

EVERYDAY FENG SHUI

Feng Shui by Maria

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Businesses Thrive with Feng Shui

Have you been looking to recharge your business?

Are you getting the most profit and benefit?

Is your business thriving or chaotic?

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.

If you need to visualize the possible connection between Feng Shui and business success, think of Bill Gates. Without a doubt he worked his way to the top, but he admitted to adopting Feng Shui as a tool to increase his potential and protect Microsoft's assets. Many other companies have found similar success with this valuable tool.

Some Famous Brands Applying Feng Shui Principles for Performance Improvement:

Coca Cola – The Fortune 500 Company headquartered in Atlanta used Feng Shui Principles to increase productivity and to multiply sales. They have reported an improvement in profits and employee efficiency.

Disney – Before Hong Kong Disney opened in 2005, the executives hired a Feng Shui practitioner to ensure the park's success, ensure the flow of positive energy and increase profits.

McDonalds – The fast food chain replaced their yellow and red plastic décor with Feng Shui design principles. This historic makeover included hundreds of their restaurants in an attempt to attract more clients.

Whole Foods - Before building a new store, the company hires a Feng Shui firm to evaluate the space, and make very specific recommendations for design and product placement. The company owners take this very seriously, and because of this it is no wonder they are so successful.

Amongst many other companies having success with Feng Shui are: Ace Hardware, Bath and Body Works, British and Virgin Airways, CBS Studios, Charles Schwab, Federal Express, Ford Motors, Hyatt Hotels, Intel, Morgan Stanley, Nike, Proctor and Gamble, Universal Studios and Shell Oil. This is just a short list of companies that have utilized the power of using Feng Shui to create a positive energy flow to profitability. Your company can be amongst this list.

The Bagua and Business:

WEALTH PROSPERITY (productivity, security, success)	FAME REPUTATION (customer satisfaction, store identity, brand recognition)	LOVE MARRIAGE RELATIONSHIPS (customer loyalty, employee harmony)
FAMILY FRIENDS HEALTH (reduced liability, reduce absenteeism and stress)	CENTER GROUNDING (harmony and balance)	CHILDREN CREATIVITY (efficiency, creativity)
KNOWLEDGE SELF- CULTIVATION (increase communication)	CAREER (business growth, new projects, ambition)	HELPFUL PEOPLE TRAVEL (business networks, direction)

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. Some business related terms are: Encourage loyalty, employee harmony, efficiency, productivity, value, reduced liability, security, success, wealth, employee satisfaction, and effectiveness, reduce absenteeism, reduce stress, and increase communication.

General Bagua Enhancements – Using the Feng Shui Bagua in Businesses:

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, bold signage, banners and flags
- * Front desks and cash registers

Knowledge and Self Cultivation Area (increase communication, training)

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

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

- * Healthy floral arrangements, art depicting vibrant flowers, Items in wood, colors of blues, greens
- * Photos of teams and clients
- * 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
- * Healthy, round leaf plants
- * Water features, such as fountains, waterfalls or aquariums

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

- * Items in the colors red, inspirational sayings regarding company value, satisfaction, productivity and reputation
- * Art representing the fire element such as suns, stars
- * Prominent area for your business name
- * Company awards, certificates, promotional and inspirational posters

Love and Marriage Area (customer loyalty, employee harmony)

- * Pairs of items
- * Art or photos depicting teamwork, loyalty, employee satisfaction, communication
- * Colors of reds, pinks and white

Children and Creativity Area (efficiency, creativity)

- * 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)

- * Pictures pertaining to your clients and teams
- * Items in metal and colors of white, black or grey
- * Metal cases containing products or comfortable waiting area

Center Area (harmony and balance)

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

What to Consider as 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. The phrase “Where the eye goes the Chi flows,” applies here. If you can see clutter, so do your clients and chances are that your business is stuck in some way. Begin by clearing and throwing away old and not used items to open the way for new successes.

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.

A client placed a beautiful antique crystal chandelier in the center of her PS Hair Studio (www.paulaschwartzhairstudio.com) Chandeliers by nature of all their crystals are powerful Chi enhancers. Her salon is attractive, comfortable and her business is thriving.

If you go to Whole Foods you may notice wind chimes high up above bakery tables, calling customers in to sit and enjoy. You’ll see water features at one of the entries in the form of a water fountain, water cooler, floral sinks or images of moving water or glass tiles. Water invites prosperity to flow in. You may see octagonal mirrors on walls helping to neutralize missing areas, and round faceted crystals in bathrooms to help move the energy. Large 40 mm Feng Shui Crystals can also be seen in entries and corners to enhance wealth. I especially like the large colorful flags in some courtyards to welcome customers. It is no wonder they are such a successful business.

Affirmations and Inner Work:

Remember that in Feng Shui, intent plays a significant role in enhancing any area of your business. That’s why all enhancements need to be made with intentionality; written or stated affirmations are very important. It is also important for them to be expressed as if they are already happening. Examples of affirmations for the businesses: *“Productivity is at an all time high.”*, *“My customers and employees are expressing extreme satisfaction.”* *“My business is thriving and prosperity is flowing.”*

Feng Shui on a Shoestring:

Feng Shui enhancements do not have to cost a great deal. Begin by decluttering and enhancing your front entrance; adding a doormat, fresh plants and giving your door a fresh coat of paint can be the beginning of your positive energy flow.

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.

COME TO MY CLASSES through Parks and Recreation and Receive \$40 Off a Home Consultation

Saturday May 17 - 9:00-12:00 am - Beginning Feng Shui Essentials

Saturday July 26 - 9:00-12:00 am - Balancing the Elements

The Parks and Recreation Guide is now available, if you’d like to register. Mark your calendars and invite friends.

Until then...Blessings!

Maria McCullough – Bio

Maria McCullough, a Benicia resident, is the owner / founder of *Feng Shui by Maria* (www.fengshuibymaria.com) and is a speaker and educator with over 15 years of experience. She specializes in residential, landscape and business consultations. She is a graduate

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