

EVERYDAY FENG SHUI

Feng Shui by Maria
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This Lunar New Year is a Perfect Time to Feng Shui for Career Advancement

Are you looking for a change in your career, or to just improve the one you have? Are you looking for meaningful activities that fulfil you? Then this is YOUR year!

Following the Chinese calendar, which rotates in yearly cycles based on 12 animals and five elements, 2023 is the Year of the Yin Water Rabbit. This Lunar New Year began on Sunday, January 22nd and will end on February 9th, 2024. The Water Rabbit is known for its' adaptability for career success, its ability to adjust and solve problems creatively. Therefore 2023 is an excellent time to seek new opportunities, be open to changes, and make connections that can help advance your career. It's also a perfect time to seek volunteer work, or other meaningful activities which nourish the heart.

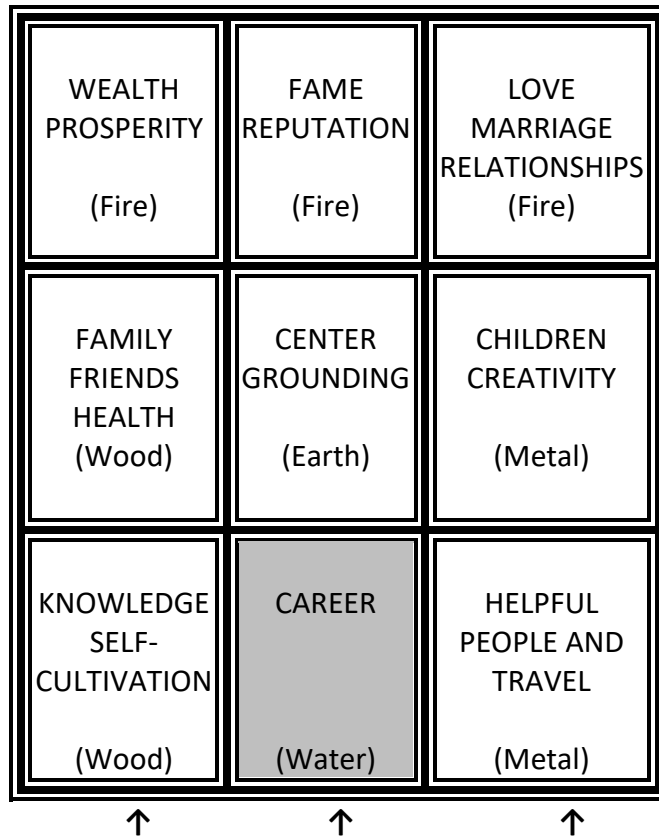
The Lunar New Year and Feng Shui go hand in hand. Applying some basic Feng Shui principles to the Career Area of your home can activate the Water Rabbit's energy.

The Feng Shui masters knew that by balancing the five Feng Shui elements (Water, Wood, Fire, Earth and Metal), and by enhancing the Bagua areas in your home, would lead to harmony and success. They did this by creating a very important tool called the Bagua. The Bagua comes from the Chinese philosophy, "The I Ching," and literally means "eight trigrams" with the Center for grounding. 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.

The Career area is located in the front, center of your home or business.

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 Ch'i, the vital energy, flowing through your home.



ENTRANCE QUADRANT

Enhancements for energizing the Career area 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 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 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.
- Hanging a round faceted crystal from the ceiling helps the energy flow in small more confined spaces.

Enhancements for energizing the Career area outside your home or business:

- Water features, such as fountains, waterfalls, and/or ponds work well here. It is important that the energy flows 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 Ch'i 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, one on each 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 Cures:

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?

- 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.

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. A client 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. She is fortunate to also have shiny, black granite countertops.

Affirmations:

Remember that 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 expressed as if they are already happening are very important.

Examples of 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:

My daughter found the perfect Career Ch'i enhancer on a trip to Hawaii. It was a glass sculpture of a wave. She placed it in her office facing her. With her knowledge of Feng Shui she also hung a vision board with her affirmations, got a black desk, hung a beautiful windchime outside her window and placed a small table fountain with water bubbling toward her. It all paid off! She was able to start her own management company in software development, hired her staff and landed a lucrative three-year contract with a large school district. Now with this year's Water Rabbit's energy there will be no stopping her.

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 has moved in, and her business is flourishing.

Another client was retiring and was searching for his true calling. After a consultation he painted his front door a deep burgundy, placed a large fountain outside, and one smaller table fountain inside his entrance, 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. With the Water Rabbit hopping into your life, 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, (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. 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.”