

## EVERYDAY FENG SHUI

Feng Shui by Maria

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### Mapping Your Garden with the Feng Shui Bagua

What aspects of your life would you like to see blossom? What dreams do you need to plant in fertile soil? Do you need to weed or dig out anything that is stifling your growth?

If your home is considered the "heart" of your property, the garden is considered the "aura". Your garden is your personal passport into nature. It keeps you connected to the rhythms of life, while replenishing and sustaining the Ch'i that meanders through your home, whether a flower or vegetable garden, vibrant nature in your yard attracts vibrant Ch'i into your home. This is because gardens are living, breathing entities offering us the balance of nature. As your home, gardens reflect your personal energy and can enhance and energize you or contribute to draining you. Therefore, keeping a healthy, vibrant garden is important.

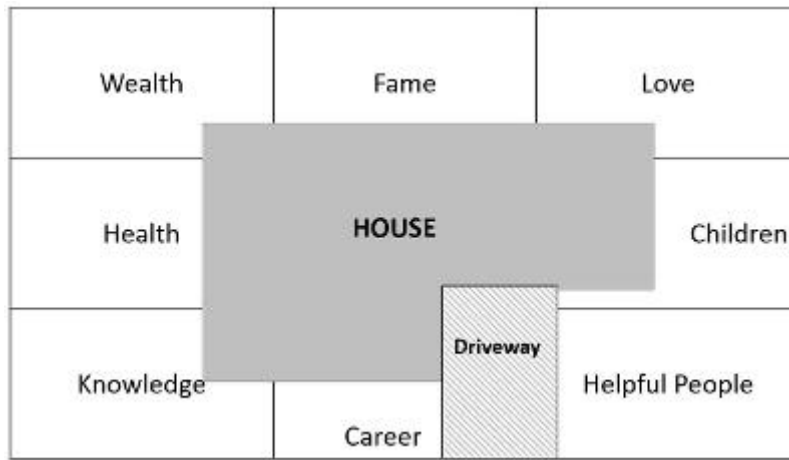
This week I have been given the great opportunity to help a client enhance her back yard using Feng Shui principles. Looking at pictures of her existing garden I see that it is a rectangular blank canvas. Perfect for weaving the magic of feng Shui! I know that by simply overlaying the Bagua Map over the layout of her yard I can make recommendations that will turn it into a nourishing paradise, which will help enhance her wellbeing, and bring her closer to achieving her life goals.

#### Gardens and the Bagua

The Feng Shui Bagua (Ba-gua) Map, is represented as a grid of nine sectors. The Bagua comes from the Chinese philosophy, "The I Ching," and literally means "eight trigrams," with the center for grounding. It is intended to be superimposed over the floor plan of your home. When applying the Bagua to a garden there are two methods:

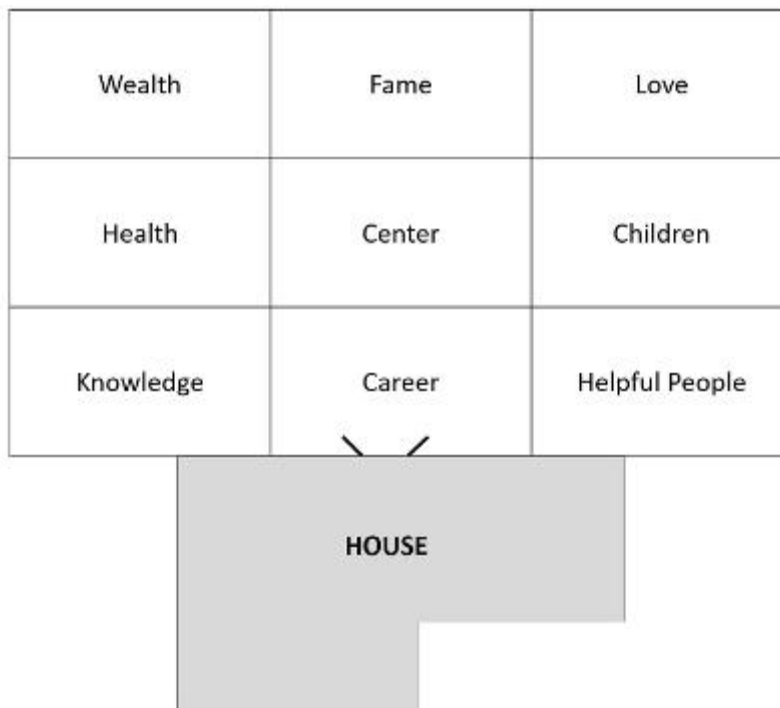
##### 1. The Entire Property:

Apply the Bagua map on your entire property footprint, using the driveway as the entrance. This may not be in the same direction as your front door. Depending on where your driveway is you will be entering your property from Knowledge, Career or Helpful People. Enhancing the entrance to your home and garden with healthy plants, water features, greeters and curving walkways is one of the most important things you can do to invite energizing Ch'i to your life. Begin by standing facing the driveway, or front entrance of your property as if you were about to step inside. This is called the "Mouth of Ch'i" and will be your vantage point for determining the orientation of the Bagua map for your entire yard. Once you have identified where your entrance falls in relation to the map, you can identify where the remaining areas of your environment fall. Map all the way to the property lines on all four sides. In this method, the house usually will occupy the center portion of the Bagua. The garden areas will fall mostly to the front sides and back.



