

by Barbara DeMarco  
Barrett

# adding drama with feng shui

**F**rom the street, Debbie and Ryan Keith's Mission Viejo house looks nice and neat, not out of the ordinary. But as you follow the walkway to the front door, you begin to feel that this is not a conventional home. Chunks of colorful glass and pieces of geodes and seashells are mixed in with the stones lining the walk.

Once inside, you are surrounded by a world of vibrant color. In front of the far wall of sliding-glass doors in the living room are panels cut in a gothic style. "We had a feng shui consultant in," says Debbie, a talk radio host at KUCI, "and she said good energy came in the front door and went right out the sliding doors. The panels help block that. Plus they add drama."

The living room walls are painted in that south-of-France yellow with a *faux* finish at the top. A long stage stands a foot off the floor. This is where the family of five puts on plays, puts together puzzles, plays music and holds family meetings. The ceiling is painted to look like the sky.

When the Keiths bought the home from Debbie's parents more than a year ago, one of the first things they changed was the master bedroom. A canopy-style bed sits at an angle from the wall. Rainforest wallpaper lines two walls; the others are painted purple. Red swaths of fabric hang over the head of the bed, and animal-patterned fabric covers shams and acts as a bed skirt.

Debbie explains the décor: "The feng shui lady said red was good in the room, and that animal fabric brings out the more adventurous personality. And she said to have pairs of things: matching tables, matching lamps. The mural helps us expand the space and brings nature inside."

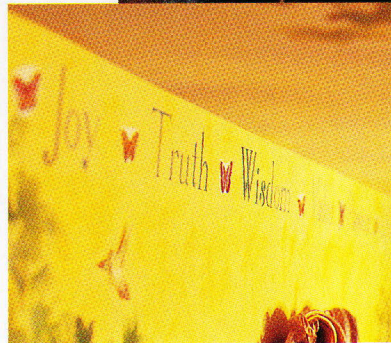
The children's rooms are just as magical and fun, and so is the family room/kitchen combination. Words such as "valor," "grace" and "good times" decorate the top of the walls. *Faux* trees cover the family room wall, and peel-off cloud film bought at Home Depot lines the bottom of the kitchen windows to hide the air conditioning unit just beyond the glass.

Tissue-paper maps cover the kitchen cabinets, and Provencal hues color the eating area and kitchen, which is very much a combination of Tracy Porter and Mary Engelbreit. "I was inspired by the Loire Valley and all things French," Debbie says. "And yellow is such a joyful color."

The white top from an antique armoire caps the information center and adds, again, an element of drama. Both Debbie and Ryan, a project manager for Standard Pacific Homes, love the fun atmosphere of their house, which is a great example of what you can do with color, imagination and, yes, drama.

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