your income and reduce stress.

Decorative mirrors: The Swiss Army knife of feng shui. Use them to attract energy, add light or expand an area. Large, ornate mirrors are popular this season.

One-dimensional

lighting:

Random color choices:

While you should stick to colors that speak to you, don't just pull one out of a hat. Take into consideration whether the room you are decorating is an active (yang) or a quiet area (yin) and select colors that suit the room's purpose. Warm colors support activity, while cool colors support rest.

Lighting should be layered, and should come from many different directions. Table lamps, sconces, overhead lighting and candles mix well together. Consider decorative lighting, like multifaceted crystal chandeliers. Think of lighting as a piece of jewelry in a room. (Fluorescent lights are,

of course, a no-no.)

Clutter:

Less is more. Create an environment that is clean, orderly and simplistic. People and energy should flow and move easily in a room. The open floor plan continues to be a must for creating an inviting place to gather and entertain.

## **BAD CHI**

Katie Bassett has been designing interior spaces for clients since 2004. She specializes in custom interiors with a fresh, creative twist. Having grown up and raised her family in Edina, Katie has chosen Edina as the location for her business. She lives in Wayzata with her husband, Marty, and dog, Toby. kbidesignstudios.com



