

westernliving

DESIGNS, BUILDS + RENOVATES


Amazing Spaces

The Best
NEW IDEAS
For Every
Room In
The HOUSE

+ PLUS:
Sky High Living
A Calgary Reno With
Lofty Ambitions

WESTERN CANADA'S SOURCE FOR HOME DESIGN

FALL 2004



Shudder not. Feature walls have as much in common with their original incarnation as crimpers do with straightening irons.

Back to the Feature

THE GREAT WALL BETWEEN indoor and outdoor design has crumbled, to be sure, but the indoor-outdoor shift should give credit where credit is due: wallpaper. Yes, the larger than life, big honkin' sunset on the '70s feature wall. Hawaiian Dreams or City at Night? Witness the shudders normally reserved for harem pants and jelly shoes.

Fortunately, the feature wall has grown up a lot since its origins in jungle fever. Where it was once a dominant force to be reckoned with in the room (just how does one furnish a sunset?), it has evolved into a much-simplified design trick that gives focus to the room rather than controlling it.

Designer Kori Nightingale's feature wall design from a downtown Vancouver condo is a more elaborate take on the concept: layers of merlot-tinted plaster are smoothed on, each layer a slightly different colour tone, giving depth to the finished surface. It's then polished with a metal blade and finished with wax. A silver-leaf panel hung on the wall is illuminated from behind; by day, the rich colour balances a dramatic view of Vancouver's cityscape opposite the wall, and by night, it sparkles along with the city lights in the same view. For if you're going to go City at Night, the only excuse is a showcase of the real deal. —A.Q.