

EVERYDAY FENG SHUI

Feng Shui by Maria

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Your Reputation Precedes You – Make it a Good One

Our life is illuminated with good will!! What you put out will come back to you. What fun it has been to see my work in the area of Feng Shui come to fruition. Many of my clients are recommending my name to others and that tells me that my reputation is preceding me. It energizes me when I hear that a client seeks me out because they see how their friend's life has changed for the better after a consultation. Therefore, I believe that by giving and receiving support and assistance, a good reputation can be assured.

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

The early Feng Shui practitioners created a “roadmap” to all the treasures in your life aligned to your environment. They called it “The Bagua.” By holding this grid of nine sectors at your front door facing in, locating the troubled area of your life in the corresponding area of your home, and applying the recommended enhancements you will begin to feel positive shifts in your life.

The Bagua

In the Feng Shui Bagua (Ba-gua) Map, the Fame and Reputation area is in the center back of your home/office/business. The Bagua comes from the Chinese philosophy, “The I Ching,” and literally means “eight trigrams” with the center being for grounding. In the “I Ching” the Fame and Reputation area is called “Clinging Fire” because fire clings to whatever it is burning. Whether good or bad, our reputation is very difficult to shake off. It clings tight, either warming or burning us into the hearts and minds of others. Therefore, cultivating a good reputation helps friendly relations to spring up all around us, creating the best chances for a happy and secure future; when the opposite occurs, and we burn our bridges with friends, neighbors and the community, our future happiness can be jeopardized.

Find the back-middle area of your home and evaluate what you see going on there. A home usually tells the story of what is affecting your life. If it's cluttered and not attractive to you look to using the recommendations below to begin reenergizing the space for your benefit.

Enhancements in this area are particularly helpful if: You would like more recognition at home or at work, you want to establish a good reputation in your community, or you want to be well known for something you do.

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. Representations of this element can be used inside and outside of your home or business.

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

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ENTRANCE QUADRANT

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

- * Personal images and symbols of fame; diplomas, awards, trophies and acknowledgements
- * Things made from animals, such as leather, feathers, wool and/or bone
- * Posters, paintings, collages, 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
- * All pleasant lighting, including sunlight, candles, electrical lights and oil lamps
- * Quotes, affirmations and sayings pertaining to Fame and Reputation

Enhancements for enhancing the Fame and Reputation area outside your home or business:

- * Items that represent the sun, fire, stars, up lighting, twinkle lights
- * Fire pits and BBQ grills
- * Items, flowers, plants in the red color spectrum

A Missing Fame and Reputation Area:

If your Fame and Reputation area is missing from your floor plan, 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, 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. 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 by the missing area.

Feng Shui at work:

A client was renting a room in a house, had just passed the bar exam and was looking for a position in a law firm. Her Fame area happened to be above her bed. I recommended a vibrant picture in reds of two birds in flight representing upward movement. Directly across from her bed was her Career area so I had her place her diploma, awards and images of the law firms she was considering. She also placed her affirmations in each of these areas. She now had a lucrative job in a prominent law firm, and a new apartment. When I helped her enhance her new office we turned the wall behind her desk into a Fame wall with all her recognitions. She is now well on her way!

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 in here is a pleasant reminder of our accomplishments and acts as a boost to our egos.

Small changes can make a big difference. When you find that you're struggling, it's important to recognize what small changes you might have made and what effect they had. A client once had colorful paintings of dancing ladies on her Fame wall. During that time, everything was going great for her at work. On a whim, she found some beautiful burgundy, green and gold wall hangings and decided to replace the celebrating/dancing lady wall art. Almost immediately, she felt the shift. Her new boss changed existing procedures and meeting structures, and she was no longer involved in higher level meetings. She felt slighted and unimportant. A consultation indicated the problem. Although beautiful, the new hangings had vertical asymmetrical shapes representing water instead of fire. She chose to place them in her Career area foyer alongside a large mirror instead, since water feeds career. The dancing ladies returned, and she was able to retire with great recognition and started a lucrative consulting business. She will someday replace the ladies, but she will definitely choose more carefully.

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 which are expressed as if they have already happened are very important

Examples or affirmations for the Fame and Reputation area:

"I am honored and respected in every way by the people I work with, and for the work I do", "I enjoy an abundance of support and enthusiasm for my accomplishments", "My reputation for honesty and compassion grows daily."

Feng Shui on a Shoestring:

Feng Shui enhancements do not have to cost a great deal. "Shopping in your own home" is when you move art and items to a more auspicious location in your home. Find art with vibrant red tones, celebration and upward movement.

Remember that your reputations is everything. You build your personal reputation through everything you do, whether big actions or small, and Feng Shui can help you create an energizing environment to help it grow.

Classes:

I will be teaching a series of three classes, "Feng Shui for Prosperity" through Acalanes Adult Ed:

Thursdays May 9-23 1:00-3:00 pm

You can register on line at acalanes.k12.ca.us/adulted (Participants will receive \$40 off a home consultation.)

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 and learn more enhancement ideas), 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.

Maria McCullough

Maria McCullough, a Benicia resident, 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.”