

BACKYARD FENG SHUI

CCIDC California Council for Interior Design Certification

BY KERRY KLEIN, CID, IDS, AND JULIA BOMBARDIER, IDS ASSOCIATE



Photo: David Klein

SET INTO A HILLSIDE in beautiful Sonoma County is the home of Wayne and Michele Ross. The setting for this cozy and relaxing outdoor scene—designed by Kerry Klein, CID, IDS, and Julia Bombardier, IDS Associate—includes an inviting built-in fireplace area surrounded by raised brick planter boxes.

When they designed the outdoor room, Kerry and Julia used the bagua, a feng shui tool, to determine the location of the fireplace area. According to the bagua, the south corner represents recognition, fame, and the fire element. Following the “map” of the bagua will help you promote good chi (energy) in your landscape design, as well as in your home.

The bagua is an octagonal diagram that shows how colors, symbols, and elements affect your environment’s energy. When using the bagua, feng shui practitioner Nita Wright, president of the Wine Country Chapter of IDS, offers suggestions for adding, subtracting, or embellishing outdoor living spaces with water features, such as ponds or fountains; fire features, such as a barbecue, fire pit, or fireplace; stone statues or large boulders; and items with movement, such as swings or lush plants that sway.

After you situate a specified item or color in the determined place, you should notice a more positive and energetic effect. Editing out certain elements will also increase positive chi. Make sure all items in your surroundings are in good condition, and remove fading or dead foliage along with broken or worn items to give your space a fresh, clean, uncluttered feeling.

With those principles in mind during the design process, Kerry and Julia helped create a property for the Ross family that’s always ready to accept visitors and family alike in a warm and friendly environment. Other areas featured around the Ross house include a koi pond with running water situated in the north to represent career prospects; statues in a southwest location representing marital happiness; and a wonderful, cozy enclosed area in the southeast, wooded with lush greenery and redwood trees to represent wealth and prosperity. When you design a landscape with seating areas, you can pick a location anywhere on the property and have a feeling of harmony by using bright and vivid colors or soothing and calming colors.

Carefully chosen items and colors added or placed in the proper spaces can help bring you health, wealth, peace, guidance, happiness, and protection—a good design choice for homeowners inside or outside.

Kerry Klein, CID, IDS, is the owner of Country Cottages in Santa Rosa and Julia Bombardier, IDS Associate, is owner of J Décor in Sebastopol. Special thanks to Nita Wright, IDS Associate, owner of Just Right Redesign in Santa Rosa. For a free list of Certified Interior Designers in your area, contact the California Council for Interior Design Certification at (760) 761-4734 or by e-mail at office@ccidc.org and include your city or zip code. **THM**