



Inspiring Arrangements

Toni A. Lefler

The dance between the physical and energetic dynamics of an environment and its occupant is a fascinating aspect of Feng Shui. From a subtle adjustment to an entire make over, changes in your space can have a profound impact on you. Life enriching results can manifest when you flow with, rather than against, the powerful forces of nature.

The simple tasks of cleaning, organizing, and rearranging with heartfelt intention, communicate care for the soul, the space, and yourself. Like all living things, your surroundings respond to your actions. As furniture and accessories are brought to order in supporting you in your lifestyle or work habits, you gain a new appreciation for your possessions. Simultaneously, the related areas of your life are enhanced and healed.

Your house is your larger body.

Kahlil Gibran

How and where you spend your time is a reflection of your inner feelings and the circumstances in your life, both on the physical plane and in unseen energetic ways. As you become aware of your environment, you awaken to yourself. Everything is interconnected!

One client with a home-based business had difficulty focusing. Projects were scattered throughout the living and dining areas. Her assistant sat at a desk in the laundry room with her back to the entry. This less-than-favorable arrangement caused major challenges in the business and took its toll on their working relationship. After we relocated the office to the wealth area, the results were dramatic. Not only did the business experience tremendous financial growth, the discord in the relationship was replaced with harmony, all within the first thirty days.

218 Contemporary Earth Design: A Feng Shui Anthology

Life is constantly changing, expanding and contracting with experiences. Marriage, divorce, birth, death, buying or selling a home, financial difficulties, and health problems are some of the changes you may encounter. To honor yourself, especially during transitional times,¹ you may need to adjust your surroundings to accommodate the new energy. That does not necessarily mean relocating, but simply realigning your present environment to a new, more expanded perspective. By applying the proven principles of Feng Shui, you can achieve and maintain a peaceful, centered feeling regardless of obstacles you encounter.



How to Begin the Process

To begin the physical process of changing the energy in your space, take stock of what you have in and around your home. *One man's junk is another man's treasure* still rings true! Recognize the contributions you make to another when you release items you no longer want or need.

One man started this process in his home office and was delighted with the results. While working on other rooms, he would reward himself by revisiting the previously cleaned spaces because they felt so good.

Have nothing in your home that you do not know to be useful or believe to be beautiful.

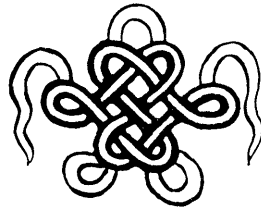
William Morris

¹ Like the wisdom of the *I Ching* (The Book of Changes), always reassess your life conditions to reevaluate your Feng Shui conditions. Please also refer to "Utilize All Your Resources," p. 189.

Review your possessions and discard items that no longer hold value for you with the clear intention of releasing the old thoughts, beliefs, and emotions attached to them. By clearing out items, you open the path for new energy to enter your life. It can be a very liberating and powerful experience.

Streamlining your belongings can also be a profitable enterprise, especially when you are preparing a home for sale.² Most buyers visualize their possessions in a prospective home. To neutralize a space, begin packing personal, political, and religious items. The intention of selling your home will be empowered by your willingness to begin shifting your energy.

One family had their home on the market for 18 months with no possibilities on the horizon. After they streamlined and rearranged their belongings, the realtor was able to raise the price. A cash offer materialized within 60 days at the higher price, and the sale closed quickly.



Once you have determined what items to keep, you can go on a *treasure hunt*! Search closets, drawers, garage, attic, basement, and other rooms for cherished pieces that may enhance the room being rearranged. Consider symbols³ for corresponding areas of the Bagua,⁴ like a pair of angels for the partnership area or a rich forest painting for the family area. Once your awareness is expanded, you will view your belongings with renewed appreciation.

² Please refer to "Feng Shui and Real Estate Values," p. 179.

³ Please refer to "Art and Design Solutions," p. 225.

