

EVERYDAY FENG SHUI

Feng Shui by Maria
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Are You Happily Following Your Bliss? Feng Shui Can Help

What excites you in life? What do you see yourself doing more of? Following your bliss means finding time for what excites and nourishes you.

My husband has always played the trumpet since he was in college marching band. One of his goals in retirement was to play more, take classes and improve his skills. I love listening to him practice daily, since I can feel the joy through his music.

A client who has a beautiful hair salon, spends her off days painting in there. The Ch'i in her salon is enhanced by her beautiful works of art, which help her feel creative and fulfilled.

Whether you are retired, still working, or looking for a new job, applying some basic Feng Shui principles to the Career Area of your home can help you say – "I'm happily following my bliss!"

Feng Shui, the ancient art of achieving harmony through a connection with your environment, has been instrumental in helping many achieve their career goal, and creating opportunities to follow their bliss. For many the greatest challenge in life is discovering and performing the work that we love to do.

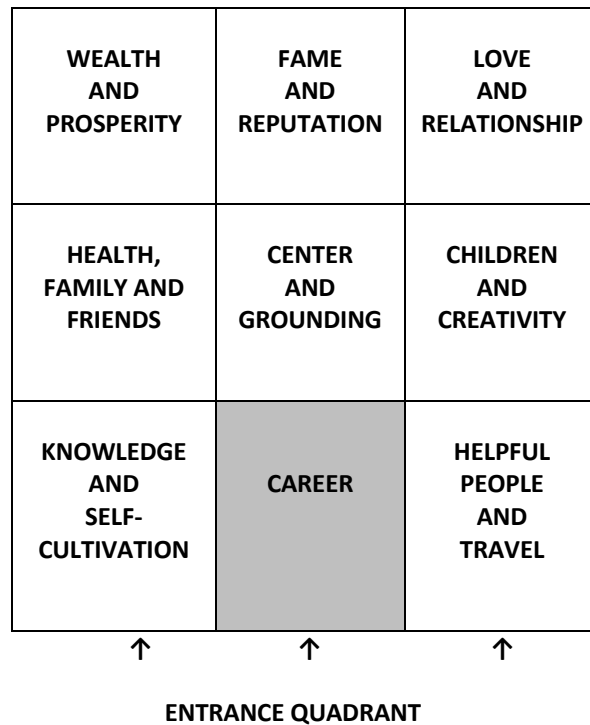
After working at a fulfilling career in education for over 35 years I retired and reinvented myself in this wonderful world of Feng Shui. I write, teach, consult, and practice it daily. I'm blessed with friends who have found their bliss by volunteering for their churches, assisting with theater groups, teaching music, substituting for school districts, volunteering in classrooms, taking flower classes, gardening, quilting, painting, traveling, spending more time with grandkids, and much more. The possibilities are endless.

The enhancements you make using the Feng Shui Bagua map will help you not only in your career but can also help you in discovering joyful hobbies.

One of the most powerful and important tools in Feng Shui is the Bagua (Ba-gua) Map, represented as a grid of eight sectors, with the center for grounding. The Bagua comes from the Chinese philosophy, "The I Ching," 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 black or very dark.

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

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



Enhancements for career/bliss inside your home:

- 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.

Enhancements for career/bliss outside your home:

- 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 Ch'i) 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 prosperity and positive energy.

Additional Enhancement Fixes:

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

- Small spaces can be opened with mirrors hung along the wall (not facing the door, as it would send the Ch'i back out). A round faceted crystal hanging from the ceiling can keep the Ch'i 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 or down?

- Stairs can be tricky because they can symbolize the Ch'i 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, or at the bottom of the stairs going down.

Affirmations:

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 which are expressed as if they are already happening are very important. Examples of affirmations for the Career in our retirement area: *"My career is fulfilling, inspiring, and lucrative," "I grow and prosper by following my bliss," "I attract many positive opportunities and circumstances."*

Feng Shui at work:

I just received this lovely testimonial from a client:

"Learning and applying Feng Shui techniques from Maria has literally changed our lives. My husband's workplace had become extremely toxic. He was working too many hours and commuting 3 hours. Maria clearly explained how to enhance the career area of our home. She provided examples and emphasized why each element was important. (We began by hanging a large black framed mirror to the right of the door inside the entrance, we hung a beautiful large seascape at the end of the hallway as you entered, placed a black table with crystal items and a bowl for him to place affirmations, and business cards for possible jobs which interested him. Outside beautiful greeters with vibrant flowers in black pots were placed on either side of the door.) Within a month he changed firms (at a better wage) and is extremely happy to be working at such a positive company whose culture puts a very high value on it's employees. I highly recommend Maria's Feng Shui class and or a consultation".

One client had just retired and was stuck and bored at home. She wanted a small, satisfying job to supplement her income. 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 retirement opportunities. She now works a few days a week for a local nursery, is supplementing her income and loves the positive energy the flowers bring her.

A client 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.

Making a few simple changes within your home can have an immediate and powerful effect. Whether in retirement or in your career, 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 as you follow your bliss.

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.

Classes: Future in person classes to be held at Acalanes Adult School in Walnut Creek in October. Check this column in the future for further information.

* **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. 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.”