

EVERYDAY FENG SHUI

Feng Shui by Maria

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Enhance With the Feng Shui Water Element - Watch Opportunities Flow Your Way

Have you felt a bit unstructured lately, or perhaps lacking in communication, and a forward flow? Each of these indicates issues with the Water element, which can be easily corrected.

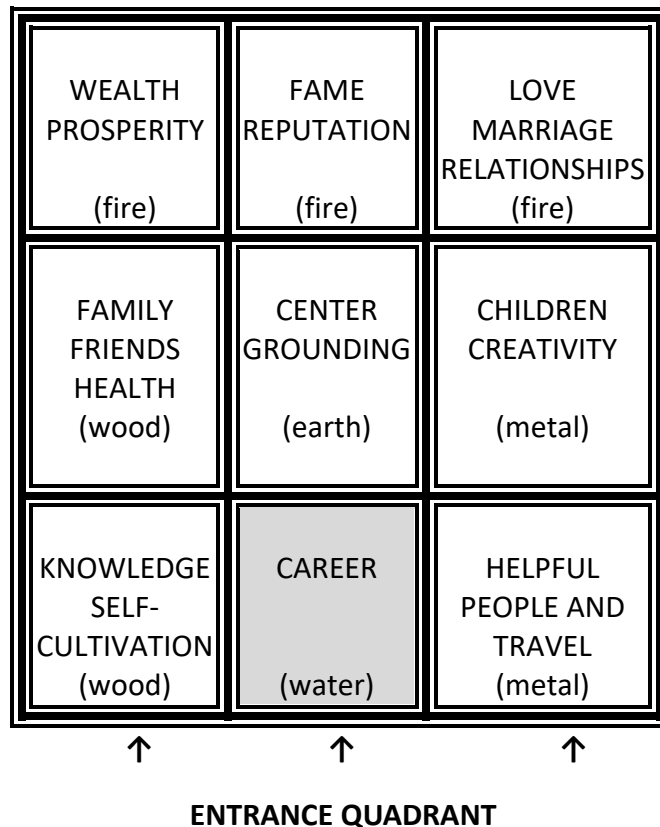
My garden is in full bloom right now, and poppies can be seen everywhere in fields. Their growth is a direct result of all the water we have had lately, which promotes growth. Last month my column addressed balancing all five of the Feng Shui elements. Now let's take them one at a time, beginning with the Water element, because water adds flow, and growth to all living things.

So, what is the benefit of the Water element?

The five Feng Shui elements are considered the building blocks of everything physical on earth: Water, Wood, Fire, Earth, and Metal. Each is associated with an area in your home related to the Bagua. When each is in balance you feel calm and harmonious, but when out of balance the opposite can happen. Without enough of the Water element in your home you can feel a lack of communication and connections which leads you to stress. You can just imagine what too much of the Water element in your home will do. Yes, you can have a lack of structure, and have trouble getting things done. Yet, when this element is in balance your communication seems to flow. You feel inspired with a myriad of inspirations yet, feel calm and at ease, and prosperity can more easily come your way.

Where is the best location for the Water element? Look to Feng Shui Bagua.

The Bagua comes from the Chinese philosophy, "The I Ching," and literally means "eight trigrams", with the center for grounding.



The location of the Water element in your home makes a difference. One of the most important water areas is the front center of your home called the Career area, which symbolizes the flow of energy into the home.

This element is represented by a body of water and will allow the flow of ideas, prosperity and career to flow your way. Without the nourishing Water element, we can experience the lack of a satisfying career.

Feng Shui relies on the power of symbolism. While we do recommend positioning water features of all kinds (fountains and aquariums), there are many other symbols of water you can use such as a reflective surface as glass, cut crystal and mirrors, flowing asymmetrical shapes, the black and dark tone color spectrum, art depicting water scenes. These are all represented in the Career area enhancements.

Enhancements for using the Water element in the Career area inside your home or business:

- Colors: Black or very dark colors
- Shapes: Asymmetrical
- Items: Water features such as fountains or aquariums; glass, crystal, mirrors
- Art: Water scenes such as oceans, lakes, and ponds
- Ensure that this area is clutter free. If your Career area is your front door make sure that when you open your door you are greeted with a clean inviting space, and that there is nothing blocking the door from opening fully.

