

DESIGN BUREAU  SPECIAL EDITION

# INSPIRING INTERIORS

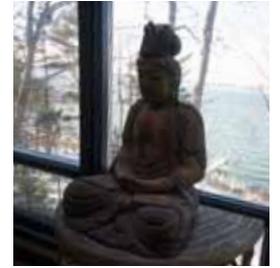
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# FENG SHUI FABULOUS

A ONE-OF-A-KIND DESIGN GROUP PUTS MAJOR ENERGY (LITERALLY) INTO A HOME RENOVATION **BY JENNY WILSON**



To say that Tamson Hamrock loves where she lives is an understatement. As the principal of Maine-based design group KISMET, she recently renovated a space closest to her heart—her own post and beam house on the coast of Maine. But this was no ordinary rehab. As the name of her firm suggests, Hamrock places home design (whether it's her own or a client's) on a higher plane. "I don't call what we do 'interior design,'" says Hamrock. "It's more about infusing spirit and energy into our client's homes. Which, at the core, is what design is about anyway."



## BOURNE LANDSCAPE

For this project, it was important to KISMET that all spaces on the property flowed freely, both inside and out. Bourne Landscape was hired to implement changes to the outdoor space according to the carefully considered "spirit of the land and the energy of the space," says owner Matthew Bourne. "For this reason, there are no 90-degree angles, no sharp edges, and no abrupt changes in the landscape," he says.

Hamrock, who received a graduate degree in Asian studies following a career in banking with posts in Asia and Europe, saw that the rehab was guided by the principles of feng shui. The ancient practice is a specialty of KISMET, who counts among its one-of-a-kind team feng shui expert Doris Ingber and earth energy practitioner Paul Knoll, whose holistic methods help his clients "remove the energetic, emotional, and spiritual clutter" that gathers in their home or workplace.

A critical part of Ingber's feng shui process is a four pillars astrology analysis on all of the occupants of the home. She incorporates this with a comprehensive study of her clients' goals and intentions, the location and history of the land, and a detailed understanding of the floor plans. "The scope of feng shui extends far beyond the boundaries of a home," says Ingber. "The proper alignment of the individuals, the environment, and the land is the key to energetic balance and successful design."

"In order to balance the energy, several environmental factors had to be taken into consideration," says Hamrock. "The waterfront location and nearby power plant

meant that the home would need extra protection. The front door was weak, so we had a new door constructed out of sipo wood to protect from the water. To counteract the negative effects of the power plant, black tourmaline was worked into the design of the fireplace. We removed eight walls and added windows to open the space and expose the stunning views of Casco Bay."

The beautiful open staircase at the center of the home—with opaque resin risers of birch twigs, sipo wood treads, and fir beam stringers—made for a unique focal point, but Hamrock says, "It also created the problem of cutting chi, sending arrows of energy shooting through the house every time the front door opened. To fix this problem, we used resin risers embedded with birch twigs, and then added quartz crystals to send the energy up, not out."

An open gallery wraps around the second floor showcasing the owners' art collection accumulated in their years of living abroad, complemented throughout the home by colors and furnishings that have a warm, organic feel. Talk about intelligent design. ■

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