⁴ Please refer to "The Bagua," p. 35.

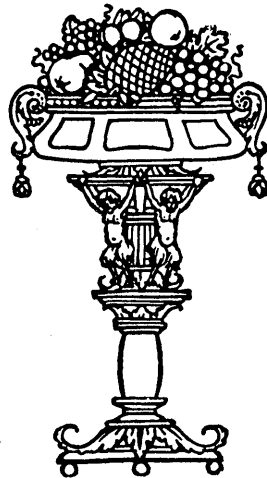
220 Contemporary Earth Design: A Feng Shui Anthology

One client had a large living room that she never used. After rearranging it, she added newly rediscovered items from her treasure hunt that enhanced the space. Guests found the room inviting and gravitated there when previously they had only used it as a pass-through. The changes enhanced the architectural features while complementing the belongings, which resulted in an inviting and peaceful space.

Only items you love and that serve you should remain. If you feel you need to add things, wait until after you have arranged what is on hand. Consider that even a simple environment can be surprisingly comfortable, restful, and refreshing.

Do what you can, with what you have, with where you are.

Theodore Roosevelt

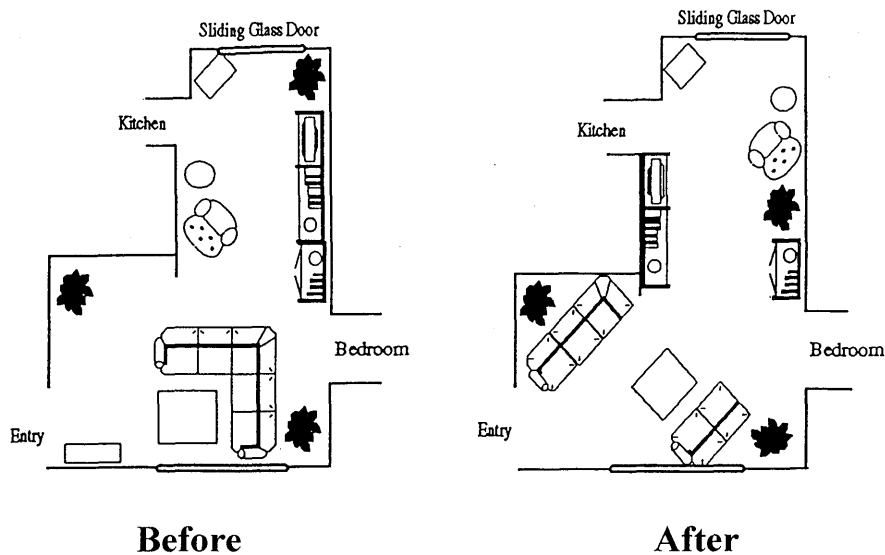


Like working with a large three-dimensional puzzle, everything has a place where it will fit just right. Adjusting and fine tuning may be required to get the flow just the way you want it, but that is part of the fun.

Begin to view your surroundings as though it is the first time you are entering the space. *Feel the room.* As you walk around, experience the space from varied perspectives. How would it feel to place the sofa in a *commanding* position?⁵

⁵ Please refer to “Feng Shui and Children,” p. 349, and “Family and Space Relationships,” p. 249.

Consider angling or floating the furniture towards the middle of the room and away from the walls. Keep in mind how the areas of the Bagua relate to each room, including the complimentary colors and elements.

