

visited the Sistine Chapel shortly after it was restored and was struck by two things: the bright colors and the hot muscle boys. *The Last Judgment* on the far wall looked more like *The Last Call on South Beach*, if you ask me.

One glance at the veritable pornucopia of buff bodies and I knew for certain that painting a ceiling wasn't the only thing Michelangelo did lying on his back.

Since the Greeks, gay people have been telling everyone else what's beautiful, and until recently, everybody did as they were told. Then Martha Stewart encroached on their territory, glue gun in hand, while a whole generation of gay men who thought chenille was the woman who sang "Muskrat Love" began to insist on having as little taste as straight men.

It's been downhill for gay decorators ever since.

The final nail in the coffin for the influence of gay interior designers has been the huge popularity of feng shui, the 4,000-year-old Chinese art of design and placement. Suddenly anybody who's ever practiced Tai Chi or drunk Chai Tea is a feng shui expert.

I agree that rooms should flow, but all you need to do is watch the opening credits of *The Dick Van Dyke Show* to know that placing furniture in front of a door is a bad idea.

Something very suspicious is going on here, starting with the pronunciation and spelling. Why, for instance, is it pronounced "fung shway" when it's spelled "feng shui"? Following the rules of English spelling, feng shui should rhyme with "chop suey" or, more appropriately, "load of hooley."

Feng shui practitioners assess a space to see where the flow of chi, the vital life energy, is disrupted and then offer various "remedies" to

Interior decline

The rise and fall of the gay decorator

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MARC
by Marc Acito



improve not only the space but your life, as well. Solutions include hanging wads of red fabric that look like meatballs on a string, but by far the most popular remedy is placing rear-view mirrors at strategic angles, like over your toilet to avoid flushing away useful chi.

No, I'm not making that last part up, although I wish I were. Turds in mirrors appear closer than they are.

Middle-class straight people of a certain liberal bent just love feng shui. An interior decorator friend of mine whom I've always called Anatole de Paris (after the Danny Kaye song) told me about one couple he knows who let a feng shui expert convince them to pick up their house and rotate it 90 degrees to improve the flow of chi.

I think straight people have taken to feng shui because they'd rather believe their houses are sick and in need of healing than just admit they have lousy taste. I know a straight couple who just spent \$750 on rocks for their back yard carved with Chinese characters.

"What do they say?" I asked.



"Oh, I don't know. Peace, harmony, something like that."

I didn't tell them, but I knew what the rocks said, and I don't speak a lick of Chinese. They said "sucker" in big red letters. Gay men might spend too much for custom throw pillows, but \$750 for rocks with graffiti on them is definitely the sole domain of pretentious straight people.

So before our influence is chipped away any further, it's time for a gay alternative to

feng shui. Introducing Fag Sway.

The purpose of Fag Sway is to get all the energy in your house swaying in the faggiest possible manner, preferably to a disco beat.

How do you know if you need Fag Sway?

Just take this simple little test.

Does your house have any of the following: calico curtains, duck and geese wallpaper, a "Welcome Friends" needlepoint sampler or collections of spoons, thimbles or Precious Moments figurines? Then you need Fag Sway, and you need it now.

I tell you, gay men who shirk their biological responsibility to "make pretty" fail to understand that in the interest of advancing gay rights, we must not abdicate our one true position of authority: telling straight people that their curtains simply must go.

I think a straight friend of mine put it best when he, upon discovering his 16-year-old son was gay, said, "Well, at least I know he'll always have a nice apartment."

So whip out your fabric samples, boys, and get to work.

And that, my friends, is The Gospel According to Marc. ☐

MARC ACITO redecorated Barbie's dream house when he was little. His e-mail address at his own tastefully appointed abode is marcacito@home.com.

NIGHTSPOTS

To advertise in *Just Out*,
call 503-236-1253

Happy Halloween!

Come in costume and receive a grab bag of ghostly goodies! (Includes: Drink Coupons, Prizes, Candy & Cash)

All Day Wednesday, October 31st

JOQ's

2512 "NE" Broadway
Full lottery/ATM (503) 287-4210

The Stargate Lounge
at **Chopsticks Express II**

KARAOKE! Halloween Party
Saturday Oct 27 from 8pm to 1am

WEAR A COSTUME AND GET \$1 DRINK SPECIALS

(503) 234-6171
2651 E. Burnside
Mon-Thurs 11am-2am • Fri 11-2:30am • Sat 4pm-2:30am
www.chopsticksex.citysearch.com

Hobbs's

~ Casual Dining ~
~ Lounge ~
~ Game Room ~
~ Live Music ~
~ Open 4:00 Daily ~

120 NW Third Avenue, Portland, OR 97209 • (503) 224-3285
Parking Validated Smart Park Davis & Front
www.hobbs.citysearch.com

THE EGYPTIAN CLUB

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK
Dancing Karaoke Pool
Video Games Cocktails Food

HALLOWEEN Costume Contest October 31

3701 SE DIVISION ST (503) 236-8689

3 Friends Coffeehouse

Now Serving Beer & Wine

open everyday & night
NEW extended evening hours
YOUNG MEN'S GROUP meets every Wednesday @ 7pm

503-236-6411
201 SE 12th (corner of 12th & Ash)