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LIFESTYLE

Saturday, February 15, 2003

Sashay over to the feng shui house and learn to harmonize your space

By **SUSAN PHINNEY**
SEATTLE POST-INTELLIGENCER REPORTER

Feng shui, the ancient Chinese practice for creating harmony in one's environment, has been around for more than 6,000 years. Today it's making its debut at Seattle Home Show 2003.

The feng shui house, officially Number 0-81 on the show's "Idea Street," is a 2,800-square-foot design from Marlette Homes. The interiors are by Piper Lauri Salogga of Natural Balance, which calls itself "a feng shui and aesthetics company."

Salogga explained that a feng shui interior designer focuses on feng shui first and interior design second. "How the energy flows through a home is as important as how it looks. No house is created with perfect energy," she said.

The Home Show house presented challenges to harmony. For example, the entry to the dining room is open. "This dining room has too much energy whizzing through. It feels more like a hallway," she said.

To make it a more stable, secure place for good digestion, she added a four-panel screen to "hug" the room. A round table and chairs in dark wood stabilize the space. The dining room shares a wall with a bathroom. "That's not good," Salogga said. "A mirror on the dining room wall will reflect energy back into the room. "

The master bedroom presented the greatest challenge. The bed had to be placed at an angle, so occupants wouldn't face the bathroom -- bad feng shui, especially when there's no bathroom door. The bathroom was painted henna red to pull the energy up and away from drains. Salogga explained there's a theory that energy goes down drains.

"Feng shui has become almost pop culture," she said. Amazon.com lists 512 books on the topic, and to some it's even a punch line.

But Salogga believes in it to the core. "The evidence is how it feels. If it

HOME SHOW 2003

WHEN: 10 a.m.--9 p.m. Saturdays; 10 a.m.--6 p.m. Sundays; 10 a.m.--8:30 p.m. Monday; 11 a.m.--8:30 p.m. Tuesday-Thursday; 11 a.m.--9:30 p.m. Friday; through Feb. 23

WHERE: Seahawks Exhibition Center and the West Plaza of Seahawks Stadium

ADMISSION: Adults \$9; people 60 or older \$4 (Monday-Friday); children 6-15 \$3. Visa and MasterCard accepted. Discount coupons at www.SeattleHomeShow.com

PARKING: Seahawks Exhibition Center garage, Seahawks Stadium north lot, Safeco Field and Union Station garages. Vehicles with four or more occupants can park free at designated lots

SHUTTLES: Free Metro shuttle buses will run today, tomorrow and Monday from the Northgate, South Bellevue and South Renton park and ride lots and again on Feb. 22 and 23



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(an interior) feels really good to me and to the homeowners, I know I've done my job."

For the uninitiated, Salogga has created a fact sheet explaining feng shui and how it applies to the various rooms. It will be available to all who visit the home.

This colorful house is one of several being featured on "Idea Street," a new Home Show feature. Mike Kalian, managing director of Seattle Home Show, said a street of homes exhibit has been brewing for years, but it wasn't until now, with the completion of Seahawks Stadium, that the space became available.



zoom Jim Bryant / P-I
Designer Piper Lauri Salogga arranges pillows in a room of the feng shui house at the Home Show.

"Idea Street" occupies about 60,000 square feet in the adjoining West Plaza of Seahawks Stadium -- a space adjacent to Seahawks Exhibition Center. This means visitors have about 11 acres of exhibits to explore. Kalian said this will encourage more people to register for the "Too much to see -- come back for free" program, which allows them to return for a second day.

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