

EVERYDAY FENG SHUI

Feng Shui by Maria

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Help Your Business Thrive with Feng Shui

Lately I've found myself working in our home office more, and more as I put the finishing touches on my book. Looking around I realize how the Feng Shui of this office is nourishing me, and enhancing my creativity.

Whether in your home, or at work, your office can act to empower your business. It is a proven fact that numerous successful companies worldwide apply basic Feng Shui principles to their businesses to ensure profits, customer and employee satisfaction, and overall harmony.

Recommendations for creating powerful home and business offices:

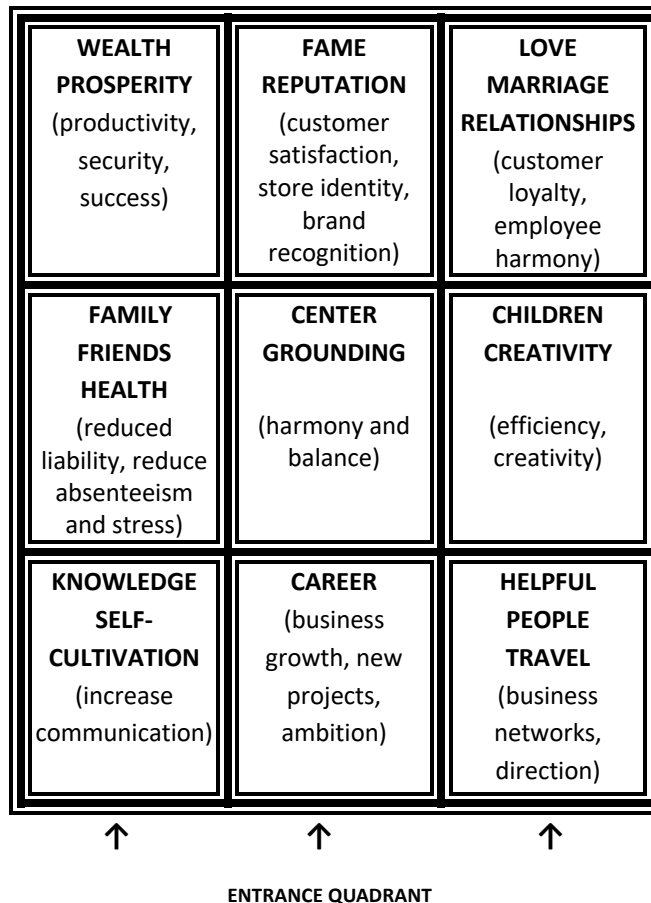
- The most important recommendation is that your desk is placed so that you're sitting in the room's most powerful "command" position. You want to have a perfect view of the door. If your desk is built in, and you can't reposition it, put a mirror on or behind your desk to reflect the door.
- In Feng Shui, being organized is critical. Productive Ch'i can't find its way through piles of papers, files, and office equipment. Your productivity will skyrocket if you adopt an organizing strategy and stick to it.
- Your chair, or "throne" should be the most comfortable and ergonomically correct for you.
- Choose a desk large enough to store all your work and give you adequate working space. Ensure that all wiring is hidden in desk openings, or behind screens or plants.
- This is a place for powerful art and colors, as well as awards, diplomas, and certificates that represent your career.

Using the Bagua to Enhance Your Business:

The Bagua comes from the Chinese philosophy, "The I Ching," and literally means "eight trigrams"; with the center area for grounding. When using the Bagua for business the principles still apply but the terminology changes to fit the business model.

The areas within your office or business should take on the qualities of the Bagua area in which they reside. Stand at your office door and face the room. Determine if you are entering from Knowledge, Career or Helpful People, and arrange the room accordingly. By placing objects in your office that anchor the various Bagua areas you stimulate and sustain your creative juices and provide your office with meaning and balance. Because your office is obviously smaller than your entire home/building, the fixes can be small yet powerful.

The Bagua for Business:



Examples of enhancements for your home or business office:

Career Area (business growth, new projects, ambition)

- Items in black or very dark colors, glass/crystal items, items reflecting your work
- Art depicting water scenes, a small bubbling fountain, bold signage, banners, flags
- Front desks and cash registers

Knowledge and Self Cultivation Area (increase communication, training)

- Wooden bookcases, books, conference and training rooms, the colors of blues, greens, or black and in the shape of columns or stripes,
- Healthy plants with rounded soft leaves and art depicting nature scenes

Health Area/Family/Friend Area (reduced liability, reduce absenteeism and stress, lunchrooms, employee, or customer lounges)

- Vibrant floral arrangements, art representing flowers or perfect health, personal papers and files
- Photos of family, friends, colleagues, team members or representing a healthy work environment
- Inspirational saying regarding safe work environment, reduced stress and absenteeism

Wealth Area (productivity, security, success)

- Opulent items in the purple color spectrum, art representing wealth, printer or banking files
- Healthy, round leaf plants or small bamboo gardens
- Water features, such as fountains or aquariums

