

FENG SHUI Baby!

BY ROLAND F. PALMER

Where have I been? Where have we all been?!

Thanks (or maybe not) to a recently transplanted bi-coastal friend, I have been shown the light of feng shui.

For those who don't know the name, it isn't a hip new drink, nor the latest designer label, nor a trendy chain of dim sum eateries. Feng shui is a 4000-year-old Chinese philosophy that teaches the art of living in harmony with one's environment. According to the principles of Feng Shui, attaining fame, wealth, health, love, and happiness is simply a matter of understanding how to manage the flow of chi and keeping the ever-battling yin and yang forces balanced. Sounds easy enough—yeah, right!

Fear not, my friends, even you can begin to understand and incorporate the principles of feng shui with only a little reading or online surfing. In the tradition of Publishers' Clearing House, you may already have won good feng shui without knowing it—read on to be sure.

On the other hand if, you discover en route that you have the misfortune to have bad feng shui, there's no need to panic. While it's whispered on the West Coast that bad feng shui has thwarted many million-dollar real estate deals, there is no need to burn your house down and start over. Simply fly in a feng shui consultant—from California, not Shanghai—who will work in your home or office to restore the missing harmony. Perhaps as well the fame, wealth, health, love and happiness that has gone astray, although these are not necessarily in the contract. The aforementioned bi-coastal friend also insists that in California, at least, feng shui consultants are as plentiful as personal trainers, and as expensive to boot. Most will probably accept your platinum card as payment and will insist on flying first class. (There's rumored to be better feng shui in first class!).

And now, on with the story

But before you apply for that second mortgage to finance the consultation, allow me to share with you some of the feng shui principles that now occupy my now enlightened mind. Consider this a free consultation—no first-class air ticket required. Grab your compass—that's right, your compass—and let's start with some basics that will help point you the path to good feng shui.

In fact, speaking of paths, let's start there. Curved pathways are a must. They bring better luck because they cause chi—cosmic energy—to slow down, thereby bringing good fortune and helping it linger in your general vicinity. If a straight path, or worse, a straight road, faces the front of your house, you'll have to consider some serious re-engineering. Or you could simply move out.

Fortunately, there often seem to be escape clauses of sorts in feng shui, and this situation is no exception. If perchance you have trees in your backyard, which offer you the protection of the 'celestial turtle,' there's no real need to move

nor to re-landscape.

Let's move onto water and wealth. With no view from the house of a natural waterfall, you can help lure wealth simply by introducing an artificial waterfall into your garden. Keep in mind, though, that water features work best in the north or southeast of a garden.

Furthermore, ponds in front of your house must be to the left of the main door. If your pond is on the right, don't be surprised if your partner develops the 'roving eye.' And if, like so many of us, you went overboard and installed ponds on both sides of the curved pathway, better call for a backhoe.

Now take out your compass—you thought I was kidding, didn't you?—and go into your bedroom. Make sure the head of your bed is facing east, and take down that mirror if you have it facing the front of your bed. (You all know who you are. Don't make me name names).

Consider the fireplace. Is it in the northwest corner of the room? If so, better call someone this instant to get it moved to the south wall. In a pinch, the east, southeast, southwest or northeast walls are still an improvement.

On to electronics. If your stereo equipment isn't on the west wall, make sure you move it there before the year 2003. Supposedly, this will create potential for good fortune until 2023.

Also, remember to crank up that stereo at least once a week; loud music washes out old energies and welcomes in the new. I know, more cleaning, but it has to be done! Your neighbors won't mind this because they, too, will have converted to feng shui during the bulldozing and excavation of the straight road you all

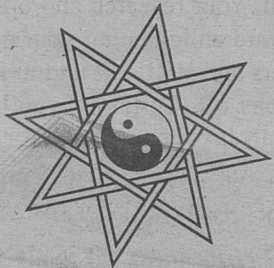
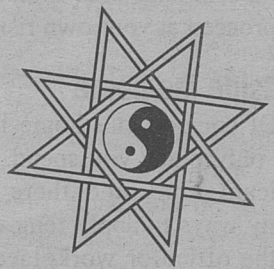
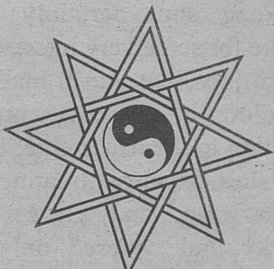
share... uh, shared.

Sector	Good Colors	Bad Colors
South	red, orange	black, blue
North	black, blue	yellow, beige
East	green, brown	white, silver, gold
West	white, gray	red, orange

Maybe you didn't make it through Scouts for, oh, some reason or another, and you're not great with compasses and directions. Fear not. We now move onto color.

Shui-ing Colors

The next time you insist on redecorating, or giving friends an unsolicited consult on décor, you should keep in mind that there are Good Colors and Bad Colors for each area (see list accompanying this article). At the very least, try to paint your front door the color appropriate for the direction it faces. If you must, find a Girl Scout to read that compass for you before you start shopping for paint.



Ben Franklin
Creative Crafts & Framing

Monday-Saturday 9-9
Sunday 11-5

518 Shelburne Road
Next to Mall 189

862-0646
www.benfranklin.baweb.com

create it

Paints, brushes, pastels, paper ...
if it's got anything to do with fine art supplies, we've got it.

Get discounts join our Craft Club!

It's about men
It's about hair
It's about time

AMERICAN
CREW THE MEN'S ROOM

full service salon

150 B Church Street • Burlington • 864 2088 • Across from City Hall

s a m a r a
foundation of vermont

Our Mission

The Samara Foundation of Vermont is a charitable foundation whose mission is to support and strengthen Vermont's gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered communities today and build an endowment for tomorrow.

How To Contact Us: 90 main street
p.o. box 1263
burlington, vermont
05402-1263
p. 802-860-6236
f. 802-860-6315
info@samarafoundation.org
www.samarafoundation.org