

EVERYDAY FENG SHUI

Feng Shui by Maria

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Let Your Blooming Garden Help Your Fame and Reputation Flourish

My garden continues to astound me. All my roses are blooming, trumpet vines are filled with gorgeous red flowers, my purple bougainvillea is ablaze, and my deep orange alstroemeria is more bountiful than ever. This has definitely become my happy place. Yet this cacophony of color serves a dual purpose. Knowing the principles of Feng Shui, I planted the flowers with the reddest hues in the Fame and Reputation area of my garden, the back middle area. As my flowers bloom, so does my fame, represented by numerous Feng Shui consultations coming my way, both nationally and internationally. This is no coincidence.

This area of your home and garden helps to open our world to the synergistic connections and auspicious opportunities that can occur when your good reputation precedes you. Our life is illuminated with good will!! What you put out will come back to you.

One of the Feng Shui principles is that everything is connected – So if you ask yourself: Can the changes I make in my home and garden really affect my fame and reputation? – The answer is ABSOLUTELY.

In the Feng Shui Bagua, represented as a grid of nine sectors, the Fame and Reputation area is located in the center back of your home and garden. 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 Fame and Reputation area of your home or business is called “Clinging Fire” because one of the attributes of Fire is that it clings to whatever it is burning. Whether good or bad, our reputation is very difficult to shake off. Cultivating a good reputation helps friendly relations to spring up all around us, creating the best chances for a happy and secure future.

So, how can the energy in your home and blooming garden help you bolster your positive reputation?

Karen Able-Carrasco, Feng Shui practitioner, and teacher at the Wester School of Feng Shui, stated that “Fame and reputation is so important for us as the home of self-worth, the kind that gives us the courage to be seen and heard in the world. ‘Courage’ from the French root ‘couer’ --HEART. Heart energy is FIRE energy; hence the home of Fire is the place to enhance, both outwardly and inwardly, in order to shine brightly and raise our circumstances above the mundane.”

The element for this area is Fire, and the color is anything in the red spectrum. Red is one of the most powerful colors in the Chinese culture. It represents fame, fortune, joy, festivity, longevity and protection from bad luck. This is a perfect time to enhance your garden, deck or patio with vibrant flowers, garden art, cushions, umbrellas, and BBQs in these flaming shades.

WEALTH AND PROSPERITY	FAME AND REPUTATION	LOVE AND RELATIONSHIP
HEALTH, FAMILY AND FRIENDS	CENTER AND GROUNDING	CHILDREN AND CREATIVITY
KNOWLEDGE AND SELF- CULTIVATION	CAREER	HELPFUL PEOPLE AND TRAVEL
↑	↑	↑

ENTRANCE QUADRANT

Enhancements for the Fame and Reputation area in your garden, patio, or deck

- Garden art that represents the sun, fire, stars, animals
- Fire pits and BBQ grills
- Vibrant flowers, plants, and trees in the red color spectrum
- Red tone cushions and umbrellas in a seating area
- Red gazing balls
- Up lighting and/or twinkle lights

Enhancements for the Fame and Reputation area inside your home or business

- Personal images and symbols of fame, such as diplomas, awards, trophies
- Things made from animals, such as leather, feathers, wool and/or bone
- Art, photos and figures of animals, people, fire, sunshine, and favorite celebrities
- Vision boards that represent your dreams for the future
- Cone, triangular or pyramid shapes
- Items in the red spectrum
- Lighting, including sunlight, candles, electrical lights and oil lamps
- Quotes or affirmations pertaining to your personal fame and reputation

The Elements of Fame:

In the nourishing cycle of the elements in nature, the Wood Element feeds Fire. That's why your flowers, which represent the Wood Element, are such a powerful source feeding you fame, enhancing your opportunities and achievements. Avoid the Water element in this center area, as Water extinguishes Fire. Of course you need to water your garden, but avoid pools, ponds in this area of your garden, as well as avoid hanging watery art in this area of your home.

A Missing Fame and Reputation Area:

If your Fame and Reputation area is missing from your floor plan, such as in a U-shaped home, you can anchor the area by doing one or a combination of the following cures: Anchor the missing area structurally, such as building a trellis or deck. In this instance planting flowers in a flower garden or planter boxes in the red spectrum, planting a tree with red leaves, such as an ornamental cherry tree, adding a seating arrangement with red pillows and umbrella or garden art representing stars, or celebrating figures, adding up-lighting, twinkle lights or tiki torches is especially important. If the area outside is not accessible, you can symbolically anchor from the inside by hanging a 30 mm round faceted crystal, placing a mirror, and/or a picture representing fame on the wall facing the missing area.

A bathroom is especially important to enhance when it is in your Fame and Reputation area. Always remember that ALL drains and toilet lids must be kept closed when not in use, to keep the flow of fame from "pouring down the drain." Using the enhancements stated above, you can turn your bathroom into a beautiful shrine to your fame.

Feng Shui at work:

As mentioned earlier, I have a deck all along the back of the upper level of my home, and a flourishing garden in my lower level. On the upper deck I have pots with red flowers such as bougainvillea, mandevilla vines, cyclamen, and geraniums. I also have a red gazing ball, and statuary of small animals throughout, as well as twinkling lights that go on automatically at sunset. It can be seen from the entrance to my living room and helps to feed my personal fire whenever I'm in there. Downstairs I have a trellis filled with red flowering vines, red roses, alstroemeria and a deep red bougainvillea that has grown over an arched arbor encircled in twinkling lights. We had purchased two hand blown glass, red flames that stand on poles on each side of the arbor. Consequently, after these enhancements my husband has been asked to play his trumpet in numerous concerts and my Feng Shui client caseload keeps growing.

In our home office we enhanced the fame wall by hanging awards, certificates, and pictures of recognitions. Half the wall holds my husband's awards and the other half mine. These are framed in wood to further feed the fire. Spending time here is a pleasant reminder of our accomplishments and acts as a boost to our egos.

A client had this area missing from her home Bagua. She had struggled with finding a job where she was appreciated and able to learn and grow. She went shopping. Later in her patio (the Fame and Reputation area) she hung 3 large stars on the fence, cleared the area of garbage cans and bikes, placed a large BBQ grill under the stars, and added a wicker seating arrangement with red

cushions. Shortly after making these enhancements, her reputation earned her a position as a director of a fast-growing company where her skills were both utilized and appreciated.

Small changes can make a big difference. Use the myriad of red hues in flowers to enhance your garden and your home. You will soon feel the difference.

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 or affirmations for the Fame and Reputation area:

"I am respected for the work I do", "I feel supported in every way," "My good reputation precedes me, people come to me for advice. "

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."