2. The Back Yard Only:

As if you were applying the Bagua to just one room, to map only the back yard you would stand at the main door to the back yard and overlay the grid over just the yard. In this method, the Wealth, Fame and Love areas still remain in the back, but more attention is also given to the center and front areas.



No matter which method you use, gardens should take on the qualities of the Bagua area they reside in. Here are some examples of using the Bagua to enhance your garden:

### Garden Enhancements in Career Area

- Soft colorful plants, reds are particularly auspicious for welcoming the Ch'i
- Water features such as 360-degree bubbling fountains or with water flowing toward the house
- Pots in the color black or other dark colors
- Wind chimes
- Curved paths or asymmetrical lines

### Garden Enhancements in Knowledge and Self Cultivation Area

- Colors of blues, greens
- Wooden benches
- Water features, statues representing spiritual guides
- Healthy plants with rounded soft leaves
- Glass gazing ball, or in blue and green, and items that create a quiet meditative feeling

### Garden Enhancements in Friends/Family/Health Area

- An abundance of healthy flowers in any color with upright growth (blooming flowers represent perfect health)
- Sitting areas for entertaining
- Vegetable gardens, herbs, fruit trees

### Garden Enhancements in Wealth Area

- Healthy plants in the purple color spectrum
- Fountains or waterfalls flowing toward the home
- Flags or whirligigs to call in the Ch'i

### Garden Enhancements in Fame Area

- Plants in colors red
- Up lighting or twinkle lights
- BBQs, fire pits, outdoor kitchens
- Garden art representing suns, stars, triangles and sculptures of people or animals

### Garden Enhancements in Love and Marriage Area

- Pairs of items depicting romance, including bistro tables with two chairs, two lounge chairs, loveseat, or sculptures in pairs (avoid single or lonely items)
- Plants and pots in colors of reds, pinks and white

### Garden Enhancements in Children and Creativity Area

- Items made of metal
- Plants in colors of white and pastels
- Whimsical garden art
- Children's playground or personal garden, workbench, garden bench, fairies, butterflies, etc.

### Garden Enhancements in Helpful People and Travel Area

- Garden art representing spiritual guides, or desired travel locations (We have a colorful pole with signs pointing to all the places we have traveled), birds, sundials
- Items in metal and white plants
- Boulders, or rock gardens

### Garden Enhancements in Center Area

- Houses usually occupy the center of the landscape Bagua, but if you use the second method, this is an auspicious area for ceramics, rectangle shapes, patios, bricks/pavers, table and chairs
- Plants in the colors yellow or orange, earth tones

Your garden is your view to harmony. Make sure you have an attractive view from every window and door of your home. Camouflage or screen unsightly views with trees, trellises with climbing vines, and hanging gardens. An inspirational place to rest the eye is a gift you give yourself every day.

Because the home and garden are so connected, Feng Shui practitioners usually recommend enhancements for both. In her book "Secrets of the Land" Shelley Sparks - makes 5 recommendations for harmonious gardens:

- 1) Make the entry beautiful and clutter free, preferably with curved pathways
- 2) Place water features in the Career and Wealth areas
- 3) Remove dead plants quickly
- 4) Balance the Yin/Yang of your garden with opposites (short/tall plants, hot/soft colors, etc.)
- 5) Keep all systems working (i.e. watering, lighting – nothing should be broken)

Go to her website [www.harmonygardens.net](http://www.harmonygardens.net) for more garden ideas.

Remember that gardens reflect your personal energy. Look to your garden to see what is shifting in your life. Basic Feng Shui principles can help you nurture and strengthen your energy and yourself in all aspects of your life.

### **Affirmations and Inner Work:**

This is a perfect time to plant your inner garden. Visualize yourself planting seeds and plants that represent what is important to you. Then tend your inner garden by watering and nurture it with intention and purpose. Then enjoy the fruits of your inner work. "I am healthy, calm and at peace."

### **Feng Shui at Work:**

A client was experiencing active chaos in her garden when I visited. She was preparing for her son's wedding reception which was going to be in her garden. We saw this as an excellent opportunity to apply Feng Shui principles to enhance the Wealth, Fame and Love areas of her garden. She removed tons of clutter, planted numerous purple flowering plants in the left wealth corner, reds in the center fame area and pinks and reds in the right back love area. She further enhanced the wealth area with a soothing bubbling fountain. The love area was where the seating for the bride and groom would be, with beautiful mauve cushions. The crowning touch were the strings of twinkle lights that adorned the trees in the entire back Fame area, creating a magical glow over the entire garden. Not only did they have a perfect wedding venue, but now their garden continues to be a calming nurturing space in their lives.

For questions or home consultations email at [mtmccull@aol.com](mailto:mtmccull@aol.com) and put "Feng Shui" on the subject line, or visit my website at [www.fengshuibymaria.com](http://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](http://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.”