

# EVERYDAY FENG SHUI

Feng Shui by Maria

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## Decorating Your Entrance for the Holidays Brings Good Feng Shui

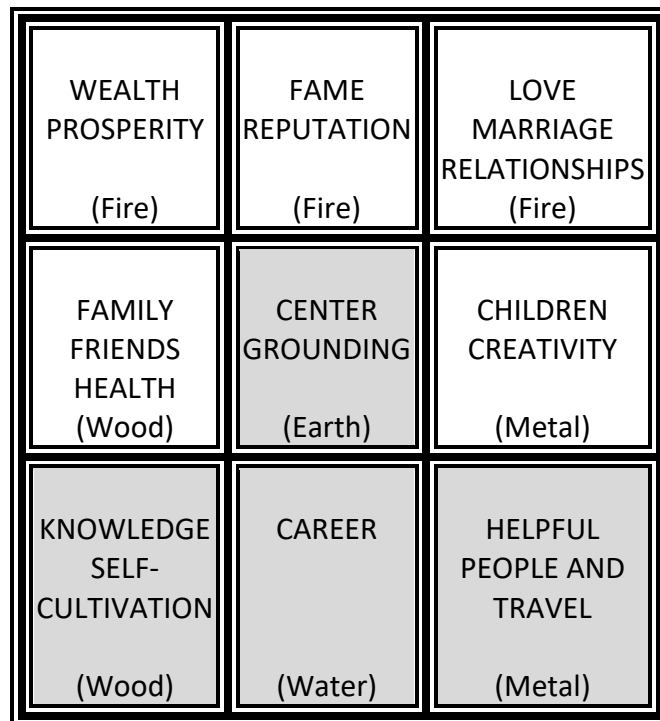
Have you ever walked by a house with the front entrance totally decorated for an upcoming holiday, and smiled? I have! When I do, knowing Feng Shui, I also think to myself how much positive energy must be flowing into this home.

That's because the front door, and entrance foyer are more than just the entry way inside your home or business. In Feng Shui they are considered one of the most important areas of your home. The area leading up to your front door, the actual threshold itself, and the area immediately inside your home or business. (the foyer) are all considered part of your front entrance. This area is critical, because this is the place of your guests' first impressions and where the vital energy, called Ch'i, enters your home. The word "entrance" means to "en – trance" your guests and welcome them with beauty. By making your entrance fabulous you also attract and nourish the Ch'i entering your home.

Your entrance, in most cases, is located in one of the three areas of the Bagua's entrance quadrant, and sometimes, in the case of a U shaped home, in the Center.

### Entrances 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. Entrances should take on the qualities of the Bagua area they reside in.



ENTRANCE QUADRANT

In each of the areas it is important to remember that traditionally in Feng Shui the best art in the household is displayed by the front door. This is to honor everyone who enters your home. When you have space, consider setting up a welcoming arrangement that may include a table appointed with a flower arrangement. When your foyer is small, hang an attractive mirror on the side walls. Do not hang a mirror directly facing the front door as it will send the energy back out. Create a token place of welcome even when there's no foyer. Do whatever you can to present your guests, and yourself, with a warm and welcoming first impression.

Here are a few recommendations for enhancing various entrances:

#### Entering from the Center Front - Career Area

This area is especially important if you desire to energize your career:

- As always, ensure that this area is clutter free.
- Hang art depicting moving water, such as streams, ponds, rivers, or oceans
- This is a great location for a small fountain or aquarium
- Display items, 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.

#### Entering from the Left – Knowledge and Self Cultivation Area

- Keep this area clutter free, since clutter does not act to soothe the mind
- Items in the colors of blues, greens, or black
- Items in the shape of columns or vertical stripes
- Hang art representing mountains, woods, or anything that depicts a quiet outdoor space
- Wooden tables or bookcases
- Healthy plants with rounded soft leaves

#### Entering from the Right – Helpful People and Travel Area

- Art or figures pertaining to spiritual guides, and/or mentors, or of places where you have traveled or want to travel
- Items that have a powerful personal association with your spiritual beliefs
- Items in colors of white, black or grey
- Things made of metal such as furniture, lamps, candle holders, frames, figurines
- Circular or arch shapes

#### In a U-shaped house, entering from the deep Center – Center and Grounding Area

- Art in earth tones
- Items made of ceramics, and bricks, tiles
- Items on the colors of yellow, orange, rust, brown
- Rectangular shapes

#### Outside of your Entrance: ( a great place to decorate for the holidays)

This is the first thing your guests see. It is imperative that it is kept clean and clutter free. Here are some other fun decorating ideas to create an auspicious first impression in your entrance:

Landscaping - Make the landscaping around your front entrance especially inviting, with only healthy lush colorful plants.

Pathways – If possible, design a curved, meandering path to your front door. Place seating or interesting garden art by your front door.

Ornaments - Hang wind chimes to call in the Ch'i, and especially in the Career area place a bubbling fountain that flows toward the home, or a 360 degree round one. A beautiful wreath and/or doormat also act to welcome guests. By placing a pot with a beautiful plant on either side of the door, or two like sculptures you create "greeters" to welcome your guests.

Lighting - Good lighting is very important for safety as well as beauty.

The Color Red - In Feng Shui, the color red is often suggested to attract prosperity and joy into the home. You can paint your door any shade of red, or place red objects or flowers near the door. The choices are endless!

### Feng Shui at Work:

I have friends who artfully decorate their front doors to represent upcoming holidays. Now, with Thanksgiving upon us, is the time for autumn colors in stunning wreaths, gourds and pumpkins. These inviting arrangements help to call in the Ch'i. And in one case, called in the family who lives a distance away. Now all the grandkids are arriving for Thanksgiving, to enjoy the positive energy.

I love our entrance! During a consultation I always ask clients what they like best about their homes. For me, the answer always is the entrance foyer. The walkway leading to our house had a sharp 90 angle which I softened by creating a wavy line with black river rocks and curved stones right at the corner. I placed a fish statue in the center. It represents a black pond and helps create a meandering path. Colorful flowers such as Dahlias and Impatiens greet me along the path. As I walk up the stone steps the sound of a bubbling 360 degree bubbling fountain, and wind chime call to me. Two large Azalea trees act as greeters at the bottom step, while two Christmas Cactus plants (soft, not prickly) in black pots are on either side of the burgundy door with beveled glass. The red door is decorated with a wreath to represent the season, and opens into the center of my home which is painted a warm yellow tone, with large mirror on one side reflecting one of my father's favorite oil paintings of an Italian sea scape.

I'm home!

Another client was trying to attract renters for her rental property. What better way than to make the entrance inviting. She cleaned the front, repainted the stair railings, bought a colorful doormat that says "Welcome", placed a silk orchid by the front door, hung a small wind chime by the red door, and hung a colorful flag in the front of the house. A few affirmations later and - "It's rented"!

### 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 entrances:

*"I attract many positive opportunities and circumstances", "I am peaceful, calm, and share knowledge with others", "I constantly attract helpful, generous, loving people into my life."*

### Feng Shui on a Shoestring:

Feng Shui enhancements do not have to cost a great deal. The best way to initiate the flow of positive energy is to hang a decorative wreath, or other colorful arrangement on your front door to welcome your guests for the holidays.

Enjoy the bounty that the Thanksgiving season has to offer. Express gratitude for all that you have, and share the season with others.

Blessings and Happy Thanksgiving.

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.

\* **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.”