



**CATIO SPACES®**  
Designing Spaces for Safe, Healthy & Happy Cats

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**Seattle startup Catio Spaces™ incorporates Feng Shui  
in crafting stimulating outdoor enclosures for felines**

SEATTLE, Washington (May 19, 2014) -- Feng shui for felines? Absolutely, says Cynthia Chomos, a certified feng shui consultant and speaker on the ancient design philosophy for creating harmonious surroundings. As an extension of her work with Realtors®, businesses and homeowners, the Seattle resident has launched [Catio Spaces™](http://CatioSpaces.com), a company that designs and custom builds safe, outdoor enclosures for cats.

The innovative wood frame catios are designed to complement a home and look like outdoor “rooms” rather than wire cages. Various sizes and styles are offered, including above-ground window perch catios, the “Window Box Veranda” and “Garden Window Condo,” and a ground-level “Garden Sanctuary” featuring space for human and feline interaction. Best of all, each catio can be decorated to suit a feline’s fancy.

Chomos, a passionate cat owner and an associate member of the Master Builders Association of Snohomish and King Counties, said she founded Catio Spaces to address the need for safe and aesthetically pleasing outdoor enclosures to enhance a cat’s life. Coincidentally, the research and development phase of her startup occurred about the same time the City of Edmonds (Washington) passed an ordinance banning “free roaming” cats.

When crafting catios for her clients’ two-legged companions, Chomos draws on her experience and professional certification as a feng shui consultant. The popular speaker-trainer also integrates proven design approaches used in creating positive spaces for people as she fashions the feline habitats. The planning process even includes a profile questionnaire for understanding the cat’s likes and personality – complete with a space for the feline to “pawthenticate” the owner’s answers on the form.



[Catio Spaces™](http://CatioSpaces.com) are custom designed for windows, patios, decks and garden areas. The outdoor enclosures can be mounted to a home’s wood siding or window frame. Construction materials include stained or pressure-treated wood framing, natural cedar floorboards and shelving, galvanized wire and a clear, lightweight weatherproof roof for year-round use. Working with a crew of licensed and bonded carpenters, Chomos said the sizes of her initial ground-level installations in the Greater Seattle area vary from around 64 square feet to 120 square feet.

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Optional design elements include a cat access door for entry from a window or door, tree branches for climbing and scratching, cat-safe plants, water fountains, outdoor art, a discreetly disguised litter box and “endless possibilities” for staging and decorating with décor options ranging from Bohemian to Zen.

“Our goal is to keep precious pets safe and happy in an outdoor enclosure that visually complements each owner’s home,” Chomos explains as she outlines the benefits of enclosures for both indoor and outdoor cats (*see box*).

As she was building a prototype, researching building codes and completing requirements for her contractor’s license, the Edmonds City Council voted to add cats to its “running-at-large” ordinance. Proponents of the law, which was approved last September, cited bird and wildlife impacts of free roaming cats, dangers to unleashed pets, such as being hit by a vehicle or attacked by another animal, poisoned, and health issues, such as disease-carrying waste or fur. One bird-loving speaker, using nuisance arguments, said cats (whether housecats or feral) contribute to the deaths of an estimated 434 million to 1.1 billion U.S. birds every year.

The cat-loving Chomos describes herself as an “artist at heart” and credits her adopted tabby, Serena, as being the inspiration for her new business. She acquired the pet from a shelter following the loss of her beloved 22-year-old cat. Her quest to provide Serena with an outdoor space for enjoying nature and a protected place for cat naps and cavorting prompted her to start tinkering to construct an enclosure that would incorporate feng shui design principles and also give her peace of mind.

Chomos has provided more than 2,500 feng shui and color consultations for home and business owners throughout the Pacific Northwest, Hawaii and Europe during the past decade. She also publishes *Harmonious Living*, a free quarterly newsletter with resources and tips for creating spaces that nurture body, mind, and spirit. With the addition of Catio Spaces to her consulting and design services, she delights in creating positive spaces for both her two-legged and four-legged clients.

Given Seattle’s fondness for felines (with 29.5 percent of households owning cats) and its reputation for pampering pets (ranking 2<sup>nd</sup> on a recent Amazon.com poll of “Most Pampered Pet Cities”), Chomos is poised to populate Seattle and beyond with positive “cattitudes.”

- Benefits of Cat Enclosures**
- protects cats from predators, poisons and diseases from other animals;
  - reduces vet bills from neighborhood cat fights and vehicles;
  - protects local birds and wildlife;
  - provides a healthy lifestyle with fresh air, exercise, sunbathing and bird watching;
  - creates an outdoor space for human and feline interaction and bonding;
  - eliminates indoor litter odors (with optional outdoor litter box discreetly hidden from view);
  - gives owners peace of mind knowing their cat is in a pleasant, protected environment;
  - enhances the health and happiness of your cat!



Catio Spaces designer and feng shui consultant, Cynthia Chomos, and her cat Serena perched in a “Window Box Veranda” catio above.

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Photos available – See PDF of images or view selected images on gallery at [CatioSpaces.com](http://CatioSpaces.com)