

EVERYDAY FENG SHUI

Feng Shui by Maria
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Art Placement for Positive Feng Shui Energy

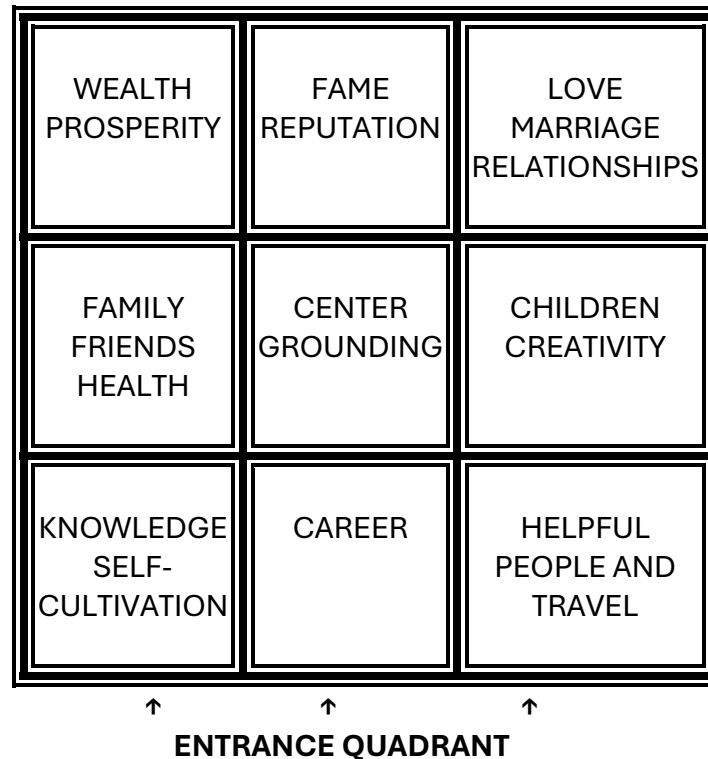
I'm excited to have purchased an original, vibrant painting at a friend's art show. She named it "Love is in the Air," so I immediately thought of hanging it in our love corner (kitchen) or in our master bedroom, since placing art to enhance particular areas of your home uplifts your spirit. I chose the entrance to our bedroom and love it!

Of all the Ch'i enhancers that I have written about in these columns, and in my book, I have found that art and colors are the easiest mediums for lifting the Ch'i in the Bagua area because of their powerful effect on personal energy.

According to Feng Shui, our homes should be nurturing places for us mentally, physically, and spiritually. To accomplish this, we need to ensure that our surroundings accurately reflect who we are as individuals and who we aspire to become. Feng Shui is about finding the personal art and colors that not only match the Bagua area we are enhancing but also reflect our personality and style.

To get the most benefit from art and colors, match them with the function of each room. Use the Bagua map to help you choose the appropriate art and colors that correlate with the goals in your life. The Feng Shui Bagua, represented as a grid of eight sectors, with the Center being the grounding force comes from the Chinese philosophy, "The I Ching," and literally means "eight trigrams." Each of the nine areas is associated with colors and art representations. If you want romance and your Love and Marriage Area is in the dining room, choose art that's romantic and appropriate for your dining area, such a couple dining, a romantic restaurant with a table set for two, or just a picture of a pair of fruits or flowers. If you wish to improve your health, and your Health and Family area is in the bathroom, display art that evokes radiant health and vitality, such as a floral scene, or pictures of you and friends or family enjoying an activity together. Rooms should take on the color palette of the Bagua area they reside in, except for the Master Bedroom, which you will learn is treated with the qualities of the Love Area, no matter where it is located in the Bagua.

