

An elegant environment

Company makes
eco-friendly
design easy

By **RITA COOK**
Special Contributor

When Elaine Williamson began working as an interior designer 20 years ago, green was still just a color, not a movement.

Now her company, Elaine Williamson Designs, which creates high-end residential and commercial interiors, has added a green division, managed by a designer accredited in Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design practices.

"With this LEED credential, we will be able to lead our corporate clients, builder and construction partners in particular, through applicable requirements, processes and resources to make building green as easy as possible," Williamson says.

The company has secured five new contracts since the division was created several months ago.

The makeover of one

home included low-emissivity windows, locally sourced mesquite flooring and a table of Kirei board, which is made from reclaimed agricultural fibers, atop a reworked iron base.

Williamson says she has seen an increased demand for green design solutions in recent years. She says her clients want to live and work in a more environmentally friendly way to satisfy their value system and also to conserve resources and cut utility bills.

She says 20 percent of her clients want at least some amount of green design.

Williamson offers some ideas for incorporating green design into your home:

■ People often think going green means sacrificing quality, beauty or style in some regard. The green design industry is now very sophisticated, and even the most refined and elegant of spaces can be

designed using environmentally friendly materials.

■ When considering green materials, consider how the raw materials were cultivated and sourced, if recycling was involved, how the product was manufactured, how items are packaged for shipment, and the impact on resources (water, gas and electricity) as well as your overall carbon footprint.

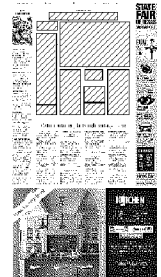
■ Choose Energy Star appliances, to reduce energy consumption and related usage costs. Some products qualify for tax rebates.

■ Using low- or no-VOC (volatile organic compounds) paints and finishes will improve air quality.

Rita Cook is an Arlington freelance writer.

Details

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Elaine Williamson Design

Elaine Williamson Designs decorated this dining room with low-emissivity windows, locally sourced mesquite flooring and a table made of Kirei board.