Enhancements for using the Water element in the Career area outside your home or business:

- Water features, such as fountains, waterfalls, and/or ponds work well here. It is important that the energy flows toward your home or business, so the fountain should either be a 360-degree bubbler or facing so the water flows towards your building.
- If your career area is your front entrance (the Mouth of Ch'i– the powerful life force energy) use wind chimes to invite the Ch'i to enter, plant colorful healthy flowers along the path (curved if possible) to your door, and have two greeters in the form of plants or statuary on either side.
- The front door is very important in Feng Shui; therefore, anything you can do to emphasize it will encourage new opportunities to come your way. Painting it a shade of red, not only highlights it, but invites wealth and positive energy.

The Water element also is instrumental in nourishing other areas of your home.

In the nourishing cycle of the elements, Water nourishes Wood. In the Bagua, the Knowledge and Self Cultivation, and Health, Family and Friends areas are both Wood element areas and could use a boost from any of the water enhancements listed above.

There are three Fire element areas in the Bagua: Wealth and Prosperity, Fame and Reputation and Love and Marriage. The only area where the Water element is beneficial is in the Wealth and Prosperity area. Have enhancements such as moving water in the form of fountains, or waterfalls pointing to the house to aid in the flow of prosperity.

Where the Water Element is NOT beneficial.

Avoid putting too much of the Water element representations in the Fire and Earth areas of your home since water douses fire. Also, no matter what areas of the Bagua your master bedroom is located avoid the Water element as it clashes with the Fire element, the element of passion. Avoid having any water features such as fountains or fish tanks in the bedroom, also avoid any photos, painting or sculptures depicting water scenes such as waterfalls, rivers, lakes, streams, etc. It's important to keep the passion alive in the bedroom!

How to Balance Too Much of the Water Element.

If you're feeling the negative effects of too much of the Water element, begin by removing some of the water representations. The Earth element helps to dam water, therefore just add rectangles, earth tones and ceramics to a room and feel the difference. Remember balance is the key!

You have too little water in a room and feel a lack of communication. Add some water and metal, such as the colors white, gray, black; circular and metal items; waterscapes, glass, mirrors, and water features.

Affirmations and Inner Work:

In Feng Shui, intent plays a significant role in enhancing your home or business. All enhancements need to be made with intentionality, with written or stated affirmations as if they have already happened.

Examples of affirmations for the Water element: *"My career is fulfilling, inspiring, and lucrative," "I grow and prosper though performing my life's work," "I attract many positive opportunities through good communication."*

Feng Shui at Work:

A client had me do a consultation in the small home she was renting, and her Career area was her home office where she had hung a rock poster. Knowing that that was something she saw every day I realized the importance of replacing it with career images, a vision board, including her resume with the word "hired" across it, and water representations. She found a beautiful picture of the ocean, and even hung a mirror on the opposite wall reflecting it. She also placed a small table fountain in the Wealth area of her home, which was in her kitchen. The results were dramatic. Her visualizations, and flow of water paid off. She is now a successful attorney in her own law firm.

One client was stuck in an unsatisfying career. He realized that he had been neglecting the dying plants by his front door, his Career area. Once he made the connection, he took time to clear a path, plant colorful flowers, improved his irrigation system, and place a large 360-degree bubbling fountain amongst them. He also placed a small table fountain pointing towards the center of the home inside the door. His energy increased as did his career opportunities. He is currently a director for a company he loves.

Making a few simple changes within your home can have immediate and powerful effects. Be prepared to have new opportunities flow your way. With the Water element in auspicious locations your communication and flow of prosperity will improve. You could be very pleasantly surprised!

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 is now available for purchase on my website. I will be having a book signing at Bookshop Benicia on May 19, at 5:30 pm. Books will be available for purchase. Hope to see you there!

*** 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 is the owner / founder of ***Feng Shui by Maria*** (www.fengshuibymaria.com) and is a speaker and educator with over 20 years of experience, and now author of the book, "Empower Your Life Through Feng Shui – An Easy Eight Step Guide to Achieving Your Goals." 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. Maria is trained in residential, business, and landscape consultations. She offers virtual consultations nationally and internationally, as well as in person locally.