

COMMUNITY

Quote of the Week

"He'd give his life for me ... and he won't talk back."

—Round Lake Beach K9 Office Ken Rydz, on working with his four-legged partner, Gunnar (see story on A8)

At harmony with the environment

Village business owner works to conserve resources

By KATHY GRESEY
kgresey@nwnewsgroup.com

GRAYSLAKE – With a colorful array of swatches in her hand, interior designer Stephanie Nickolson discussed the environment while sitting in the front room of her Grayslake home.

For years, Nickolson has promoted the use of sustainable design products through her company, Stephanie Nickolson Design.

"Everybody is working to clean up the environment," she said. "It's not a trend with me. I've always been this way."

Her collection of design samples includes swatches of grasscloth wall coverings, wool rugs and all-natural window treatments.

"I'm not just talking about them because they are pretty," Nickolson said of the materials. "They are sustainable and earth-friendly. And they are not taking up space in our landfills."

Using 'green' design products also has health benefits, Nickolson said.

Whereas some home or office products can outgas



Sandy Bressner - sbressner@nwnewsgroup.com

Stephanie Nickolson, an interior designer, promotes the use of "green" products, such as these bamboo window coverings, when she designs clients' homes or businesses.

potentially harmful chemicals, all-natural products do not, she explained.

"A lot of the dangers [in interior design products] are hidden," she said. "I try to educate people."

Caryn Hollander is one such client. Hollander said she knew little about sustainable interior design until Nickolson decorated her Buffalo Grove home.

"Thinking back on it, it feels good," she said. "It's good to

know I've helped the environment."

Nickolson refurbished the sun room in Hollander's home with yellow grasscloth, ratan furniture and natural stone floors.

"The room is very natural looking," Hollander said. "It's got a great look."

In addition to decorating spaces with earth-friendly products, Nickolson advocates cleaning with all-natural solutions,

which can be bought at chain stores.

The designer will conduct initial consultations for free. If hired, she charges a hourly rate.

Although Nickolson knows green design is not for everyone, she is encouraged by the public's recent demand for earth-friendly products.

To learn more about Nickolson's company, call (847) 987-3634, or e-mail stephanie@snickolsondesign.com.