Art is the soul of a room; it gives it energy and life. Feng Shui makes it easy to place your art in the Bagua areas that will act to enhance your life and bring you closer to your goals. Here are some examples:



Using the Feng Shui Bagua for Better Art Placement

Career:

- Art - pertaining to moving water (oceans, rivers, etc.), asymmetrical shapes, and black frames
- Colors – black or dark colors

Knowledge and Self Cultivation Area:

- Art - representing calm nature scenes (forests, ferns, vineyards, etc.), columnar shapes, and wooden frames
- Colors – blue and green

Friends, Family, Health Area:

- Art - representing fresh, healthy vibrant flowers, family, friends and/or you in a healthy state, columnar shapes, and wooden frames
- Colors – blue, green, and floral

Wealth and Prosperity Area:

- Art - representing opulence and wealth, purple or round leaf plants, triangular, cone shapes, and wooden frames

- Colors – purples, blues, and reds

Fame Area:

- Art - representing celebration, animals, birds, stars, sun, fire, upward movement, inspirational quotes, triangular, cone shapes, and wooden frames
- Colors – Red

Love and Marriage Area:

- Art - representing romance, pairs of items, pictures of you and your significant other, pictures of couples, triangular, cone shapes, and wooden frames
- Colors – reds, pinks and white

Children and Creativity Area:

- Art - representing creativity and whimsy, pictures of children or child art, round shapes, and metal frames
- Colors – whites and pastels

Helpful People and Travel Area:

- Art - pertaining to spiritual guides, and/or mentors, places you have traveled to or aspire to visit, pictures of mountains or natural stone, circular shapes, and metal frames
- Colors – white, grey and black

Center Area:

- Art - representing earth scenes, deserts, wheat fields, yellow flowers or trees, or anything in the earth tone spectrum, rectangular shapes
- Colors – yellows and earth tones

Colors for the Master Bedroom – Your Romantic Boudoir

The best master bedroom colors are found in the warm skin tones of all races of people: from light beiges, tans, browns, pinks and peaches, yellows, reds, copper, gold, bronze amongst others. The colors that are too cool and do not work in bedrooms are pure white, grey, black, blues, and greens. They may look beautiful in designer showrooms, but they create a chilly room versus a sensual one. In the Master Bedroom the art and pictures should represent the qualities of the Love and Marriage area of the Bagua: pairs of items such as figurines and candles, pictures and art reflecting couples and romantic representations, pictures of you and your significant other.

Feng Shui at work:

Feng Shui enhancements do not have to cost a great deal. One of my favorite recommendations is to “shop in your own home.” Just moving the art you already have to more auspicious locations based on the Bagua can make a great difference.

Years ago, I had two clients who were looking for love. Unfortunately, each of them had placed a large painting representing a lonely singular figure in their respective Love areas. One had hung a painting of a lonely cowboy with his head lowered in her dining room. At our consultation I recommended she replace it with more romantic art. She instead found a beautiful wall hanging of two intertwined hearts. The other had a large painting of a single zebra, also with its head down in her bedroom. She also replaced it with a picture of two lovers holding hands. Both women have found meaningful relationships since then. What you hang on your walls makes a difference!

One of my clients was struggling at work. She felt underappreciated and undervalued. Her Fame area had two beautiful wall hangings representing asymmetric designs, coming down like waterfalls. They immediately reminded me of water, and combined with her large water view, I sensed that the Water element was dousing the Fire element needed for fame. This contributed to her lack of appreciation at work. We found a perfect place for the hangings, one on either side of a large mirror she had in her entrance, which was in her Career area, a Water element location. She then replaced the hangings with art depicting three women dancing, and birds in flight with a red background. These new art pieces were lively, showing celebration and upward motion. We were able to enhance both her Career and Fame areas. Soon after this change she noticed that people began recognizing her and asking for her opinion more than before. One of her projects was funded, and within a year she was offered a new job with a sizeable raise. Art matters!

Affirmations:

In Feng Shui, intent plays a significant role in enhancing any area of your home or business. Is your art inspiring you or depressing you, affirming or scolding you? Listen to its voice and then decide whether it should remain in your life. If it does not belong with you anymore, let it go by trading, selling, or passing it on.

Everything in Feng Shui is symbolic. The art that you look at every day has an impact on your mood, attitude, and the ability to achieve your life goals. Look at the art you have in your home. Jackson Pollock said, "A painting has a life of its own." What is each piece "saying" to you?

My book is now available for purchase on my website, and at Bookshop Benicia.

**Books will also be on sale, and I will be personally signing them at the Benicia Library Local Authors Book Festival - Come see me at the Benicia Public Library
April 5 from 1-4pm**

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.

* **Check out my 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 specializes in residential, landscape and business consultations. She offers virtual consultations nationally and internationally, as well as in person local