Fame Area (customer satisfaction, store identity, brand recognition)

- Items in the colors red, inspirational sayings, merits and awards
- Art representing the fire element such as the sun or a large animal, which symbolize power and business focus
- Prominent area for your business name
- Company awards, certificates, promotional and inspirational posters

Love and Marriage Area (customer loyalty, employee harmony)

- Colors in red spectrum and pairs of items
- Fax machine which enhances communication between you and clients
- Art or photos depicting teamwork, loyalty, employee satisfaction, communication

Children and Creativity Area (efficiency, creativity)

- Photos of children, or items representing your creative projects
- Items in metal and the colors of white and pastels, whimsical art
- Art and items depicting your business, productivity and creativity

Helpful People and Travel Area (business networks, direction)

- Photos or posters of your team, clients, spiritual guides, mentors, or desired travel locations
- Items in metal and colors of white or grey (a good place for a metal file cabinet with your client files)
- Metal cases containing products or comfortable waiting area

Center Area (harmony and balance)

- Items and art in ceramics, the colors yellow, earth tones, and rectangle shapes
- Comfortable seating area

Additional Business Enhancements:

Good Signage – Make sure your sign is big bold and recognizable.

Water Features – Fountains and waterfalls need to be 360-degree bubblers or flowing toward the business, not away.

Display Space – Displays should be artfully designed and easily accessible.

Safety and Comfort – Make sure there are no sharp edges or safety hazards. Have comfortable seating.

Decompression Zone/Main Lobbies – Create an entry that is pleasing to the eye where clients can stop and reflect; add aquariums, good lighting, upholstered furniture with soft lines and round tables. Consider adding an area for refreshments.

Cash Registers – If possible, place in the Career area, and hang a round faceted crystal over register to encourage prosperity.

Entrance – Entrances need to be open and welcoming. Consider widening pathways, a welcome mat, adding a water feature, painting the door a shade of red, adding greeters to each side of the door and removing any visible trash cans or unhealthy plants.

Offices –Place your desk in the power position with a direct view of the door. Add plants and comfortable visitor chairs. Add personally empowering appointments and company theme art.

Customer Service Areas – Paint walls as per Bagua area; add plants, comfortable furniture, art and lightweight colorful objects, lamps, and personal appointments.

Decluttering - A very important aspect of Feng Shui is energy flow. If you can see clutter, so do your clients and chances are that your business is stuck in some way.

Let Feng Shui help you achieve the success you long for and enjoy your newfound achievements.

Affirmations:

Remember that in Feng Shui, intent plays a significant role in enhancing any area of your home or business. All enhancements need to be made with intentionality; written or stated affirmations which are expressed as if they are already happening are very important. Examples of affirmations for your business: “Everything I touch is a success”, “Everyday my work attracts magnificent people and opportunities in my life.”

Feng Shui at Work:

One of the first clients I had in Benicia was the Rags to Riches Consignment Boutique (www.ragstorichesglobal.com) One of the first things I notice each time I go there is the welcoming entrance surrounded by attractive, colorful, seasonal products, a large sign and beautiful bubbling fountain. It draws me in. They have expanded their business to a second showroom in the building and use the husband’s large paintings to enhance each of the Bagua Areas. This is a great store to help you declutter your closets.

One of our biggest success stories was the remodel of our home office which is in the Career sector of our home. For many years the old, cluttered desk resided in the right back corner of the room (Love/Marriage area) with the users back to the door and facing the wall. Being an interior room, with no windows, the lighting was very poor. I never enjoyed being there. We installed a light tube for natural light and replaced the dingy carpeting with beautiful hardwood floors. We purchased a large oak desk and placed it facing the door. Now we look out to the entrance foyer, which is one of my favorite rooms in the house. We also took the opportunity to purge old files and create a sleek positive working environment. The energy shift could be felt almost immediately. My husband retired well and is enjoying his trumpet playing and volunteer work. My career has also blossomed, with more class participants, home consultations and now my upcoming book.

For questions or home consultations email at mtmccull@aol.com and put “Feng Shui” on the subject line, or visit my website at www.fengshuibymaria.com, (where you can read past columns), or Facebook “Feng Shui by Maria”, where I post pictures as examples to enhancements. My book will also be available for purchase on the website soon.

* **I have a BLOG** – Just go to the website and click on “Blog”: You can view many pictures and, I will respond to your questions quickly

Until then...Blessings!

Maria McCullough - Bio

Maria McCullough is the owner / founder of ***Feng Shui by Maria*** (www.fengshuibymaria.com) and is a speaker and educator with over 20 years of experience. She is a graduate of the Western School of Feng Shui and has personally trained with Terah Kathryn Collins, founder of the Western School of Feng Shui, specializing in Essential Feng Shui® and author of numerous books including “The Western Guide to Feng Shui.” Maria is trained in residential, business, and landscape consultations. She offers virtual consultations nationally and internationally, as well as in person locally.