

HOME & GARDEN **HOUSE CALLS**



**DESIGN SOLUTIONS**

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- ▶ [3-4. Install durable natural flooring](#)
- ▶ [5-6. Brighten the space](#)
- ▶ [7-9. Dress a wall with art.](#)
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- Sarah Pearce and Terri Bukartek, Designer; Joëlle Brucher, Feng Shui Consultant

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**THE HOMEOWNER**

Gooneratne says the foyer in her family's rowhouse is "impersonal and institutional." The 18-by-4-foot space is the primary entryway for her family of three and a downstairs tenant. But instead of welcoming people, it "feels blah" and is not very functional. "I jokingly call it our decompression chamber," she says. She'd like to warm up the space using principles from feng shui, the ancient Chinese approach to arranging a space to promote harmony. The house is short on storage, so she also hopes to make room for coats, shoes, small gardening tools and a stroller without making the space feel cramped.

**DESIGNER'S CRITIQUE**

Replace the tired ceramic tiles with a warm natural wood and install custom Crown Point cabinetry with a bench and coat hooks for storage and organization (<http://www.crown-point.com>). The front door faces south, which according to the precepts of feng shui corresponds with the fire element -- red, purple and orange -- and certain shapes and patterns, such as triangles and paisley prints. Practitioners use these principles to harmonize a living space with the residents within. So for more positive energy in the entry, consider adding these colors, shapes and patterns through

wall art and lighting fixtures.

- Sarah Pearce and Terri Bukartek of [DS&T Redesigned Interiors](#) in Centreville, with feng shui consultant Joëlle Brucher of [Kurve Elements](#) in Annandale.

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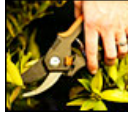
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