

Ecology a key factor in design options

"NATURE IS A KEY IN MAKING A HOME look warm and inviting. When people start appreciating the beauty of nature, they look for ways to preserve it," said Joey Tesalona of JT Designs Studio, a consultancy firm offering interior-design options for residential, commercial and exhibition needs.

Planting his roots back in Philippine soil, New York-trained Tesalona has worked for premier luxury companies such as Frette, Italian home linen and Patek Philippe. He has designed residences in uptown Manhattan.

He has also designed and curated a number of exhibitions in New York; one of them featured everyday functional objects like furniture, home accessories and fashion that were made of either recyclable, recycled or natural materials.

But Tesalona largely honed his talent in Felissimo Design House, a Japanese-owned design-oriented boutique shop in New York.

He worked his way up from assistant visual director to head visual director.

One of his projects for the company, "Life Symphony," was a collaboration of

works from designers from around the world, such as Marcel Wanders, Philippe Starck and Karim Rashid. These designers employ eco-friendly practices such as low-energy manufacturing and utilization of recyclable or renewable materials.

Tesalona incorporates his love of greenery in his clients' spaces.

"My signature touch to any interior that I do is all about bringing nature in, like touches of fresh flowers, which are the best accents to any interior. It changes the whole aura of the room," Tesalona said.

He believes in Feng Shui, which, he explained, helps individuals live in harmony with the environment.

"Eco-friendly living is a way of life but it doesn't have to be difficult," he said, "Simply start with a vase of fresh flowers and work your way to a more natural and inviting home."

For more information, log on to www.tesalonadesigns.com or call 8178518. JT Designs Studio is at 116 B&M Building, Aguirre St., Legazpi Village, Makati City.



WHITEOUT. Miri Mizrahi's rocking chair, Joni Friedman's Modular Rug and MIO Shroom lamps