

EVERYDAY FENG SHUI

Feng Shui by Maria
November Column for Benicia Herald

Career Opportunities: Is Your Front Door Letting Them In?

“I have been looking for a rewarding career for a while now and so far...nothing.”

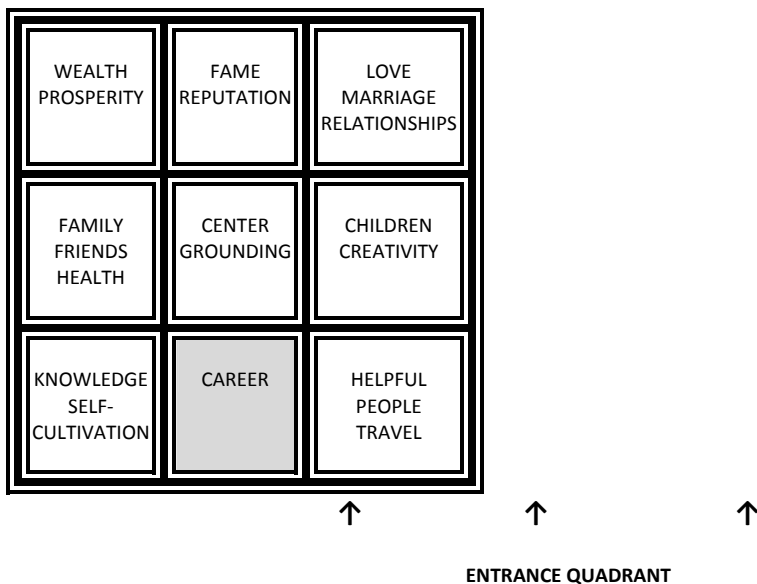
“I don’t feel valued in my current job, and my skills are not being utilized.”

“My workplace is chaotic...I never feel as if I can get projects accomplished.”

Applying some basic Feng Shui principles to the Career Area of your home can help turn statements like those into – “I love my job!”

One of the most provocative, powerful and important tools in Feng Shui is the Bagua (Ba-gua) Map, represented as a grid of nine sectors. In previous columns I’ve called this the “Treasure Map” to enhancing the home.

The Career area is located in the front of your home/office/business.



As you can see in the Bagua diagram this is referred to as the Entrance Quadrant. For many of us the greatest challenge in life is discovering and performing the work that we love to do. This is known as **“following your bliss”**, which is the goal of this area.

Enhancements in this area are particularly helpful if you are making any kind of changes in your current job or career (including retirement and promotions), looking to change, or find, a job or career, looking for meaningful volunteer or community service work, want to bring more energy, creativity and efficiency to the job you already have, or want to explore your life’s purpose.

Since this is in the entrance quadrant of your environment, the key is to invite in and keep the Chi, the vital energy, flowing through your home.

The Bagua comes from the Chinese philosophy, “The I Ching,” and literally means “eight trigrams.” In the “I Ching” the Career area of your home or business is called “deep water” as it refers to going deep within yourself to discover your true bliss, and emerging buoyant. The element for the Career area is Water, and the colors are dark and shiny, therefore representations of this element can be used inside and outside of your home or business.

Auspicious enhancements for energizing career inside your home or business:

- * As always, 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.
- * Hang art depicting water (such as streams, ponds, rivers or oceans) or career images and symbols (books or logos from your business or one that you aspire to). This is a great location for a small fountain or aquarium.
- * Display items, such as statues, accessories, or furniture in black or very dark colors or in asymmetrical shapes.
- * Hang mirrors, and/or display glass/crystal items, such as a crystal vase or a glass table. A round faceted crystal hanging from the ceiling helps the energy flow in small more confined spaces.

Auspicious enhancements for energizing career outside your home or business:

- * Water features, such as fountains, waterfalls, and/or ponds work well here. It is important that the energy flow toward your home or business, so the fountain should either be a 360 degree bubbler or facing so the water flows in the direction of your building.
- * If your career area is your front entrance (the Mouth of Chi) use wind chimes to invite the Chi 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 of the door.
- * 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.

Additional Enhancement Fixes:

What if my entrance is small, or opens into a long hallway?

- * Small spaces can be opened up with mirrors hung along the wall (not facing the door, as it would send the Chi back out). A round faceted crystal hanging from the ceiling can keep the Chi moving forward.

What if I’m missing the Career Area?

- * If your career area is missing from your floor plan, I recommend anchoring this area with fountains, wind chimes, red and yellow flowers to draw attention to the vital energy, greeting statues, or hanging plants. The key is to complete the space, and create a welcoming environment.

What if my front door opens to stairs going up?

- * Stairs can be tricky because it can symbolize the Chi flowing out of your home. This can be fixed by placing a mirror by or above your front door to reflect the energy back in.

Even if the area is not your front door, similar enhancements can be made. In a classroom, my career area is where I teach my lessons; with a screen, whiteboard, projector etc.. (career images). I also hang posters representing waterscapes. Bookcases with career oriented books and a small fountain can also be placed here. My daughter has her career area in her kitchen; she hung a beautiful ocean scene, hung a crystal in the kitchen window and has a small fountain on the counter.

In Feng Shui, intent plays a significant role in enhancing any area of your home or 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 or affirmations for the Career area:

"My career is fulfilling, inspiring, and lucrative," "I grow and prosper through performing my life's work," "I attract many positive opportunities and circumstances."

Feng Shui at work:

A client recently moved into an apartment. She owns her own business and was having trouble finding a suitable workplace. I advised her to strengthen the Career area of her home. She placed two large black shiny pots on either side of her front door with tall red plants. This created a striking entrance. She has successfully located a beautiful new workspace and will move in this month.

Another client was retiring and was searching for his true calling. After a consultation he painted his front door a deep burgundy, placed fountains on either side of the door, and hung a large mirror on one side of the entrance facing a seascape on the other side. He retired and is now making more money through his consulting business than when he was working.

One client was stuck in an unsatisfying career. She realized that she had been neglecting the dying plants by her front door. Once she made the connection, she took time to clear a path, plant colorful flowers, and even hung a beautiful plant arrangement on a red metal holder. Her energy increased as did her career opportunities.

Making a few simple changes within your home can have an immediate and powerful effect. Be prepared to have doors of opportunity open that were closed before – perhaps even opportunities that are completely different from the ones you expected. 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, or Facebook "Feng Shui by Maria".

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 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."