

EVERYDAY FENG SHUI

Feng Shui by Maria
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Enhance Your Career Area – Follow Your Bliss in Retirement

“A thriving new beginning can be, and should be, a time for amazing engagement, growth, connections, contributions, and amazing possibilities.” Lee Brower

What do you want your retirement to look like, and how do you plan to achieve it? Applying some basic Feng Shui principles to the Career Area of your home can help you say – “I’m so happily retired. I love what I do!”

Feng Shui, the ancient art of achieving harmony through a connection with your environment, has been instrumental in helping many achieve their career goals. It is particularly helpful if you are making any kind of changes in your current job or career, looking to change or finding a job, 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. For many of us the greatest challenge in life is discovering and performing the work that we love to do. This is known as **“following your bliss”**, which is the goal of this area. This is also particularly important as one nears retirement.

After working at a fulfilling career in education for over 35 years I retired and was able to reinvent 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 in retirement; 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. They are all following their bliss!

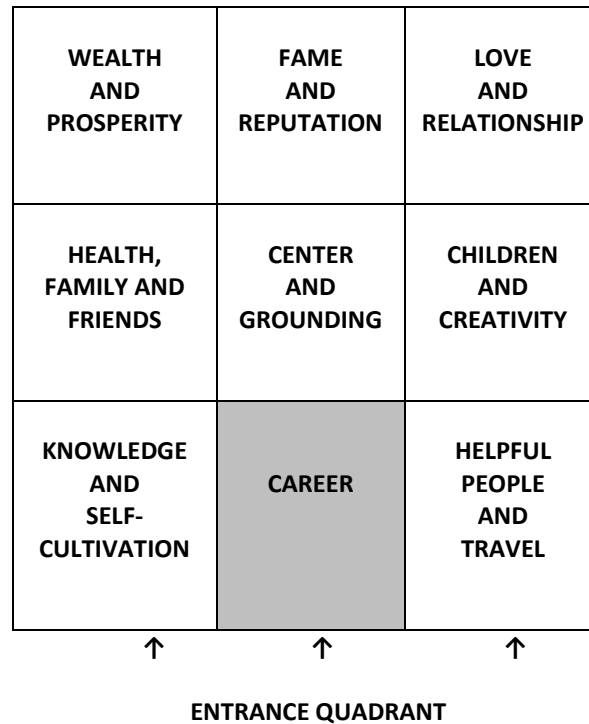
The same enhancements you make using the Feng Shui Bagua map, to enhance your career can be made to enhance your retirement.

One of the most powerful and important tools in Feng Shui is the Bagua (Ba-gua) Map, 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. 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. Representations of this element can be used inside and outside of your home or business.

In previous columns I’ve called this the “Treasure Map” to enhancing the home.

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 energizing career/retirement 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 energizing career/retirement 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 wealth 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 or affirmations for the Career in our retirement area:

"My career is fulfilling, inspiring, and lucrative," "Now that I'm retired, I grow and prosper by following my bliss," "I attract many positive opportunities and circumstances."

Feng Shui at work:

Even if the Career area is not your front door, similar enhancements can be made. In my Feng Shui classroom, my career area is where I teach my lessons; with a screen, whiteboard, projector etc.. (career images). I also hang posters representing waterscapes. My daughter's career area is in a hallway between bedrooms. She hung numerous waterscapes and a vision board with the job she wanted. She got the job and is thriving. If she was facing retirement, her vision board would instead depict the activities she wanted to pursue.

Another client was retiring and 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.

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.

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!

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, or Facebook "Feng Shui by Maria".

Begin now! These easy steps will lead you to a more harmonious life and bring you closer to achieving your career and retirement goals. It really works! Enjoy the bliss!

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* **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.”