

Clodagh (shown at right) brings harmonious design elements to living spaces in TriBeCa, below left and right, and an outdoor space in Harlem, opposite page.

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**S**he's been called a "Diva of Minimalism" and a "Zen Master," among other monikers. But Clodagh, the singularly named Irish interior designer, prefers to think of herself in less restrictive terms. She says clients gravitate to her spare, chic designs because they factor in the mind, body, and soul of the person living in the space. Among her credits are The Lodge at Doonbeg Golf Club's White Horses Spa in her native Ireland, and the Goldeneye spa in Oracabessa, Jamaica, where Ian Fleming crafted all his James Bond novels. Her newest book, *Clodagh Your Home, Your Sanctuary* (Rizzoli), out this October, shows readers how to create a harmonious yet practical home.

**Celebrated Living: Describe your design style.**

**Clodagh:** I always try to factor in the three elements — earth, fire, and water — because it's very feng shui. Fire is light in feng shui, so it can be a candle or a light of some kind. We use earth in terms of concrete or wood or metal,

those things that come from earth. And clear moving water indicates prosperity. Coincidentally, the color black also represents water in feng shui, so New Yorkers should be incredibly prosperous, don't you think?

**CL: What secrets of the trade can people pull off themselves at home?**

**Clodagh:** Strip! One thing they can do is strip everything out of the room and very slowly put everything back, and that way they can see if they really need it after all. Most people over-treat their windows, so they should strip them and replace any layered fabrics with some very simple shades for a cleaner look. Finally, in the bedroom, one of the freshest things you can do is strip your bed and put on new bedding. It's a big block of change in an instant.

**CL: What's the best way to give an interior feel to an outdoor space?**

**Clodagh:** If you have a decorative terrace or garden, one

of the easiest things to do is put a fire bowl in the yard. It's such a primeval thing to have a fire in your garden. Another way is to place your furniture conversationally so it becomes more comfortable to gather and talk. You have to be careful in choosing your furniture because if you live by the sea you don't want to use metal you're going to have to repaint every year. I also like small water features, perhaps a highly polished piece of granite with water bubbling from it to create a wonderful sound in a garden.

**CL: What mistakes should one try to avoid in creating an outdoor living space?**

**Clodagh:** Don't go to a nursery and think you need 72 varieties of plants. The best thing to do is figure out what will look good seasonally, so in the spring you might have lilacs, and wild grasses for the

winter. It's best to simplify what you do because there is always so much going on outside anyway. I also don't like to use too much green outdoors because nature does it so much better.

**CL: What do you see as some of the next big design trends for the home?**

**Clodagh:** It's really not a trend as much as a movement, the whole sustainable environment movement. I think people are beginning to realize, and be aware of, what they buy, where it's made, where the wood comes from, et cetera. We're also moving toward more comfort, and that means more communal dining tables and open kitchens and larger gathering spaces. We're becoming more conscious of materials and how they wear. We're looking for durability, so why not bring some of these beautiful outdoor fabrics indoors? ➤



# Clodagh clodagh design