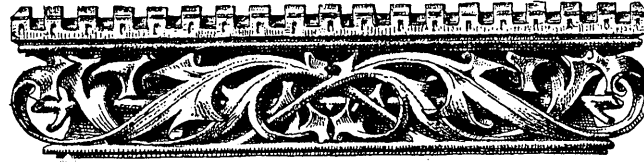


The Bagua

Wealth/ Blessings Purple	Fame Fire Red	Relationships Pink
Family Wood Green	Health Earth Yellow	Children Metal White
Knowledge Blue	Career Water Black	Benefactors/ Travel Gray

222 Contemporary Earth Design: A Feng Shui Anthology

We shape our dwellings, and afterwards our dwellings shape us.
Sir Winston Churchill



Using the living room as a model, begin placing the largest pieces of furniture to create a new foundation. Make the changes *work* with the architecture. Place heavy pieces: sofa, book shelves or entertainment unit on, near, angled, or floating next to large walls. Smaller walls or corners can be used to create a little niche away from the main grouping to use for reading or meditation. Once the furniture is placed, hang artwork and mirrors. Be sure to coordinate them with the furniture arrangement by size, shape, color, theme, or to enhance an area of the Bagua.

Mirrors are considered the aspirin of Feng Shui and can be used in a multitude of situations. When positioning them in a living room, they can reflect an entryway for those seated with their back to the door, which is a Feng Shui no-no. By placing a mirror above the mantelpiece, it can also energetically defuse the heat of a fireplace. The reflective quality symbolizes water, which helps to balance the energy.

The finishing touch is placing the accessories, or the jewelry of a room. Like artwork, smaller items should be positioned to harmonize with the grouping they are in and complement the room arrangement. Below are other guidelines for placement and how they relate to Feng Shui.



<i>Design Placement Tips</i>	<i>Good Feng Shui</i>
Place the main seating in a commanding position, with full view of the entry. If you have an architectural focal point, (fireplace, expansive view) angle the furniture to capture both views.	The commanding position of a room is diagonal to the door, facing into the room. Facing a doorway is a powerful position which enhances control, concentration, and authority.
Create weaving traffic patterns and intimate conversation niches to slow the Chi down. Avoid straight pathways.	A front to back door alignment can symbolize energy and money rushing through your home and your life.
Separate modular wall unit pieces by placing two pieces on a large wall and the third on an opposite wall diagonal across the room. This balances the height and weight of the room.	Too much weight on one side of a room gives the illusion of <i>leaning</i> in that direction and of being <i>weighed down</i> , or even of being overwhelmed.
Balance lighting in a room by placing it either diagonally or in a triangle, rather than to one side of the room.	Leaving areas <i>in the dark</i> could symbolize corresponding life situations that one is in denial about or is ignoring.
Add plants and fresh flowers to a room to soften angles and fill in empty spaces. Live is best, silk is acceptable.	Live healthy plants and flowers contribute to the life energy of occupants and are a natural cure in many situations.
Group collections like crystals or animal figures in one or two areas rather than scattered throughout the room or house.	When items are scattered, it could represent being scattered in some area of life.

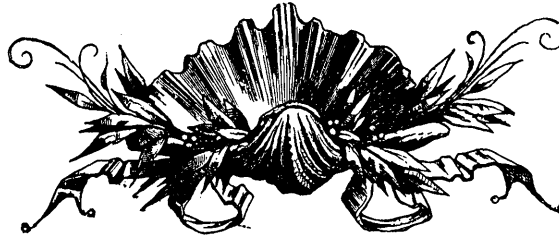


There's no place like home.
Dorothy in "The Wizard of Oz"

224 Contemporary Earth Design: A Feng Shui Anthology

Your home mirrors your personality, interests, experiences, beliefs, and uniqueness. By creating surroundings with harmony, beauty, and order, you honor yourself, your life, and your Creator.

“A house is simply a shell or a shelter from the elements, and the difference between a house and a home is how it is personalized and how people’s personalities shape the environment to make it compatible with them.”⁶



You have the ability to shape your life in a magical place called home. Let it begin in your heart. By bringing harmony to your surroundings, you can indeed bring peace to the world.

Toni Lefler . 561-707-3252

tonidezign@gmail.com

www.ToniDezign.com

⁶ Where the Heart Is: A Celebration of Home, edited by Julianne Bennett and Mimi Luebberrmann, Wildcat Canyon Press, 1995.