

# live-work-play

sustainable architecture and interior design

end of winter newsletter 2009

*We hope that you enjoyed a lovely holiday season and winter, and are currently weathering our interesting times with optimism.*

## Featuring: Values & Priorities

**What do values and priorities have to do with design and architecture?**

**The short answer: a lot!**

Values and priorities help decide how green a project will be--how energy efficient, how healthy, how many resources will be used to create the building. They also decide how extensive it will be, and if the focus will be on increasing space or increasing livability or quality. They decide if a space will be designed for many functions or just one; level of construction quality; experiential quality; daylight; artificial light; the list goes on.

When thinking about a project, I suggest writing down everything that is important to you about your vision, in no particular order. Then, you can start reviewing this list, and giving different ideas higher and lower importance ratings.

Another good idea--setting this list aside for a little while to create the opportunity to reflect on it, and then revisit it. Once you feel like your writing clearly reflects your values and priorities, share it with your architect and contractor! This will help them help you.

Becoming clear about your values and priorities for a project is a great idea in any economic environment. It is especially important during really up times, and really down times. Why? These are the economic climates that can color your decision making. Really up times can sway you to expand a project and use resources that you might not otherwise. Down times can persuade you not do something, even if you have the capacity to take it on and really want to do it.



### **News:**

#### **Website Update**

*Visit the newly updated live-work-play website [here](#).*

#### **Phinney Remodel Show**

*live-work-play enjoyed being at the Phinney Center Remodel Show February 8th, and thanks everyone who stopped by to say hello.*

#### **Walkable, Livable Communities**

Sheri Newbold volunteers for the [Northwest Ecobuilding Guild](#).

She, along with her Guild colleagues Jim Burton and Justin Fogle, spoke about increasing housing options at the Seattle Department of Planning and Development last December. We gave this presentation to the Seattle Department of Neighborhoods in February.

I like to suggest a book called [House as a Mirror of Self](#), by Clare Cooper Marcus. It is a helpful read for thinking about your relationship with your home, and also for thinking about your work environment and other kinds of projects.

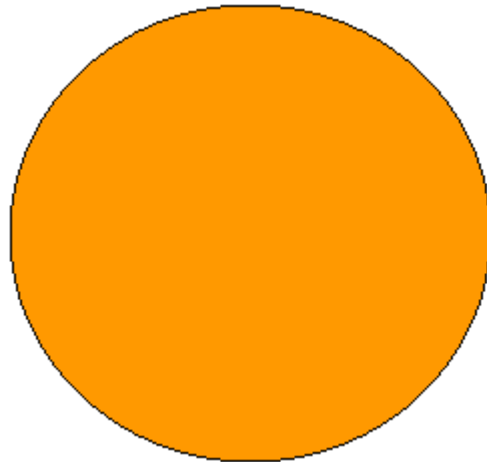
***Links:***

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[House as a Mirror of Self](#)

[Northwest Ecobuilding Guild](#)

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