

U-T SAN DIEGO

Coastal

SAN DIEGO HOMES

A photograph of a modern outdoor patio. In the center is a large stone fireplace with a flat-screen TV mounted on the wall above it. The fireplace has a fire burning inside. To the left is a white outdoor sofa with green and brown pillows. In front of the sofa are three dark, rustic-style coffee tables. The patio is covered by a wooden pergola. In the background, there is a view of a golf course and a residential area under a cloudy sky.

A NEW TWIST
MODERN LIVING IN A
TRADITIONAL FRENCH
PROVINCIAL HOME

MAY 2015

HARMONY THROUGHOUT

FENG SHUI PRINCIPLES APPLY TO EXTERIOR, INTERIOR OF HOME



LILLIAN COX
SPECIAL TO THE U-T

In 2002, a Chinese businessman purchased a Mediterranean-style home for his family of four in the exclusive Cielo community of Rancho Santa Fe.

A native of Canton, Southern China, he was a devotee of feng shui, the ancient art of placement. When executed properly, feng shui is thought to attract health and fortune to a home.

"The house had good feng shui for a couple of reasons," said the homeowner, who wishes to remain anonymous. "It was symmetrical, with two large (canary) palm trees that serve as guards of the residence. And it had mountains on both sides of the house, which can be interpreted as a dragon and tiger."

In feng shui, the dragon and tiger represent opposing energies. Together they symbolize the balance of power, or harmony.

The 6,200-square-foot structure was originally a model home with six bedrooms and six-and-a-half baths, a living room and formal dining room with a wine room.

There is an office for the homeowner with built-ins and a fireplace, as well as a children's study where the kids

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The foyer with a dual curved stairway accented by a wrought-iron banister is the home's centerpiece (left). Canary palms (above) serve as guards of the residence according to feng shui principles.

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The Roman-style master bathroom is one of the homeowner's favorite features in the 6,200-square-foot home. It includes a toilet and bidet, a Jacuzzi, an oversized shower and his and her dressing stations. EDUARDO CONTRERAS • U-T

Cielo

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can work on their homework. They can grab a snack using a hidden staircase, which leads downstairs to a gourmet chef's kitchen with Viking appliances and a double island. There is also a wine cooler.

The master bedroom includes a retreat area with a fireplace and seating to watch television, read or just relax after a hot shower. The homeowner particularly liked the Roman-style master bathroom with a toilet and bidet, Jacuzzi, oversized shower and his and her makeup, grooming and dressing stations.

In addition to its feng shui, the homeowner was sold on the house because of other enhancements such as arched doors and maple parquet flooring that flows throughout the home.

The centerpiece of the estate is a cast-iron entry door that opens to a grand foyer revealing a dual curved stairway, accented by a double wrought-iron banister, gracefully leading to the second floor. The spectacular design of the staircase has become the signature of Bill Davidson of Davidson Communities, which developed Cielo.

For good luck, the homeowner purchased a gold feng shui medalion from China that he mounted in the center of the back wall of the house looking out toward the

Crosby Club and mountains on the horizon.

After living on the property for two years, the homeowner decided to complete his one-acre estate by adding a pool and an outdoor living area with a Jacuzzi, fire pit and barbecue for entertaining. Once again, feng shui principles were a consideration.

"I tried to keep it symmetrical with a dual curved staircase that matched the one in the house," he said. "The pool is below the house, which (in feng shui) means that it will 'catch' or 'reserve' wealth for the family."

Award-winning landscape designer Nick Martin was commissioned for the project. Martin, who is a member of the California Landscape Contractors Association and has served as a judge of the group's annual Beautification Awards for seven years, has designed more than 20 landscape projects in Cielo and was familiar with the process.

"It was all about family lifestyle, multiple activities, entertaining with friends and family, pool safety, cost-benefit ratio and cost justification," he said. "Obviously, they wanted a beautiful, functional and affordable project."

He explained that his goal was to reduce cost, minimize engineering and allow the elevation levels to "tell a story," so that each level had a purpose and served as a destination.

"The grand staircase was an inevitable result of the need to

Billionaires Row

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Gregg Whitney

Billionaires Row | La Jolla

858.456.3282

Gregg@GreggWhitney.com

CalBRE# 01005985



link the pool environment to the upper patios behind the home,” he said. “The idea was to create a lovely composition so that people could enjoy and relish the view from the pool up toward the home during daylight and nighttime hours. The home is stately, and rests squarely on the plateau above, adding stability and permanence to the artistic composition.”

Martin continued: “The project as a whole was successful. It has strong, bold design lines, and a central axis, which provides symmetry. There is a sense of destination with a reward at the end of the staircase, leading to a lovely pool environment.”

Over the past decade, the homeowner has realized his return on investment, and he has decided to sell the house.

“I have a son and a daughter, who both grew up in the house, and I enjoy wonderful memories of hosting parties including their birthdays, Halloween – even a wedding,” he said.

Lillian Cox is an Encinitas-based writer who has been covering North County for the Union-Tribune since 2002.



Feng shui principles were also taken into consideration when building the pool area. “I tried to keep it symmetrical with a dual curved staircase that matched the one in the house,” the homeowner said. “The pool is below the house, which (in feng shui) means that it will ‘catch’ or ‘reserve’ wealth for the family.” K.C. ALFRED • U-T