

EVERYDAY FENG SHUI

Feng Shui by Maria
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Measuring Success Through Fame and Reputation

What does success mean to you? Is it recognition for your work, a respected reputation, or the opportunities that come your way because of the positive impression you have made on others?

In Feng Shui, the Fame and Reputation area is connected to how we are seen and recognized in the world. It reminds us that what we put out into the world can have a powerful ripple effect. It has been especially rewarding to see my own Feng Shui work come full circle. Many of my clients recommend me to their friends and family, and that tells me my reputation is reaching beyond the people I have personally worked with. I am energized when a new client tells me they sought me out after seeing how a friend's life was positively affected by a Feng Shui consultation.

To me, that is one of the most meaningful measures of success. When we give our knowledge, support and encouragement to others, we create connections that can continue to grow. A good reputation is built over time through the relationships we nurture and the positive energy we share.

One of the fundamental principles of Feng Shui is that **everything is connected**. So you might ask: *Can changes I make in my home really affect my fame and reputation?*

My answer is **absolutely!**

Early Feng Shui practitioners created a kind of roadmap to the different areas of life and their relationship to our environment. They called it the **Bagua** - a grid divided into nine areas, each representing a different aspect of life. By placing the Bagua over your home with the front door aligned at the bottom of the grid, you can identify the area associated with Fame and Reputation. Once you locate that area, you can introduce thoughtful enhancements to strengthen and energize it. Your home is more than the place where you live. It can be a reflection of your intentions, your aspirations and the life you want to create.

The Bagua

In the Feng Shui Bagua, the Fame and Reputation area is in the center back of your home/office/business. The Bagua comes from the Chinese philosophy, "The I Ching," and literally means "eight trigrams" with the center being for grounding. Cultivating a good reputation helps friendly relations to spring up all around us, creating the best chances for a happy and secure future, and success.

Find the back-middle area of your home and evaluate what you see going on there. A home usually tells the story of what is affecting your life. If it's cluttered, and not attractive to you, look to using the recommendations below to begin reenergizing the space for your benefit.

The Element for Fame and Reputation

The element for the Fame and Reputation area is Fire, represented by anything in the red color spectrum, ranging from pink tones to burgundy and purple. Red is one of the most powerful colors in Chinese culture. It represents fame, fortune, joy, festivity, longevity, and protection from bad luck. Adding representations of the Wood element, such as plants or items made of wood, helps to nurture your Fire enhancements. The Fire element is also represented in the shapes of cones and triangles, and any type of lighting; anything derived from animals; art depicting people, animals, suns, stars. Representations of the Fire element can be used inside and outside your home or business.

Interior Enhancements for the Fame and Reputation Area of Your Home or Business

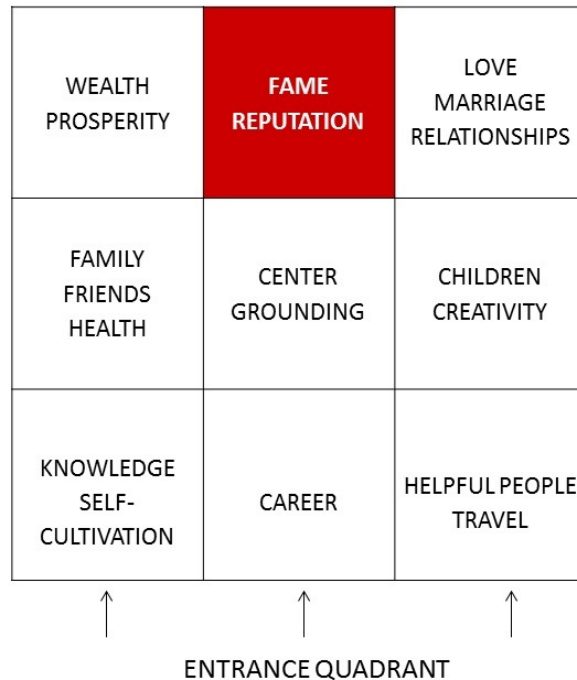
- Begin by decluttering the space.
- Add shades of vibrant red, which bring power to fame and reputation.
- Enhance the area with personal images of fame, such as your rewards, diplomas, certificates, trophies, and other acknowledgments of achievement.
- Display art in shades of red, images signifying upward movement and celebration, stars, suns, people, animals, and vision boards portraying images of your future goals.
- Add items in the shape of cones or triangles.
- Implement all forms of lighting, including natural light, candles, twinkling, and electrical.
- Add your affirmations calling in a good reputation.

Exterior Enhancements for the Fame and Reputation Area

- Continue enhancing with the red color spectrum in flowers, pots, cushions, umbrellas.
- Decorate with representations of suns, stars.
- Add uplighting and twinkle lights.
- Install a fire pit and/or barbecue grill.
- Add your affirmations calling in a good reputation.

What to Avoid in the Fame and Reputation Area

- Paintings or art that represent water
- Too much of the color black, representing the Water element which douses fire
- Any Water element, such as fountains, waterfalls, or pools



Feng Shui at work:

Testimonial:

“The effects of Feng Shui on my business have been incredible. From the time we did the consultation and the actual corrections, we experienced positive results. From that moment forward the flood gates opened. This year has been unbelievably successful. Our financial success has blossomed. Another benefit . . . people often make comments about how good it feels to be in my shop.”

In Feng Shui, if you want to add more energy to a specific area of your life, you can apply the Bagua to that specific area in each room the same way you apply it to the entire floor plan of your home. Stand at the entrance of the room you want to enhance and imagine the Bagua laid over it. In our home office, we enhanced the wall that fell within the Fame and Reputation area of the room by hanging awards, certificates, and recognition photos. Half the wall is for my husband’s acknowledgments of achievement, and the other half is for mine. These documents are framed in wood to further feed the Fire element. Spending time in this room is a boost to our self-esteem.

Small changes can make a big difference, both positive and negative. When you find that you are struggling, it is important to recognize when some changes you make produce the wrong effect. I had colorful paintings of dancing ladies on my Fame and Reputation wall. During that time, everything was going great at work. On a whim, I found some beautiful burgundy, green, and gold wall hangings and decided to replace the celebrating, dancing ladies with those. Almost immediately, I felt the shift. My new boss changed existing procedures and meeting structures, and I was no longer involved in higher-level meetings. I

felt slighted and unimportant. I consulted with one of my Feng Shui teachers and identified the problem. Although beautiful, the new wall hangings had vertical asymmetrical shapes representing Water instead of Fire. I decided to move them to my Career area foyer alongside a large mirror, because Water is the element that supports Career. The dancing ladies returned to the Fame and Reputation wall, and I was able to retire with recognition. I went on to start this wonderful consulting business.

Sample Affirmations for the Fame and Reputation Area

In Feng Shui, intent plays a significant role in enhancing any area of your environment. That's why 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 or affirmations for the Fame and Reputation area:

- *"I am respected in every way by the people I work with, and for the work I do"*
- *"I enjoy an abundance of success for my accomplishments"*
- *"My reputation for honesty and compassion grows daily."*

When your environment supports you, you may begin to see—and feel—positive shifts in the way you move through the world. And perhaps that is another way to measure success: not simply by what we accomplish, but by the positive energy we share and the lasting impression we leave with others.

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 (which I call a Feng Shui consultation in a book) is available for purchase on my website, Bookshop Benicia, and Benicia Main Street.

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* **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 locally.