

HOME DESIGN

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WHAT THE PROS KNOW

DESIGN RESOURCES AND IDEAS FOR THE HOME: NEWS YOU CAN USE

You never can have too many trade secrets and cutting-edge design ideas from professionals when you're ready to decorate or remodel. This spring, many of the country's leading architects, designers, home furnishings forecasters and writers share one design treatment, one home furnishings item, one accessory or artwork, or one architectural element that they've recently used or seen and are excited about. Here are the pros' edited responses; some couldn't resist providing more than one innovative idea.

ADVICE

BY BARBARA BALLINGER



Lenore Baigelman Weiss' waiting room just outside the tearoom.

A ZEN-LIKE PLACE BEFORE TEA

Lenore Baigelman Weiss, architect, Full Circle Architects LLC, Highland Park. In a home in suburban St. Louis, Baigelman Weiss used several techniques to demonstrate how architecture can enhance and support a couple's lifestyle. In the entry foyer, she constructed a textured black granite fountain wall with grooves to accentuate the continuous flow of water that welcomes guests in a positive, dramatic way. The couple's living room (detail picture above) serves as a waiting space where guests convene before being ushered into their intimate tearoom. To create a private space there, she dropped the ceiling height, added a cove with lighting and installed opaque glass panels to mimic traditional shoji screens and allow privacy for an adjacent home office. Closed cabinets store tea service utensils. Glass shelves display a teapot and cup collection.