

Decorating Common Areas to Create Harmony Among Homeowners



SEGAL

by Julie Ann Segal, Metropolitan Interiors

Feng Shui is the art of creating balance and harmony in living and working environments. These concepts can be very practical for condo living since the owners are living with many people who call this building “home.” Sharing a space with many people can be challenging, but by incorporating

which in turn will help create better relations between the homeowners.

Front Door

The front door is the point where energy enters the building. If the front door is easy to get to and has good lighting, positive energy can enter effortlessly. On the other hand, if the front door is hidden, filled with obstacles, or is dark, the flow of energy diminishes. This creates confusion and frustration for someone entering the building. You can see that this one simple idea can directly affect a person’s mood, which also affects how they react to others.

Lobby

Just like the front door, lobbies and front foyers are also important. An attractive lobby gives homeowners a positive feeling and make visitors feel welcome and at home. Warm colors, the appropriate artwork, and inviting furniture all help to

welcome the residents home. The use of flowers and plants not only bring beauty and color into a space, they also represent growth, potential, and good luck as long as they are kept healthy and thriving. Silk or artificial plants work well

as long as they are dusted on a regular basis. Dried flowers (dead flowers) should not be used, since they do not attract vibrant and healthy energy.

Party Room

Creating a balance of yin and yang energies as expressed in Feng Shui design can create more harmony within a space, which in turn makes the people within the space feel good. Yin expresses the feminine with soft, round, curvy lines, and dark colors that create calmness.

Yang expresses the masculine with sharp angles and bold color, which creates

energy. Using both elements properly within a space will create a pleasant, harmonious feeling. By being conscious with furniture selections, fabrics, flooring, as well as the art and accessories, one can achieve balance with these energies.

The before and after photos of The Calhoun party room show the effect of balancing yin and yang energies. ■

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Every community is an association of some kind and every community is established with a view to some good; for everyone always acts in order to obtain that which they think good. But, if all communities aim at some good, the state or political community, which is the highest of all, and which embraces all the rest, aims at good in a greater degree than any other, and at the highest good.

Aristotle (384–323 B.C.),



AFTER



BEFORE

The Calhoun party room

feng shui principles within common areas, harmony between those living there can be improved. For example, it is important to think about how each space will be used. If user friendly, more harmony is created for the people living there.

Feng Shui works by adjusting the energies of both visible (doors, streets, walls etc...) and invisible factors (intention and intuition). Once you’ve studied these concepts, you can see the many practical solutions to life’s issues that Feng Shui has to offer. Here is advice on how to create more user friendly common areas,

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board needs to communicate to their management firm the items that need to be reported on at the next board meeting versus those that need a progress update halfway through the month because they are more time sensitive. Both parties must work hard to establish good habits in communicating clearly. ■

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